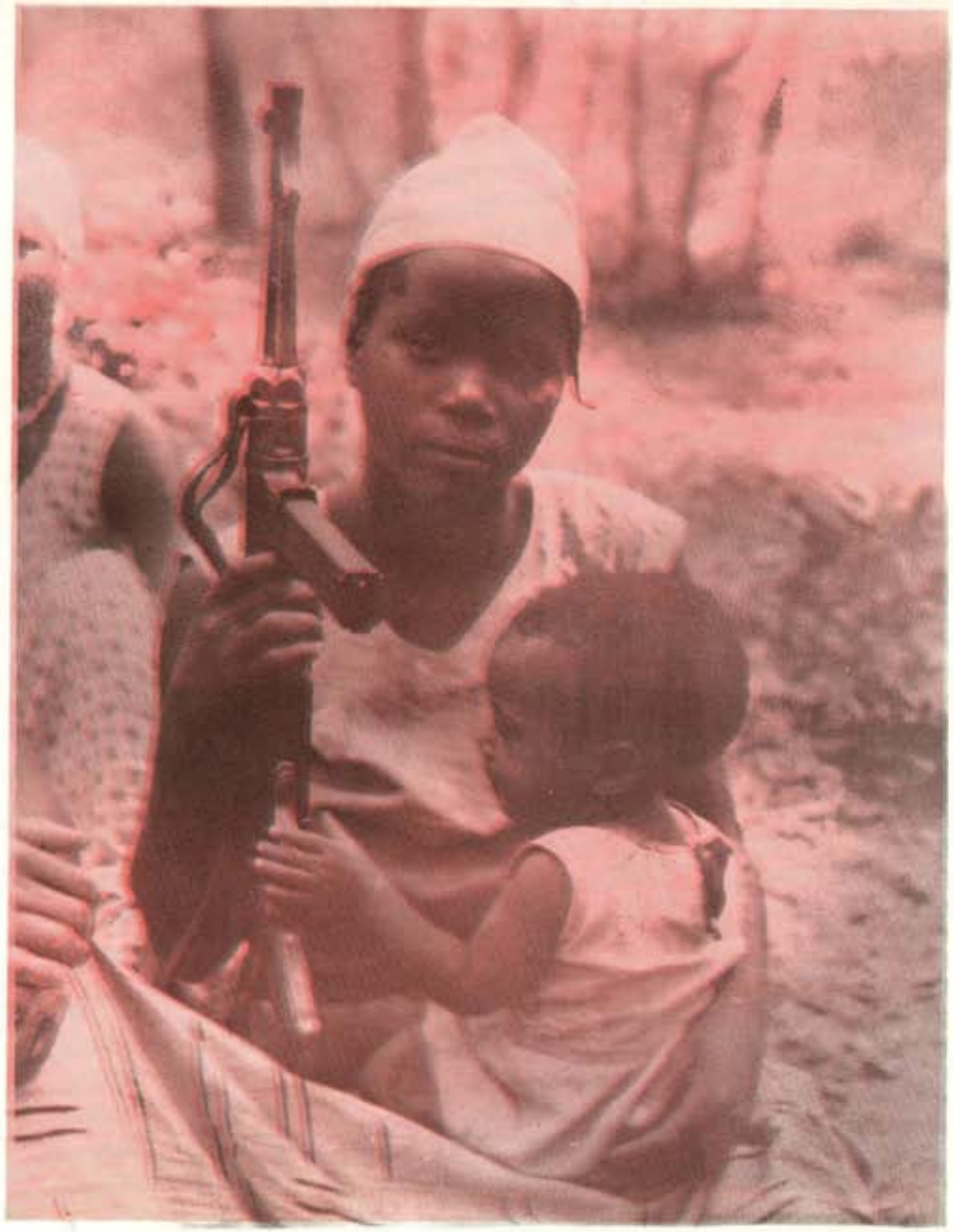
1971 LIBERATION CALENDAR

AFRICA



Liberation Support Movement

MPLA
miliants

JANUARY 1971

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We Shall Return

To our homes, to our ploughing
to our shores, to our fields
we shall return

To our lands
red from coffee
white from cotton
green from ripe millet
we shall return

To our diamond mines
gold, copper, petroleum
we shall return

To our rivers, our lakes
our mountains, forests
we shall return

To the freshness of the mulemba tree
to our traditions
our rhythms and bonfires
we shall return

To the marimba and the quissange
to our carnival
we shall return

To our beautiful Angolan homeland
our land, our mother
we shall return

We shall return
To liberated Angola
independent Angola.

by Agostinho Neto

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1 1963 Beginning of the armed struggle in Guinea-Bissau, led by the PAIGC.

