To: Supporters of African Liberation

From: ACOA

We are happy to send the enclosed translation of a long communique just received from the PAIGC announcing the results of the Second Congress of their Party since its founding in 1956. The first Congress was held in 1964, a year after the beginning of the armed struggle.

The Second Congress was held just six months after the tragic assassination of Amilcar Cabral, the founder and inspired leader of the movement from its beginning. A principle task of this Congress was to choose a new Secretary General. Aristides Pereira, who worked along with Cabral from the beginning, was chosen. Now the PAIGC is again fully organized to carry on its effective struggle for freedom.

The Second Congress lays the groundwork for the coming meeting of the newly elected National Assembly, which will proclaim the existence of their independent state (despite Portuguese armed occupation of parts of the country, particularly the capital city of Bissau and other urban centers) sometime later this year. The National Assembly of 120 members was chosen late last year in elections organized throughout the country.

The holding of a Congress is a complicated organizational process, with messages having to carried by foot and delegates having to convene from all parts of the country at the meeting place in the midst of the on-going war. Therefore the holding of this Second Congress is particularly significant.
From the 18th to the 22nd of July 1973, the Second Congress of the PAIGC was held in the liberated zones of western Guinea-Bissau. Comrade Aristides Pereira, one of the founders of the Party and assistant of Amilcar Cabral, our beloved leader, assassinated by the criminal hand of the Portuguese colonialists, was unanimously elected Secretary General of the PAIGC. Proceeding with a review of the Party statutes, the Congress decided to create a Permanent Secretariat composed of four members, replacing the Permanent Commission of the Executive Committee of the Struggle (CEL). In addition to Secretary General Aristides Pereira, the Permanent Secretariat is composed of Luiz Cabral, Assistant Secretary General, and two Secretaries: Francisco Mendes (Chico Te) and Joao Bernando Vieira (Nino). The Congress also enlarged the Superior Council for the Struggle (CSL) from 81 to 95 members. The Executive Council for the Struggle, elected from within the Superior Council for the Struggle, maintains its former composition of 24 members.

The Congress was held with the participation of 133 delegates and 50 representative observers, representing all the regions, zones and sections of the organization of the Party, the National Armed Forces (Popular Army and Navy) as well as the National Reconstruction Workers. Among the Delegates and Observers were Regional Counsellors and Deputies elected by the Popular National Assembly.

After having appraised reports on political-military activities, national reconstruction of the liberated regions, as well as the other departments of the Party, the Congress adopted resolutions with a view to the strengthening of our operations in Guinea-Bissau and the acceleration of the struggle in the Cape Verde Islands. Proclaiming the loyalty of the Party to the principles inscribed in the Charters of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations, the Second Congress:

Expressed the determination of the PAIGC to contribute by all means to the strengthening of the bonds of friendship and fighting solidarity uniting our people and our Party with the fraternal peoples of the other Portuguese colonies and their liberation movements within CONCP (Conference of Organizations of the Portuguese Colonies).
Emphasized the value of the support, political and military, of the Organization of African Unity, as well as the bilateral aid given to our Party by numerous independent states of Africa, particularly by the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Senegal, neighboring countries whose aid and fraternal support has been and remains the decisive factor for the victorious development of our national liberation struggle.

Expressed the recognition of our people and our Party of the multifaceted aid of the socialist countries, particularly the Soviet Union, and for the important humanitarian aid that the Swedish Government gives our Party. It equally expressed thanks to all the governments and anti-colonialist organizations of Europe, Asia, and America; to the humanitarian institutions; and to the national committees of support created throughout the world from which political, moral, and material aid has continually grown, gaining an increasingly important place in the ranks of international support for our struggle.

Proclaimed the solidarity in combat of our Party towards the anti-colonialist and anti-fascist forces of Portugal, whose concrete action against the criminal war, contributing to the acceleration of the liquidation of Portuguese colonialism in Africa, is a factor in preserving the ties of friendship between the Portuguese people and our people.

Having proceeded with an analysis of the circumstances surrounding the cowardly assassination of our mourned comrade Amilcar Cabral, the Congress condemned vigorously and with indignation this monstrous crime. The Congress further proclaimed that none of the activities of our Party, particularly those of its Secretary General, could justify such an ignoble crime, whose responsibility rests entirely on the colonialist Portuguese government. The Congress unanimously approved the exemplary punishment inflicted by our popular justice on the traitors and criminals who executed the crime at the service of the enemy of our people and of Africa.

