

TEN YEARS OF ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE

By Zoyisile Mati

The young, independent, socialist-orientated People's Republic of Angola is a country suffering from incessant South African air raids and open ground attacks on a scale unprecedented since World War II. It is a country where puppet bands of UNITA, openly supported by South Africa and the United States, continue to destabilise the country economically and to murder innocent women and children, consequently compelling the MPLA Workers' Party to channel most of its annual budget on defence. Despite all these and other problems the people of Angola will be celebrating ten years of hard-won independence on 11th November this year, and will also be holding the Second Congress of the party.

Angola has come to occupy an important place in the historical process of the world revolutionary movement. Angola, like Vietnam in South-East Asia, Cuba in Latin America and the Caribbean, has now come to be a symbol of dignity, of resistance and of pride. It has come to symbolise the assertion of the principle of the right to self-determination of the nations of the world, defence of sovereignty and territorial integrity; and above all the right of people to follow their own way of development, their right to live and govern themselves in the way they choose.

Angola has had to pay, and is continuing to pay, for believing that the socialist way of

development is the best system for its people.

The President of Angola, Jose Edouardo dos Santos, said in an interview with the journal *Africa-Asia* in 1984:

"We think that imperialism is trying to prevent Angola from becoming a really independent country which can carry out its economic and social programmes with its socialist and revolutionary policies. It is important to take into account the fact that our programme was conceived during the anti-colonial war, and has been perfected in our party congresses ... It envisages a profound transformation in Angolan society, leading to the creation of a state where peace and social justice reign, where each pupil will have his place in school, each worker a job and a home ...

"This programme envisages a better distribution of the wealth of our society, freed from racism and so forth, where men and women will be treated according to their capabilities and potential. Imperialism, and particularly the South African racists, fear this plan for society ...

"Secondly, Angola occupies a strategic position, important in relation to Southern Africa ... Angola possesses many natural resources, constituting an important economic potential, which can make it a rich country if properly developed.

"Finally, Angola has evolved in the direction of policy of vigorous support for the liberation movements, and has expressed its active solidarity with the patriots of Southern Africa, notably the ANC."

These, then, are the main reasons why the racist regime of Pretoria does not want to see



Mass rally in Luanda — The people determined to defend their revolution.

Angola in peace and harmony.

On the 29th June, the racist South African army once again violated the territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Angola, when it attacked SWAPO refugees and killed about 45 of them, according to the arrogant and intransigent General Constand Viljoen, Chief of the South African Defence Force. He went on to announce that his troops were still 10 to 15 kilometres inside Angola. This happened 17 days after South African troops invaded Botswana, killing 12 people (South African refugees and Botswana citizens), and less than a fortnight after the installation of an "interim government" in Namibia, despite international condemnation, and in total violation of repeated United Nations resolutions calling for the independence of Namibia.

The Role of Unita

There are two major issues in the jigsaw puzzle being played by Pretoria, namely:

- the constant concerted destabilisation of Angola, and
- the obstruction of the independence of Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO, the sole and legitimate representative of the people of Namibia.

But then there is also a very big role being played in this imperialist plot by a band of bandits in black skins — the role of UNITA.

The people of Angola are not yet able to enjoy their 10 years of hard-won independence from Portuguese colonialism — it is still very difficult to take a drive into the interior of the country, there is still a lack of food, clothes and other important commodities. But one has to immediately clarify the reason why.

An unscrupulous, opportunistic Angolan traitor masquerading as a liberator has brought misery, pain and sorrow to the people that he claims he is fighting to liberate — the heroic Angolan masses. This bandit is Jonas Savim-

bi, for whom not even his close allies and former friends have the least respect. Even Johnny Pinnock, former leading member of the now defunct FNLA, said:

"UNITA is a creation of colonialism. UNITA was never a national movement. Savimbi did not leave FNLA to fight against Portuguese colonialism — on the contrary, he was on the side of the colonialists, and today he is just a mere instrument of the policy of the South Africans."

