SOUTH AFRICA INVADES ANGOLA

It has been known for a long time that South African troops were fighting in Mozambique, Rhodesia and Angola. What is news now is the scale of the South African intervention in Angola and the fact that the South Africans themselves are openly tying their intervention to an increased intervention as well by the Kif and kin of the racist Boers in the US government. On November 30, correspondent David Ottaway reported that anywhere from 2500 to 6000 South African officers and soldiers were present in operations around Nova Lisboa, Angola and another 4,000 are being readied. (Washington Post)

The Namibian liberation Movement SWAPO testified in London that South Africa had put 12,000 troops across the Namibian-Angolan border. (Observer, Nov 30) And in South Africa the Johannesburg Sunday Times spoke of South African "joint participation" in the struggle against the leftist Popular Movement while South African government sources talked of FNLA-UNITA approval for South African presence in Southern Angola. Even while they are openly admitting their involvement in their own press, the South Africans are making another significant comment. Namely, as the November 29 Johannesburg Star, stated it, their feeling that the West or so-called "Free World" was not pulling its weight and should take a much more active role in order for the Boers to increase their support of FNLA and UNITA.

As the Boers were moving across the Angolan border from the South, amidst a great deal of bickering and mysticism, the FNLA and UNITA formed a coalition government in Huambo-formerly Nova Lisboa. Posters in Huambo specially prepared for the occasion described Holden Roberto as "the man the Angolan people have waited for 30 years-the mystery man of the 20th Century." (New York Times, Dec 9)

A more serious sideline of the intensified South African intervention was a Lusaka report that indicated a growing pattern of Zambian government collaboration with Pretoria. Specifically, the Washington Post of November 29 reported that simultaneous with a South African program of "hot pursuit" (a la Israel) of Namibian (SWAPO) freedom fighters into Angola was a Zambian program in which the Kaunda-led government "has cut off arms supplies to SWAPO and confined more than a thousand SWAPO militants to their training camps."

INCREASING U.S. DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA

There is an important new development in American involvement in the struggle in Angola. It is no longer just the question of American support to the anti-MPLA forces in Angola through funneling money and arms to neighboring Zaire. (The Military Aid Bill now before Congress proposes 41.7 million dollars in military assistance to Zaire. Further, the Ford administration is asking an additional 40 million dollars for Zaire in food aid credits and bank loans.)

It is now known that the Central Intelligence Agency is airlifting at least twenty million dollars worth of arms and military equipment directly into Zaire on C-141 transports from the Azores Islands. (Chicago Sun Times, December 4) That at least some of these arms are reaching the anti-communist forces of the FNLA and UNITA was demonstrated last week when MPLA soldiers showed American weapons crates of captured US-made mortar shells shipped from the Anniston Army Depot in Alabama on September 18. (Newsweek, December 15).
American mercenaries for Angola In the meanwhile the pace of recruitment of American mercenaries for the Southern Africa area, especially Angola, has been stepped up. Reuters (December 4) has reported that mercenaries for the war in Angola are being recruited in California, New York and Chicago. In a related development radio station WNN in Chicago and the CBS evening News quoted CORE chairman Roy Innis as saying that his organization was recruiting experienced black American fighting men to serve as medics in Angola with the forces of FNLA-UNITA. (December 11) The Reuters report stated that the source of funding for the mercenaries was not clear but that the men would arrive in Zaire with US made arms.

American $$$s and President Mobutu of Zaire

The New York Times recently wrote (Nov 29) "President Mobutu today stood on the deck of the Gulf Oil tanker Solen, wearing a leopardskin cap and brandishing a scepter-like walking stick, turned a valve and started the flow of a new 20 million dollar offshore oil effort." That report went on to report that this new field was small when compared to either Gulf's other oil fields in Angola or to the new field which Texaco has found off Northern Angola. Significantly, that article went on to argue that "in copper rather than oil (in Zaire-Angola region) that is attracting large amounts of foreign capital. "The article concluded citing the huge Tenke-Fungurume copper deposit located in the Katanga Province of Zaire, which is shared by both Angola and Zaire. In the article the US diplomat was quoted as saying that "the US will attempt to justify its intervention in Angola to help our friends, Angolans to the UN began to lay the groundwork out for the independence of Angola." (New York Times, Dec 3)

MPLA: A LUTA CONTINUA

11TH November 1975, Radio Clube Portugues (Lisbon)

Excerpts from broadcast relayed from 1st May Square in Luanda, where the MPLA President Agostinho Neto read the proclamation of independence at 2319 gmt and then addressed the crowd:

