

Angola Weekly News Summary

December 4, 1975

MEETING WITH ELISIO DE FIGUEIREDO, MPLA PERMANENT OBSERVER TO THE UNITED NATIONS

The second stage in the liberation struggle to free Angola from foreign domination has now begun, Elisio de Figueiredo told members of the MPLA Solidarity Committee in an informal meeting in New York on Wednesday, December 2.

"We fear it will be a long and arduous struggle and unfortunately blood will have to be shed, much as we would have liked to avoid it. But all foreign troops now in the country must be resisted. We will not stop until the last inch of Angola has been liberated from foreign domination."

Comrade Figueiredo stressed that most of the fighting in Angola at the present time is against Zairean top para-troopers, South African troops and other mercenary forces and that very few from the FNLA and UNITA are actually engaged in military efforts.

"Without the involvement of the United States, Zaire and South Africa working in alliance with UNITA or FNLA, these groups would no longer exist. If the South Africans had not taken us by surprise and invaded our country in the weeks before independence, we would now be fully engaged in the reconstruction of our nation and building a better life for our people.

"Today much energy is going into military and economic activities to prepare for taking back the land which was lost. Yet in Luanda we breathe the air of liberaty even while the people are being mobilized for the war effort.

"We are conscious that our struggle can not progress without have the people with us. Even in the areas militarily controlled by South Africa, we have the support of the people. This will make these areas easier to recapture."

Comrade Figueiredo also reported that on November 9th, South African and Zairean troops advancing from the north toward Luanda carried with them suits and flags for what they hoped would be a November 11 independence celebration in Luanda. The MPLA forces allowed them to move inside MPLA controlled territory and captured or killed the contingent.

Comrade Figueiredo brought solidarity greetings from the MPLA to our Committee and said that they appreciated the work that was being done here to support the struggle of the Angolan people.

THE ROLE OF THE U.S.

In recent weeks the U.S. government has been mounting a concerted propaganda campaign attacking Soviet and Cuban support for MPLA in an obvious attempt to whip up support for U.S. Angola policy.

In a speech before the Economic Club of Detroit on November 24, and in several clarifying statements later that week, Kissinger strongly admonished Cuba and the Soviet Union for their "meddling" in Angola and warned that "the US cannot remain indifferent" to their action there. These warnings followed previous statements by Kissinger and Ford as well as reported efforts to convey the same message to the Soviets through diplomatic channels. In the most hotly worded statement so far in this escalating anti-Soviet campaign, UN Ambassador Patrick Moynihan, speaking on December 2 at a symposium sponsored by the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions declared, "it is fair to assume that the Soviets / mean to colonize Africa."

Statements by the Administration have presented the Angolan conflict as based primarily in Soviet and Cuban intervention, while they have ignored US and South African support for FNLA and UNITA. Although extensive US and South African military involvement is amply documented, Kissinger self-righteously claimed that the US is concerned with "finding an African solution to an African problem" and further declared that "the United States will not intervene militarily in Angola." Further, when asked at a November 28 news conference, Kissinger responded, "to the best of my knowledge the South

Africans are not engaged officially."

The US press has backed the Administration's version of the Angolan situation. The New York Times, for example has falsely depicted the MPLA as a Russian client, referring repeatedly to the "Soviet-backed MPLA" and giving virtually no coverage of MPLA's history and real achievements. Editorials in the New York Times, the Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal, following Kissinger's Detroit speech gave strong support to his statements.

The barrage of attacks in the press on Soviet support for the MPLA government in Angola has come with such velocity and force, it is hard to imagine the effort was not well orchestrated in advance. Several objectives for such a media blitz seem evident. Popular support for foreign aid in general has been dwindling. The defeat of US foreign policy goals in Vietnam has increased public pressure against involvement in military adventures abroad. Thus a campaign stressing the importance and moral correctness of the US position is needed in order to rally support for increased US penetration in Angola.

Another factor in the step up of anti-Soviet propaganda might be the Ford Administration's desire to appease China in the light of US/Soviet detente. Strong criticism of the USSR just prior to Ford's trip to China could be thought to facilitate more productive talks between the US and China and strengthen the relations between the two.

Publicizing the idea of indigenous warring factions engaged in civil war enables the United States to maintain a much lower profile in the struggle for control over Angola that its participation would warrant. Working through third parties, like FNLA and UNITA inside Angola and with South Africa and Zaire on the outside, the United States is able to avoid a direct military presence.

The United States government has used anti-Soviet rhetoric to hide the real motivation behind its policy and to ensure the establishment of a "friendly" government which would enable/^{the}immense natural wealth of that country to be developed by western economic interests.

