Angolans Fight New Racial Barbarism

Interview published in "The Standard" (Tanzania)
April 23, 1971.

Q. After ten years of war, what do you believe is the best way to end the conflict?

A. We believe in armed struggle as the best way to end the conflict. We have been fighting for liberation from Portuguese colonialism for ten years.

Angola rebells gain

Angola liberation groups to unite

EXXON STAY OUT OF ANGOLA

From DAVID OTTAWAY: Washington, December 26

MPLA Fight For National Liberation in Angola

UN agency showing Portugal the door

1971, a successful year for PAIGC.

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During 1971, the MPLA and the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) and the National Front for the Liberation of Guinea-Bissau (FNLA) continued their struggle against Portuguese colonialism.

The American Committee on Africa has called upon the Exxon Corporation, formerly Standard Oil Company New Jersey, to cease its plans to start exploration for oil in Angola, a country in southern Africa where the people are now fighting for independence from Portuguese colonial rule.

In an open letter of December 11, 1972, to M. Parent, the President of Exxon Corporation, George H. Williams, Executive Director of the American Committee on Africa, stated that Exxon's plans to explore for oil with the possibility of discovering it and starting production would not only provide aid to the shaky Portuguese colonialism, but also directly and indirectly affect the lives of millions of people in Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau, who are now working for political control over their own countries and resources.

"We are not fighting for an autonomous status; we are fighting for our land and our freedom, we are fighting for our right to self-determination and independence, as defined by the international community, meeting in its General Assembly, in its historic resolution 1514 (XV)."
EXXON - AND THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN ANGOLA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Exxon Corporation, largest oil company in the world, with total revenues of $22.5 billion and total profits of $1.5 billion for 1972 (1972 Annual Report) is currently negotiating with the Portuguese government to start exploration for oil in Angola, in Africa. Angola, as well as Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau, is still claimed by Portugal as a colony, in open defiance of the African peoples of these countries and numerous United Nations resolutions.

In Angola there has been open armed revolt for independence from Portuguese domination since 1961. The MPLA (Peoples Movement for the Liberation of Angola) now controls approximately one-third of Angola and has organized school and medical services in these liberated areas. The African liberation movements in Mozambique (FRELIMO, the Mozambique Liberation Front) and in Guinea-Bissau (the PAIGC, African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde) have also liberated large areas of their countries from Portuguese rule. The PAIGC is preparing to announce formal independence this year.

All of the African liberation movements have called for an end to foreign investments under Portuguese control in their countries, since these investments provide tax and royalty revenues to support the Portuguese colonial wars. For example the Gulf Oil Corporation is now operating in Angola and paid $52 million in taxes to Portugal in 1972 alone (as reported at Gulf's April stockholder's meeting). Gulf is now the target of nation-wide boycott activities. Portugal also receives arms from its NATO allies, including the U.S., and in 1971 the Nixon administration signed the Azores Pact, which provided Portugal with $435 million in credits and loans. Portugal, the poorest country in Europe, could not maintain its 150,000 man army in Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau without the aid and investments of its western friends.

EXXON STAY OUT OF ANGOLA

Many voices have protested the role of U.S. and other foreign corporations in the war situation in southern Africa:

* Angostinho Neto, President of the MPLA stated in 1970: "Investments by U.S. corporations such as Gulf Oil can only help the Portuguese as they fight us, and reinforce their determination to stay in Angola."

* The Organization of African Unity, representing the 41 independent countries of Africa has called for an end to all foreign investments under Portuguese colonialism, as well as in South Africa and racist Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).

* The World Council of Churches last year announced the sale of all stock holdings in corporations operating in southern Africa and called for an end to the operations.

* The United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly passed Resolution 2918 in November, 1972 calling on all countries to discourage their nationals and corporate bodies under their jurisdiction from entering into any transactions or arrangements that contribute to Portugal's domination over Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau.

The issue is clear: the resources of Angola, as well as Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau, belong to the people of these countries and are not Exxon's or Portugal's to trade or barter.

We call on Exxon to stay out of Angola and to end its exploration in Guinea-Bissau and its operations in racist South Africa.

American Committee on Africa, 164 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y.
Southern Africa Committee, 244 West 27th Street, 5th Floor, New York, N.Y. / May 17, 1973.