3 1968 MPLA announced the shift of its Headquarters from Congo Brazzaville to inside Angola.

9 1963 MPLA opened its 2nd Military Region.

MPLA leadership with People's Milita members

PAIGC guerrillas

You tell me to sit quiet

When robbed of my manhood,

With nowhere to live

And nought to call my own,

Now coming, now going,

Wandering and Wanting.

No life in my home

Save the drone of the battle!

So tell the drooping grass,

Frost bitten and pale,

Not to quicken when roused

By the warm summer rains.

by A.C.Jordan
(from ANC Sechaba 8/70)

---

3 1969 Assassination of Comrade Eduardo C. Mondlane, President of FRELIMO.

13 1964 First PAIGC Congress held inside Guinea-Bissau. Creation of FARP (Peoples Revolutionary Armed Forces), which would include besides the already existing guerrilla forces, a Regular Army and a Popular Militia.

4 1961 The first revolutionary armed action took place in Luanda. Led by the MPLA, the Angolan Revolution had begun.

FEBRUARY

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FRELIMO

PAIGC

MPLA

MARCH

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8 1968 FRELIMO began military actions in the Province of Tete.

26 1961 An All-African People's Conference called in Pietermaritzburg, Natal to mobilize the people for struggle against the plans of the Government to proclaim South Africa a Republic. Nelson Mandela was elected leader of the National Action Council to organize a three-day strike. Massive police actions smashing the strike brought about a reassessment of non-violent mass action as the principle means of struggle.

31 1960 ANC was banned. A state of emergency was declared throughout South Africa - some 20,000 people, including most of the liberation movement leaders, were held in custody for indefinite periods that year. Of this number, 2,067 were eventually brought to trial.

We Shall Not Mourn the Dead

On the earth that covers you
Comrade
We shall not drop tears
or flowers
The liberation of the Motherland requires blood
On the earth that covers you
Comrade
We shall let the children play
with their wooden rifles
with their wooden rifles
The liberation of the Motherland requires blood
The blood of her best sons and daughters
We shall let the children play.
We shall let feet hardened
by rough walking
without end
pass over the earth that covers you
Comrade
and follow the path
of the fields
where the cassava swells
We shall let feet hardened
by rough walking
without end
pass over the earth that covers you
Comrade
The liberation of the Motherland requires blood
The blood of her best sons and daughters
We shall let the grass grow
high
to the height of the savanna.
We shall let the rains fall.
We shall let the rains fall
and may the earth that covers
you
Comrade
give out that smell good
and warm
that free smell
which is the smell of damp earth
which is the smell of fertile
earth.
The liberation of the Motherland requires blood
The blood of her best sons and daughters

On the earth that covers you
Comrade
We shall let the children play.
We shall let feet hardened
by rough walking
without end
pass over the earth that covers you
Comrade.
We shall let the wind blow.

Hoji Ia Henda

We shall let the grass grow
high
to the height of the savanna.
We shall let the rains fall.
On the earth that covers you
Comrade
We shall not drop tears
or flowers.
On the earth that covers you
Comrade
We shall follow the example
of your heroism,
of your valour,
in order to advance
as much as possible
as quickly as possible
and,
thus,
make your heroism
useful to our people
On the earth that covers you
Comrade
I shall not speak
of those who necessarily fall
in the struggle
I shall not speak
Comrade!
But on the earth that covers you
Comrade
great,
with the immense greatness
of the liberation of Angola
every hour
every instant
I shall utter the cry
the cry
which was your last cry
and which resounded
in the hearts
of the comrades
who were attacking
beside you
the last enemy barracks
you destroyed,
the cry
which was your last cry
and which resounded
in the terror
of those
who thought
they had killed you,
the cry
which was your last cry
and which resounded
in the immensity of the earth
and raised thousands
of other cries
like yours.

Every hour
every instant
I shall utter the cry
the cry
which was your last cry

MPLA ADVAAAAANCE...

