

VIRIATO DA CRUZ JOINS ANGOLAN FRONT

The New York Times gave front-page billing to the news from Leopoldville April 22 that the National Front for the Liberation of Angola, headed by Holden Roberto, had decided to accept the membership application of Viriato da Cruz, for years a leading member of the rival Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola.

The Times, writing from the viewpoint of American imperialism, considered the news to be bad. It took the move as further evidence of Holden Roberto's disillusionment with "the United States and other Western countries" for not putting "pressure on Portugal on negotiating with the rebels."

In addition, the flow of weapons from the West has been cut down. As a result, the Times sees Roberto turning toward other possible sources. It recalled his announcement last January that he would send an arms mission to Peking.

The Times also viewed the acceptance of Viriato da Cruz as a sign of increasing radicalization of the members of the NFLA, a tendency which Holden Roberto might not necessarily approve, in the opinion of the New York daily.