Dear Friends,

Recently a group of us in Chicago formed a committee for the liberation of the African territories under Portuguese control - Angola, Mozambique, and Guine (Bissau). Our intention is to mobilize support in the Chicago-Illinois area for their struggle.

The aims of the Chicago Committee are:

1) - to provide material and financial aid for the Popular Movement for the liberation of Angola (MPLA), the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO), and the African Party for the Independence of Guine and Cape Verde Islands (PAIGC)

2) - to work for an end to U.S. military and economic involvement supporting Portuguese colonialism in Africa.

Most of the members of the Chicago Committee have lived and worked in Africa; some with FRELIMO, others with Africa-oriented organizations such as the Committee of Returned Volunteers, American Committee on Africa, Southern Africa Committee, Committee for a Free Mozambique, and church groups.

We were preparing this mailing when we received the enclosed telegram from the leader of the liberation struggle in Guine, Amilcar Cabral, concerning the recent Portuguese attacks on civilian villages, and the use of genocidal herbicides against the people of Guine. Because of your past support of the liberation struggles in Africa, we thought you would want to see this urgent telegram and respond in some way.

We invite you to join in the work of the Committee in one or more of the following ways:

1) - make a monthly pledge which will be divided among the liberation movements and the work of the Committee in this country,

2) - make an initial contribution which will go directly to PAIGC for dehydrated foods in response to their immediate need resulting from the herbicides,

3) - invite the Committee's traveling "workshop" to present a program at your church, synagogue, civic group, etc,

4) - participate actively in the work of the Committee,

5) - become more informed about the liberation struggles in the Portuguese colonies (literature available on request by mail, or at the above address, open from Noon-9:00 PM daily).

We will keep you regularly informed on the activities of the Committee. Thank you for your support.

Venceremos!

The Chicago Committee
THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM WAS RECEIVED ON NOVEMBER 10, 1971:

"THE CRIMINAL PORTUGUESE COLONIALISTS, DESPERATE IN THE FACE OF THE GREAT VICTORIES BROUGHT BY OUR PARTY DURING THIS YEAR, HAVE LAUNCHED A WAVE OF SAVAGE AIR BOMBINGS SINCE AUGUST AGAINST THE PEASANT POPULATION IN OUR LIBERATED AREAS. AS OF THE END OF OCTOBER, 38 VILLAGES WERE DESTROYED, 7 WOMEN AND 8 CHILDREN KILLED AND 28 WOUNDED.

THEY HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED IN TERRORIZING OR DEMORALIZING OUR PEOPLE IN THEIR DETERMINATION TO PURSUE THE JUST STRUGGLE FOR LIBERTY, PEACE AND PROGRESS. I BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THAT THE PORTUGUESE COLONIALISTS ARE FEVERISHLY PREPARING TO SPREAD TOXIC CHEMICAL PRODUCTS IN ORDER TO DESTROY OUR CROPS BEFORE THE NEXT HARVEST. THE GOAL IS CLEARLY TO STOP OUR STRUGGLE BY FAMINE. WE FACE DISMAL PROSPECTS RESULTING FROM THESE PREPARATIONS.

WE REQUEST YOU TO TAKE ALL MEASURES IN YOUR REACH TO DEMONSTRATE AND CONDEMN IN ADVANCE THIS MONSTROUS CRIME AGAINST AFRICA AND HUMANITY."

HIGHEST REGARDS-

AMILCAR CABRAL, secretary general
African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde Islands (PAIGC)