Agostinho Neto

PAIGC combatants

April 1964 The strategic Como Island, liberated by the PAIGC since February 1963, was the site of one of the most crushing defeats ever inflicted on colonial troops since the imperialist penetration of Africa. The Portuguese launched an attack against the island - after 75 days of fierce battle, Portuguese troops were forced to retreat, leaving behind 600 dead.

10 1870 Lenin born.

18 1961 CONCP (Conference of Nationalist Organisation of Portuguese Colonies) founded in Casablanca. CONCP members: FRELIMO, MPLA, PAIGC.

14 1968 Angolan Youth Day - In honor of the heroic guerrilla, Commander Hoji Ia Henda who was killed during the MPLA attack on the Karipande barracks. Hoji Ia Henda, nom de guerre of José Carvalho, means Lion of Love.

APRIL

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South African Mineworkers
(ANC SECHABA)

Rand Leases mine compound (Johannesburg
photo/Ernest Cole House of Bondage

MAY

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1 International Day of Solidarity.

5 1818 Karl Marx born.

8 1968 MPLA launched the armed struggle in Lunda (4th Military Region: Northeast Angola).

18 1966 MPLA launched the armed struggle in Moxico (3rd Military Region: Eastern Angola).

19 1890 Ho Chi Minh born.

25 AFRICA DAY

PAIGC guerrillas

Let us follow the path that today is ours.
With guns, we shall march to build the world we want.

JUNE

The boundaries of our free land are widening.
Our fields
Our schools
Our hospitals are growing
With each passing day the darkness of oppression
Recedes before the light of our hopes.

The image of our victory rises clear
From our collective labor
It has already the beauty of revolution.

All the land will be ours
The world will be ours
We are freedom, comrade.

Marcelino dos Santos (Vice President of FRELIMO)

31 May - 4 June 1966 First Congress of the League of Mozambican Women.

6 1969 MPLA launched the armed struggle in the 5th (west-central) Region of Angola.

7 1960 Massacre of Mueda, Cabo Delgado. More than 500 Mozambicans were killed by Portuguese troops. Their 'crime': they had asked for the independence of their country.

25 1962 Founding of FRELIMO.

26 1950 South Africa Freedom Day. Declared by the ANC to be a national day of protest and dedicated to the people who were slaughtered in the May 1 Strike.

26 1952 ANC launched a campaign for the defiance of unjust laws which had resulted in the imprisonment of more than 8,000 people. Nelson Mandela was appointed head of the campaign.

26 1955 The Congress of the People was held in Kliptown, Johannesburg. Some 3700 delegates gathered to adopt the Freedom Charter which became the basic policy statement of the Congress movement.

30 1963 PAIGC launched the armed struggle on the Northern Front of Guinea-Bissau.

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THE PEOPLE WENT TO WAR

by Antonio Jacinto

On a mat
bathed by the shadow
of the sunlight-outing mafumeira
mammy Lemba
lost in present remembrances of her absent husband
puts cafune on her little son

(kamona ka kaianga esta chorar
kaianga foi na guerra kaianga foi na guerra)

A solitary village
a mix of shade and dark adorns
the quiet spaces in between the huts

women remembering
old men thinking
children sleeping
panting dogs thirsty
flies ganging on the dunghills
in the valley curling little brooks
- absence of men creating life

The sun sustains a general interrogation
The People went to war, the People went to war
when will he return?

Not even a wing cuts hot-burning sky

Kaianga went to war, Kaianga went to war
I know not whether he will return

The People went to war, the People went to war
I know: the People will return.

mafumeira: a shrub commonly found in the arid districts of Angola; cafune: an unguent used on bruises; Kamona: Kimbundu word for little son; ka: Kimbundu word for of; esta chorar: Portuguese for is crying; Kaianga: name of a man; foi na guerra: Portuguese for: went to war.
(poem reprinted from MPLA Angola in Arms 7/1967)

FRELIMO (photo/CRV Mozambiquo Will Be Free)

JULY

17 - 26 1963 PAIGC meeting of cadres and leadership to consider the launching of armed struggle on Cape Verde Island.

17 1968 The Liberation Committee of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) decides to end support of Holden Roberto's reactionary "GRAE" and to support the MPLA.

21 1967 Chief Albert Lutuli, Nobel Peace Prize Winner and President-General of the ANC killed in a train 'accident' that remains unexplained.