"In the name of the Angolan people, the Central Committee of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, the MPLA, solemnly proclaims the independence of Angola before Africa and the world. The Angolan people and the Central Committee of the MPLA will now observe one minute of silence and hereby declare that the heroes who fell for the independence of the motherland will go down forever. (silence) (Call)

During the period between the signing of the Alvor agreement and the present proclamation, the MPLA alone did not breach the agreements signed. As far as the internal lackeys of imperialism are concerned, we have long since ceased to recognize them as liberation movements...Our struggle is not over...The forces
of imperialism do not lay down their arms... Now that we have defeated colonialism, they are intent on imposing on us a new regime of oppression and exploitation through their internal lackeys... Our people's revolutionary determination to fight man's exploitation by man, and the differences which separate us from the enemy, demand of us a new war of liberation which will take the form of widespread popular resistance and will have to continue until the final victory... The People's Republic of Angola solemnly reiterates its determination to fight for Angola's territorial integrity opposing any attempts at dismembering the country.... United from Cabinda to the Cunene, we shall vigorously carry on the widespread popular resistance, and shall build our democratic and popular state, honor to the new Angolan man; eternal glory to our heroes; the struggle continues; victory is certain; victory is certain.

Clearly, for MPLA the struggle not only continues but advances as well. Various journalists in different parts of Angola are saying that MPLA troops are scoring impressive and major victories both north and south of Luanda. (New York Times, Dec 8) On Friday, December 5, the FNLA was forced to abandon its key operational and supply base of Ambix, north of Luanda (AFRICA NEWS) And on December 6th, sources in the FNLA-UNITA coalition acknowledged that their troops were rapidly losing ground in the Huambo region.

The MPLA-led PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC ON ANGOLA also gained impressive diplomatic ground in the early days of December with the number of countries recognizing the Republic going to 35. Especially important were the Nigerian recognition of the People's Republic of Angola November 25 and recognition of the Neto-led Republic as the sole government by Tanzania on December 5. So far no government has recognized the Angolan grouping known as the FNLA-UNITA coalition government. (Africa News, December 8).

SOLIDARITY ACTIVITIES WITH THE MPLA

Overseas- Nov 10 At a one day meeting in Lourenco Marques the members of CONCP (the Conference of Nationalist Organizations of the Portuguese Colonies), namely, FRELIMO, THE PAIGC, MISTP (Movement for Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe) and the MPLA, voted to "reaffirm the solidarity and total support for the party and the struggle of the Angolan people, led by the MPLA, a solidarity founded on the identity of ideas and political objectives, forged between the PAIGC, MISTP, MPLA and FRELIMO, in the long process of the common struggle against colonialism and imperialism."

In the US- In New York the MPLA Solidarity Committee sponsored an evening forum in support of the People's Republic of Angola on Friday Dec 12 at Columbia University.

Chicago- the African American Solidarity Committee and other groups sponsored a demonstration at the Federal Building December 15 condemning the US involvement in Angola and calling on the American people to instead demand jobs and that the US join the 46 countries in the world which have recognized the People's Republic of Angola.

Philadelphia-The Committee for Justice in Angola held a forum in support of the People's Republic of Angola on December 13.
WHAT WE CAN DO
1. Protest direct involvement in the new 30 million 
dollars 4 scheduled for Angola. Protest the 30% 
million aid package for Zaïre - demand that all military 
aid to Zaïre be suspended to ensure that it not be used 
as a pretext for U.S. intervention in Angola.

2. Demand that the U.S. make public protest of the South 
African invasion of Angola.

3. Ask that the U.S. government recognize the People's 
Republic of Angola, which is the genuine representa-
tive of the Angolan people.

4. Raise the issue of U.S. tax dollars going to support 
U.S. intervention in Angola - get your church, school, 
union or community organization to protest this 
involveinent.

5. Begin an investigation of CIA and corporate support for 
FNLA and UNITA and of the possibility that American 
military personnel are actively involved in the fighting 
there.

6. Organize educational programs about the situation in 
Angola (contact CCLAG for possible resources.

7. Support the FNL and the People's Republic of Angola! 
Political and financial support urgently needed. (NJU, 
Rua João de Almada 180 B, 9.. 998 Luanda, Angola).

ANGOLA ALERT will continue to be issued for as long as the current 
situation prevails in Angola. To continue receiving it, please 
send your name and address and a donation to cover our 
production and mailing costs to: CCLAG 
2546 North Halsted 
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VICTORY TO THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA! SUPPORT THE MPLA! 
US OUT OF ANGOLA!