

Two Angolan Groups Announce Unification

By Tony Thomas

The December 15 issue of the Paris daily *Le Monde* reported that on December 13 the MPLA (Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola—Peoples Liberation Movement of Angola) and the FNLA (Frente Nacional de Libertação de Angola—National Liberation Front of Angola), the two main liberation groups in Angola, had signed an agreement to unify their forces and had jointly set up the Supreme Liberation Council of Angola.

Holden Roberto, the leader of the FNLA was announced as chairman of the Supreme Liberation Council and Dr. Agostinho Neto, leader of the MPLA, was named as vice-chairman. The two organizations have equal representation on the council.

According to *Le Monde*, leadership of the military department of the Supreme Council was given to MPLA. This department is "in charge essentially of the recruitment and training of fighters as well as logistics and supplies." The "Angolan Political Council presided over by the FNLA will be responsible for propaganda, the diplomatic activities of the movement, and the administration of the liberated zones of Angola."

Since the beginning of the armed liberation struggle in Angola in the early 1960s, the MPLA and FNLA have been the two main forces in the struggle. At times their differences over perspectives for the Angolan revolution reached such sharpness that armed confrontations occurred between the two groups. The MPLA charged that the FNLA and its leader, Holden Roberto, were "agents of American imperialism" and of the Mobutu regime of Zaïre. Holden Roberto and the FNLA denied the charges.

The FNLA and the GRAE (Governo Revolucionário de Angola no Exílio—Revolutionary Government in Exile of Angola), both led by Holden Roberto, were officially recognized as the main group in the struggle by the Organization of African Unity—an organization of the African capitalist states. No aid or "recognition" was

given by the OAU to MPLA until after 1965 when it began to receive aid roughly equal to that given the FNLA.

At its June 1970 meeting, the OAU removed its recognition of the GRAE as a semiofficial government in exile of Angola. The OAU adopted the policy of demanding that the guerrilla groups in Angola and other imperialist-ruled countries unite their forces. At the June 12-14, 1972, meeting of the heads of state of the OAU, held at Rabat, Morocco, Neto and Roberto announced that they had begun steps toward unification.

The current agreement is in part the product of negotiations between the governments of the People's Republic

of Congo, in which the MPLA has bases, and Zaïre, where the FNLA is based. Previous to the agreement the MPLA was banned from having military, political, or medical facilities in Zaïre, where there are hundreds of thousands of Angolan expatriates and refugees.

It is not yet clear whether the two organizations will merge completely. *Le Monde* reported that the Supreme Council will meet "at least twice a year." Leaders of MPLA have stated that under the new agreement they will continue to function as an independent organization as in the past. It was also reported that public polemics between the two groups would now cease.

There was no report on the attitude the combined organization has adopted toward a third, smaller liberation organization, the UNITA (União Nacional para Independência Total de Angola—National Union for the Total Independence of Angola). □

Anarchist Framed in Milan Bombing Case

Italian Government Releases Valpreda

At the end of December Pietro Valpreda, probably Italy's most well-known political prisoner, was released from the Regina Coeli (Queen of Heaven) penitentiary in Rome. He is accused of planting the bomb that exploded December 12, 1969, in the Banco d'Agricoltura in Milan, killing sixteen persons. Although he had been held for three years, the Italian government never brought him to trial. His release, along with that of three codefendants, came after the parliament voted a bill December 14 allowing bail even in capital cases. The provision went into effect with what seemed unusual speed and was termed the "Valpreda law" by the Italian press.

"Was Valpreda a scapegoat?" *Le Monde's* Rome correspondent asked. "Certainly. When he came to Milan the day after the crime to answer a summons in another case, he was arrested on evidence whose flimsiness has become evident over the years.

In the last analysis, it was only the testimony of a now dead taxi driver that pointed the finger of suspicion at him."

Nonetheless, even when two fascists were charged with the Milan bombings last August, the government did not move to release Valpreda and the other defendants. Presumably it would have been embarrassing to have to drop the charges since the authorities had alleged that another anarchist, Giuseppe Pinelli, jumped to his death from a window high up in police headquarters out of feelings of guilt.

"To put it mildly, Valpreda is a very painful thorn in the side of the Italian police and judiciary," *Politiken's* Rome correspondent wrote in the December 17 issue of the Copenhagen daily. A recent attempt by a mysterious uniformed man to get into Valpreda's room in the prison clinic convinced the Danish reporter that the Italian government was determined to get rid of its inconvenient scapegoat one way or another. □