20 - 25 July 1968 Second Congress of FRELIMO - held in Niassa Province.

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We never accepted

We were as tall trees
bending when the strong wind blows
but who know
submission is just for a time

We stowed anxiety in our hearts
courage in our hands
bullets in our homes

Tenderness and hatred impelled us

Our sons measured their height
by the length of guns

The anguish of waiting weighed on us
like an endless yearning.

FRELIMO

Infant suffers from advanced malnutrition. Like one of every four African children, he died before his first birthday. His father has worked 19 years for railways in the Union of South Africa. photo / Ernest Cole House of Bondage

AUGUST

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3 1959 A PAIGC strike of dock workers of Pidjiguiti in Bissau. Over 50 workers were killed and hundreds wounded by the colonialist Portuguese.

August 3 is International Day of Solidarity with the People of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde Island.

9 1967 South Africa Women's Day. The Federation of South African Women led 20,000 demonstrators to converge on Pretoria from all parts of the country. They sat in front of Government buildings - speeches were made against Government plans to introduce passes for African women, and a massive petition was drawn up. The demonstration under the windows of the Prime Minister was organized in the teeth of intense police activity and was seen as a major triumph.

13 1967 ANC - ZAPU Military Alliance announced. Joint forces successfully engaged enemy forces for the first time to launch guerrilla activity in Zimbabwe.

23 1968 MPLA three day conference held in the Eastern Region of Angola. The first Regional Conference held inside Angola.

26 1966 SWAPO (South-West African People's Organization) launched the armed struggle in Namibia.

Members of the regular army, PAIGC.

FRELIMO soldiers at a guerrilla camp in Cabo Delgado.

SEPTEMBER

9 1969 Inti Peredo, a leader of the ELN (National Liberation Forces of Bolivia) killed by the Bolivian Army.

12 1957 Formation of the Southern Rhodesia African National Congress. The British settlers in Rhodesia celebrated Sept. 12 as their day of conquest: occupation day. The people of Zimbabwe formed the people's national movement on the same day in open defiance - a date which for the Zimbabwe people has come to mean dignity and self-determination.

19 1956 Founding of the PAIGC in Bissau.

19 1959 First Conference of Party Cadres, held secretely in Bissau, for the preparation of all the necessary conditions for the beginning of the armed struggle. Emphasis was put on political work near the peasantry instead of people living in the cities where the enemy was stronger.

25 1964 Armed struggle launched in Mozambique by FRELIMO.

25 FRELIMO Day of Revolution

25 1968 Dr. Americo Boavida, Director of the Medical Assistance Services (SAM) of MPLA killed in combat in the Eastern Region of Angola.

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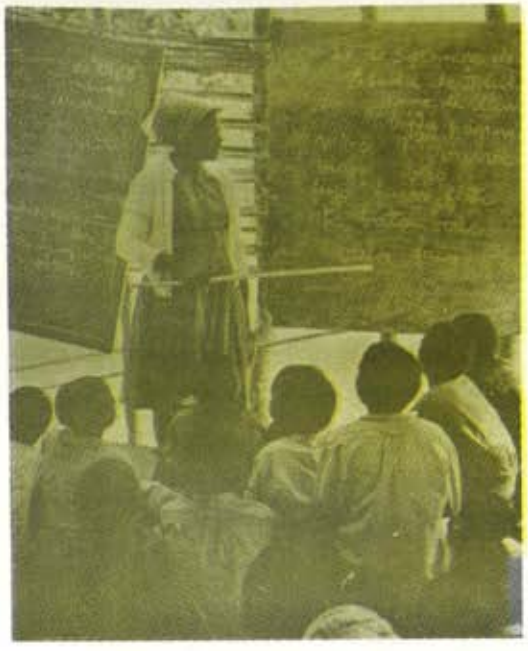
PAIGC - Illiteracy is being rapidly eliminated.

MPLA Center for Revolutionary Instruction (CIR)



FRELIMO School

OCTOBER

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8 1967 Che Guevara killed.

8 Day of the Heroic Guerrilla.

MPLA guerrillas (Eastern Region / photo LSM)

NOVEMBER

28 1820 Friedrich Engels born.

