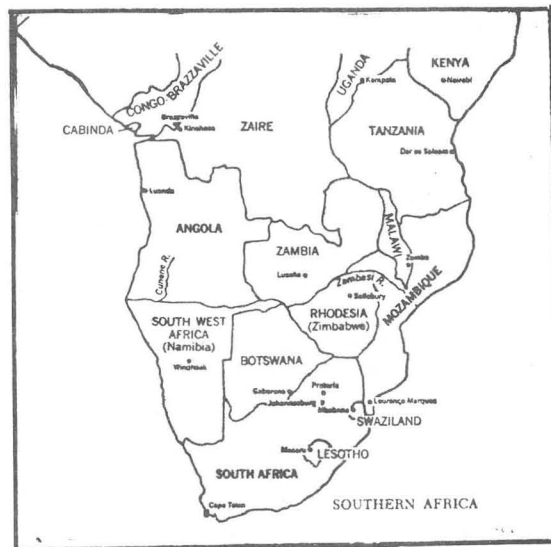


# HANDS OFF AFRICA

## ANGOLA, AFRICA'S VIETNAM??

On November 11, 1975 Angola received her independence from Portugal after 500 years of oppressive Portuguese colonial rule. On this day the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) proclaimed Angola a people's republic with its leader, Agostinho Neto, the President. Even before November 11, the MPLA controlled most of the country and was supported by the majority of the Angolan people who respected the MPLA's long, consistent and self-sacrificing struggle for the independence of their country.

As in Vietnam however, the Angolan peoples road to liberation has not and will not be easy. Two other groups have been fighting against the MPLA in a struggle to determine who will govern Angola. All of the recent news has shown us that both these groups have been funded and aided by the American C.I.A., as well as indirectly by the American government. At a closed door Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on November 6, CIA Director Colby and Under Secretary of State Sisco, "justified the Administrations covert supply of rifles, machineguns, vehicles, and ammunition" to the FNLA and UNITA (New York Times). Most of the funding and aid to the FNLA has taken place through President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, who has recieved over \$430 million from the U.S. in the last 12 years, including \$50 million in military aid.



At present the U.S. Administration is proposing to give Zaire an additional \$23 million in "security supporting assistance" and \$19 in military credit sales, which U.S. officials have admitted is important to the general "stability of Angola". It is a well known fact that Mobutu has been using the aid he receives from the U.S. to support the FNLA (National Liberation Front of Angola) of which his brother-in-law Holden Roberto, is the head, and it is reported that Mobutu "spends about 10% of Zaire's budget supporting FNLA and the Cabindan 'liberation front' FLEC." (Southern Africa, Journal) Besides U.S. Aid to the FNLA and UNITA, both groups have been supported and reinforced by mercenary and regular South African troops.

Why then, you may ask, is the U.S. government, aided by Mobutu's puppet regime and South Africa, so interested in destroying the MPLA and preventing the establishment of an independent republic of Angola. Part of the reason is the tremendous economic interest that the U.S. has in Angola which is a country rich in oil, coffee, and minerals. Gulf Oil and Texaco both have large mining operations in the area, and in 1970 Henry Kissinger publicly stated that "the biggest U.S. interest in southern Africa is in Angola." More importantly than all this, however, is that the threat of an independent and liberated Angola will have serious consequences for the whole of

Southern Africa and U.S. corporate interests in that area of the world. South Africa, Rhodesia, Namibia, Botswana - in short southern Africa represents one of the richest areas in the world run by fascist apartheid regimes, where small handfuls of whites rule the vast majority of the poverty stricken Africans. The U.S. government and the large U.S. Corporations have vested interests in cooperating with the apartheid regimes, for in South Africa alone there are over 400 U.S. companies with a total investment of \$1.5 billion. GM, Ford and Chrysler make huge profits by exploiting African workers and have become "powerful forces for legitimizing the regime and reinforcing the economy and the government" (Global Reach, book).

The U.S. government and the South African regimes understand clearly that the liberation of Angola would help the already powerful national liberation struggles in the rest of southern Africa to successfully overthrow the apartheid regimes and establish democratic peoples republics throughout the area.

The FNLA and UNITA forces can only gain control in Angola with the aid of the U.S., Zaire, and South Africa. If this takes place, Angola will only be independent on paper, but not in reality. Angola would turn into one of the many neo-colonial nations controlled by U.S. interests, and the Angolan peoples fight for liberation from 500 years of Portuguese rule would only be supplanted by a new type of U.S. rule.

If the situation continues as it is now, Angola will soon turn into another Vietnam. While millions of Americans are unemployed, hungry and destitute the U.S. government and the CIA choose to spend our taxpaying dollars not on our own needs, but rather to prevent a nation from being able to choose its own destiny. We must call on the U.S. government to STOP ALL AID TO ZAIRE, ESPECIALLY MILITARY AID. We must demand AN END TO ALL CIA COVERT AND OVERT ACTIVITIES IN ANGOLA. We must demand that the U.S. GOVERNMENT CEASE ALL ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND MILITARY AID TO SOUTH AFRICA. Instead we must demand that the U.S. government take immediate action to provide jobs for all Americans to relieve the misery and poverty that millions of people in this country face every day.

The MPLA has been recognized by many African nations, including Guinea, the Congo, Mali, Somali, Algeria, Nigeria, Mozambique, Ethiopia, and it is now increasingly likely that Africa will rally to the support of Angola.

The MPLA continues to make successes in Angola. As Americans dedicated to the ideals of democracy, justice, and freedom, it is our duty to demand that the U.S. completely and thoroughly end all involvement in the internal affairs of Angola. We will not allow the system of apartheid, nor will we allow the subjugation of nations to be defended in our names. We will not allow the U.S. government and its corporate interests to turn Angola into another Vietnam, and we will never participate in a war against our heroic Angolan brothers and sisters who are fighting for their independence.

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NO U.S. AID TO ZAIRE

END CIA OVERT AND COVERT ACTIVITIES IN ANGOLA

WE, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, MUST NOT ALLOW ANGOLA TO BECOME ANOTHER VIETNAM

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