THE ANGOLA FRONT

Troops of the People's Republic of Angola are reported fighting on the offensive on all fronts. Earlier this week they captured seven truck loads of arms in the retaking of the strategic town of Caxito.

A telex sent by the Ministry of Information to Elisio de Figueiredo reported that - fighting roughly 35 miles north of Luanda - the MPLA had driven back forces attempting to over-run the capital and to mount a counter-attack. Arms captured included many unopened wooden boxes registered "Made in USA", along with other weapons from Belgium and China. This area, once controlled by advancing Zairean and FNLA troops is now under MPLA control and MPLA forces are advancing on Abriz to the North.

On the eastern front the forces of MPLA have captured the town of Cangumbe in the province of Moxico. MPLA is experiencing its most serious difficulties in the South, where the South African troops are most active.

Caryle Murphy writing from Luanda for the Sunday Times, London, on November 30, reports that on the southern front MPLA attacked the enemy at a "small town of Ebo about 200 miles south-east of Luanda causing more than 80 deaths, among which were some South Africans." MPLA also reports it captured some Black South Africans among the prisoners. Fighting was also reported in the coastal city of Porto Amboim, 120 miles south of Luanda.

MPLA is calling on its supporters in towns and areas controlled by the enemy to begin to engage in guerrilla warfare. Radio broadcasts from Luanda have asked for the people "living behind enemy lines to organize into guerrilla groups to fight the foreign invader."

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SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA CONTINUES TO ESCALATE

South African involvement in Angola continues to escalate and to be increasingly open. Press reports give estimates of up to 6000 South African troops inside Angola, with a further 4000 poised in Namibia. Journalists have seen South African military "advisers" to UNITA in Nova Lisboa and Silva Porto and to FNLA at Ambriz (located to the north of Luanda.)

The South African government has admitted casualties among its ground forces as well

as the loss of a reconnaissance plane and its crew over Angola.

David Ottaway, a Washington Post correspondent writing from Johannesburg, reports that South Africa has been ferrying supplies deep into southern Angola from bases in Northern Namibia, and regular South African Airways civilian planes are flying troops to these bases. The supplies going to Angola are flown in C-130 planes which South Africa obtained from the United States.

This military involvement has been accompanied by a campaign to whip up war hysteria inside South Africa. The government, the officially controlled radio system and the newspapers (including the English language "opposition" press) have been preparing the way for a full scale invasion of Angola with the aim of destroying the MPLA. A significant item in official statements and media coverage is the appeal for open US aid and a support commitment.

The New York Times of December 3 reported that Christmas leave had been cancelled for South African troops deployed along the Namibian border and that thousands of Black Namibians have been driven from their homes to create a "restricted" zone. Such a zone is reminiscent of the "free fire" zones characteristic of US strategy during the Vietnam war.

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US MERCENARIES RECRUITED

In California, Chicago and New York City efforts are being made to recruit American mercenaries for the war in Angola, Reuters reports. The mercenaries will be paid \$1200 a month for a year's commitment. They will be flown to Zaire and from there join the forces fighting against the People's Republic of Angola under the leadership of the MPLA.

The Reuters account states that the source of financing for these mercenaries is not known, but that when they arrive in Zaire they will be equipped with US made arms. It seems safe to assume that the CIA is behind this funding.

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SUPPORT FOR MPLA IN THE US

The Chicago Committee for the Liberation of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea sponsored a "Day of Solidarity with MPLA and Angola" in November. The event featured films on the Third World, cultural expressions of solidarity and a panel on "What is at Stake in Angola?" in support . . .

In New York the MPLA Solidarity Committee will sponsor an evening forum of the People's Republic of Angola on Friday, December 12 at Columbia Law School, at 116th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, at 8 p.m.

A similar forum will be held in Philadelphia on December 13, hosted by the Philadelphia Committee for Justice in Angola.

The Anti-Apartheid Movement is organizing a demonstration in Washington DC outside the White House at 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 13 to protest South African and United States intervention in Angola. For further information call Don Morton at (212)789-8543.

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY CONTRIBUTED FINANCIALLY TO THE MPLA SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE OR IF YOU ARE ABLE TO GIVE US ANY MORE, PLEASE DO SO. WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT, ALSO YOUR COMMENTS ON HOW WE CAN BETTER BE OF HELP TO YOU.

NAME.....
Address

Amount enclosed: \$.....

The Struggle Continues! Victory is Certain!

We apologize for the poor appearance of this weekly summary. Everything that could go wrong, seemed to go wrong. We felt it was more important to get the summary out than to redo it and delay it.