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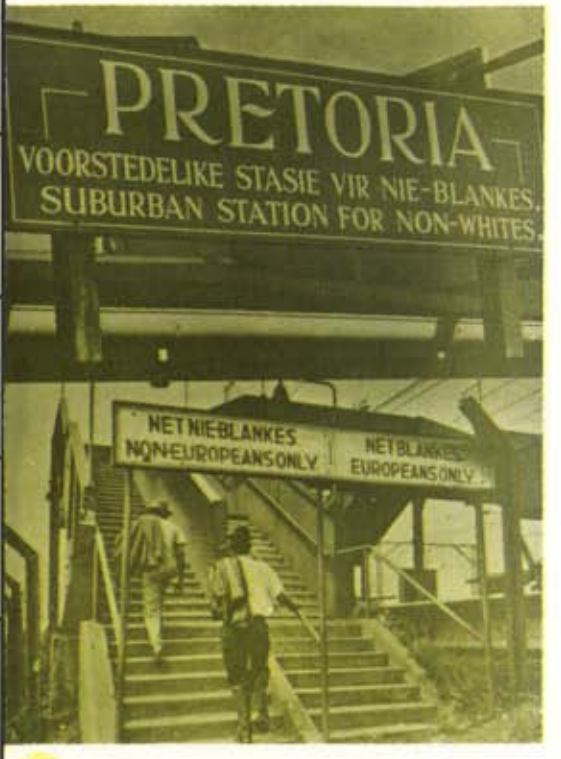


WESTERN CIVILIZATION

Tin sheets nailed to poles
fixed in the earth
make a house

Rags complete
the intimate landscape

The sun penetrating cracks
awaken each occupant

Afterwards twelve hours of slaving work

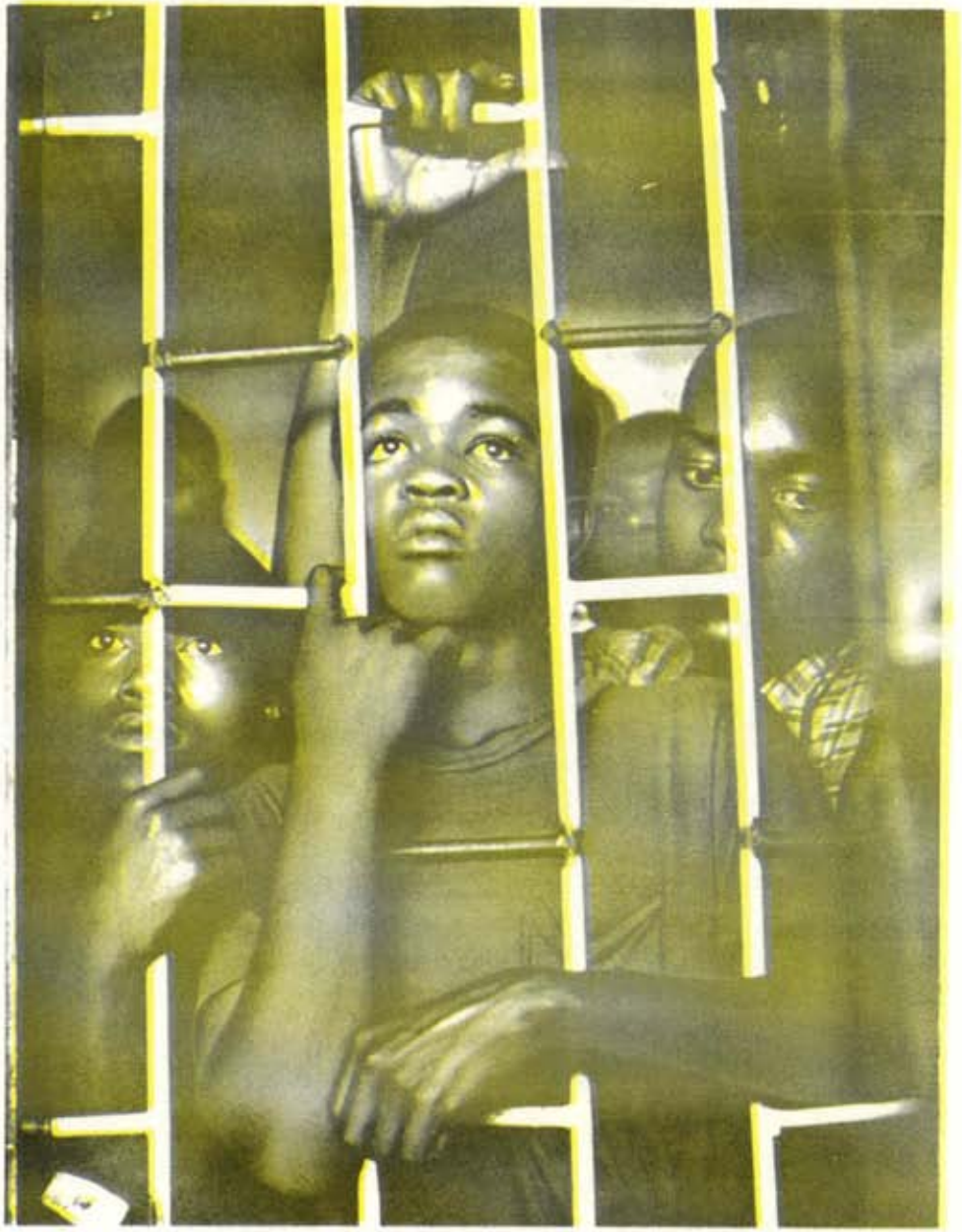
Break stone
cart stone
in the sun
in the rain
break stone
cart stone