In homage to the immortal work of Amilcar Cabral, hero of our people, artisan of our national liberation, the Second Congress decided to give him the title of Militant Number One of the PAIGC. His portrait will be placed in all the work places of our Party. The Congress also decided to create an Amilcar Cabral medal for the decoration of the heroes of our armed struggle for national liberation.
The Congress set the convocation of the Popular National Assembly, which will meet in the course of this year to accomplish its primary historic mission: the proclamation of the independent State of Guinea-Bissau, the creation of an Executive for this State, and the adoption of the first Constitution in our history.

The Second Congress, taking place under the triple motto of Unity, Struggle, and Vigilance, took place in an atmosphere of high responsibility, criticism and self-criticism, of patriotic ardor, and partisan spirit.

Done the 24th of July, 1973. The Executive Committee for the Struggle of the PAIGC.

Annex to the Communique:

Biographical summaries of the members of the Permanent Secretariat of the Executive Committee for the Struggle of the PAIGC:

1. Aristides Maria Pereira, Secretary General of the Party. Forty-nine years old, radiotelegraph technician, born in Boavista Vert. At a young age, after studies at the Lycee due Cap Vert, he came to Guinea-Bissau where he made his career, being the Chief of Telecommunications in Bissau at the time that he left the country for the struggle. Founder of the Party with Amilcar Cabral, and, since its creation (1956), member of the leadership of the Party (Political Bureau and Central Committee). One of the principal organizers of the Party during the period of clandestine activities in Bissau and in the other urban centers. Since the creation of the Party, up until the time of his escape to the sister Republic of Guinea (Conakry) for reasons of security (in 1960); Assistant Secretary General of the Party from 1964. Member of the Council of War since 1955. Since 1970, Member of the Permanent Commission of the Executive Committee for the Struggle, with Amilcar Cabral and Luiz Cabral, in which he was the National Responsible for Security and Registration, as well as for Foreign Affairs.

2. Luiz de Almeida Cabral, Assistant Secretary General of the Party. Forty-two years old, accounting expert, born in Bissau. Founder of the Party and since its creation a member of the leadership. One of the principal organizers of the Party during the period of clandestine activity in Bissau and in the other urban centers, after
1956. Until the time of the escape to the sister Republic of Senegal at the moment that the PIDE (Portuguese political police) were preparing to arrest him, Secretary General of the National Union of Workers of Guinea-Bissau (UNTG), since its formation (1961). Member of the Council of War since 1965. Since 1970 Member of the Permanent Commission of the Executive Committee for the Struggle, with Amilcar Cabral and Aristides Pereira, in which he was the National Responsible for National Reconstruction of the Liberated Zones.

3. Francisco Mendes (Chico Te), Secretary, Thirty-four years old, student who interrupted his studies, born in Enxude in the south of the country (Guinea-Bissau). Since his entrance into the Party (1960) and after having undergone suitable military and political preparation he was:

   b. Political activist in the administrative region of Bafata in the eastern part of the country (1962-1963).
   c. Political and military Commissar of the guerrilla groups in the north of the country (1963-1964).
   d. Member of the Political Bureau of the Party since its First Congress (1964).
   e. Member of the Council of War since 1965 in the position of Political Commissar.
   f. Responsible for Ideology in the Political Commission and for ideological formation in the Central Committee of the Party (1967-1970) and delegate of the Political Bureau for the northern front.
   h. Member of the Executive Committee for the Struggle and the Council of War (1971-1973).

4. João Bernardo Vieira (Nino), Secretary. Thirty-four years old, electrician, born in Bissau. Since his entrance into the Party (1960) and after having undergone suitable military and political preparation he was:

   b. Military Chief of the southern front and member of the Political Bureau since the First Party Congress (1964).
   c. Member of the Council of War and its Vice President since 1965.
   f. Member of the Executive Committee of the Struggle and the Council of War (1971-1973).
Note that since the expanded meeting of the Central Committee in 1970 the Political Bureau of the Party was replaced by the Executive Committee for the Struggle and the Central Committee was replaced by the Superior Council for the Struggle.


(Translated July 30, 1973, by American Committee on Africa from the original French).