That UNITA from its birth was a creation of the Portuguese colonialists is further confirmed by information that in 1972, when the traitor Savimbi was totally frustrated and demoralised by his fruitless efforts and ambitions to neutralise the fighting forces of the MPLA, who were advancing from the east of the country, he functioned as an exploiter of timber in the province of Moxico. He still performs that function. This was recently confirmed by a former UNITA and 'Buffalo' battalion member, Artur Agostino Pinto Mateus, 25 years old, who said that Savimbi, with some Portuguese and Angolan businessmen, is exporting Angolan ivory, timber and diamonds through Namibian ports to Portugal, using South African Airways cargo planes.

Savimbi Hopes to Divide and Rule

UNITA, benefiting from being credited with the stature of a liberation movement, which it never was — has, since 1974, pursued a policy of divisionism, regionalism and tribalism. It has emphasised the false contradictions between the north and the south, the centre and the east. This imperialist idea, that led to the arbitrary division of Chad, Biafra, Katanga, Korea and Vietnam, is still deep in the mind of Savimbi, and this was recently confirmed by Pinto Mateus:

"Among the most important objectives of Savimbi is to totally conquer the south of Angola with the assistance of the South Africans, and to subsequently form a tribal form of government which does not include the citizens of the north."

This is then the type of man Savimbi is, and this is what UNITA is fighting for. From the character of the man it is therefore not surpris-

ing that he went cap in hand to the racists in Pretoria and vowed to be their running dog in its policy of destabilisation of the Front Line States, just like the MNR in Mozambique and the so-called Lesotho Liberation Army.

The truth of the matter is that South Africa is still pursuing its dream and ambition of forming a "constellation of Southern African states," through the forced imposition of its puppets in all Front Line States, and thereby stifling and obstructing the liberation movements of Southern Africa, the ANC and SWAPO.

Conference of Counter-Revolutionaries

It is very clear to any objective critic of the Angolan revolution that, despite enormous and complex problems, the country is moving forward in the social and economic fields. This is precisely the reason why the South African racist regime sent a unit to destroy the Cabinda Gulf Oil installations, as a means of crippling the economy of Angola.

Angola's economic prosperity is a challenge to international imperialism as a whole, because it will be the triumph of scientific socialism on the African continent, a spectre that haunts Ronald Reagan and P W Botha. This is why they stage-managed a so-called International Democratic meeting of all counter-revolutionaries; it took place in Savimbi's own headquarters, which, ironically enough, is defended by the racist army and air force; counter-revolutionaries came from Laos, Kampuchea, Afghanistan and Nicaragua, and Reagan had his own representative.

Hardly a week had passed after this conference when the United States Senate repealed the 'Clark Amendment,' which had forbidden any material support to counter-revolutionary forces in Angola. The racist regime of Pretoria spends about 60 million US dollars to sustain UNITA, through arms, uniforms, food and so on, a fact that was proved by the quantity of war material (40 tons) recently captured in the province of Malinga by the Angolan defence and security forces, material that was dropped by parachute from South African planes (four of them). Now,

with the repeal of the 'Clark Amendment,' most likely that support will double.

Angola Celebrates the Revolution

But then the heroic and gallant forces of FAPLA under the leadership of the MPLA Workers' Party have proved beyond doubt that no power can stop the revolutionary process in Angola.

Luanda was host to the Non-Aligned Ministerial Meeting from the 2nd to the 10th September this year. Buildings are being renovated, including hotels, conference hall, radio and TV stations, the streets have assumed a different look, parks and recreational centres have been tremendously improved.

Another important occasion is the 10th anniversary celebrations of independence. The climax of the year will be the Second Congress of the MPLA Workers' Party, and everything

is being done towards its success. As President dos Santos put it:

"It will be a congress of assessment, analysing everything that has been accomplished in the political and ideological fields and in the organisation of the party itself, defining the directions to follow politically, economically and socially as well as in foreign policy, defence and security. According to the results already achieved, the congress will trace out the general lines of development of our society and our party in the five years to follow."

So no amount of pressure from the United States or Pretoria can turn the clock back in Angola. The workers and peasants are on the revolutionary march to socialist transformation and victory.

**A Luta Continua
A Vitoria e Certa**



South African Defence Force weapons captured by FAPLA.