old age comes early
a course mat in the dark nights
suffices for him to die
grateful
and of hunger.

Liberty in our eyes
the sound in our ears
of avid hands upon the skin of the drum
in the accelerated and clear rhythm
from the congos Kalahari mountain light
infinite red bonfires our violated fields
spiritual harmony of the tam-tam voices
in the clear rhythm of Africa

Thus
The way of the stars
along the agile curve of the gazelles' throat
for the harmony of the world.

by Agostinho Neto
(President of MPLA)



Caught 'trespassing' in a white area: South Africa.
photo / Ernest Cole House of Bondage

DECEMBER

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1 1962 First MPLA National Congress, held in Leopoldville, Congo (K).

6 1956 Zimbabwe: 156 men and women of all races arrested and charged with High Treason. They represented the top leadership of the Congress Alliance and their arrest sparked mass demonstrations throught the country. The notorious Treason Trial lasted four and a half years to end when the accused were eventually acquitted.

10 1956 Movimento Popular de Libertacão de Angola (MPLA) founded in Luanda.

14 1960 The UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries & Peoples (resolution 1514 (XV)) which proclaimed the necessity of bringing a speedy and unconditional end to colonialism in all its forms and manifestations. The Declaration also said that immediate steps were to be taken to transfer all powers to the peoples of the colonial countries in accordance with their freely expressed wishes and without any distinction as to race, creed or color.

16 1961 Umkonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation - ANC) carried out nationwide sabotage attacks against Government installations announcing the new policy of armed struggle.

17 1961 Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) founded.

20 1962 ZAPU banned.

26 1893 Mao Tse-tung born.

liberation support movement

The major objective of the LSM is to provide concrete and meaningful support to national liberation movements and struggles within the U.S.-dominated imperialist system. Such support is to consist primarily of essential supplies, research and publicity, and technical aid.

Within North America vast human and other resources are at our disposal to serve the pressing needs of imperialism's super-exploited masses in their just struggles to achieve genuine political, economic and cultural independence. Such struggles, and the peoples engaged in them, are in a very real sense our own. Though of different national, ethnic and linguistic groupings, we are all one people within the American empire. The victories against exploitation and oppression achieved by our comrades in the "countryside" of the Empire serve to hasten the total destruction of the imperialist system. They thus bring those who dwell in the "metropole" of the American empire closer to their own decisive victories and liberation.

LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

ANC AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
49 Rathbone St. London W1

FRELIMO MOZAMBIQUE LIBERATION FRONT
P.O.Box 15274 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

MPLA POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA
P.O.Box 1595 Lusaka Zambia

PAIGC PARTIDO AFRICANO DA INDEPENDENCIA DA GUINE E CABO VERDE
P.O.Box 298 Conakry Republic of Guinea

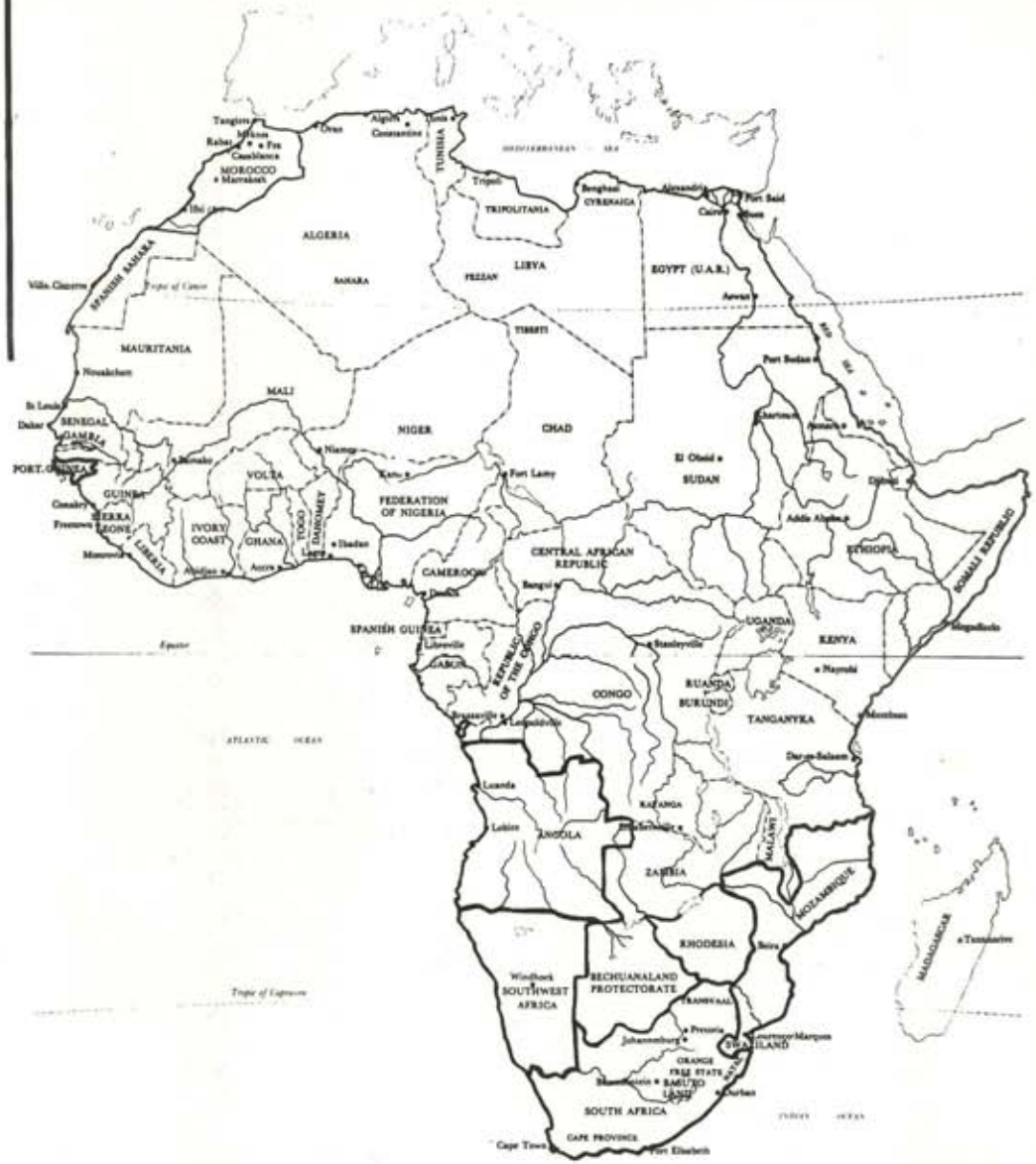
SWAPO SOUTH-WEST AFRICAN PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION
10 Dryden Chambers 119 Oxford St. London W1R 1PA

ZAPU ZIMBABWE AFRICAN PEOPLE'S UNION
P.O.Box 1657 Lusaka Zambia

We believe that far too little practical and fraternal assistance has been given in support of national liberation movements by North Americans who are both capable and, in theory, desirous of providing such vitally needed support. The Liberation Support Movement was established in order to help resolve this glaring contradiction between theory and practice, between the potentiality and actuality of our contribution to the anti-imperialist struggle.

(excerpt from LSM Constitution)

For further information on
LIBERATION SUPPORT MOVEMENT:

LSM Information Center
P.O.Box 338
Richmond B.C. Canada

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