

PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT FOR THE
LIBERATION OF ANGOLA (MPLA)

PLATFORM FOR THE MPLA'S FIRST CONGRESS

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After the 18 years of its existence, 18 years of arduous struggle and 13 years of war, the MPLA is convening its first Congress, the culmination of a succession of constituent meetings held over this period, namely, the 1962 First National Conference, the 1964 National Conference of Cadres, the Regional Assembly of the First and Second Region and the Regional Assembly of the Third Region held in 1968, the Readjustment Movement on the Eastern Front in 1972 and on the Northern Front in 1973, and the Assemblies of Active Militants held on the Northern and Eastern Fronts in 1974.

Emanating from the Angolan people, the MPLA came into being in answer to the vital and crying needs of the historical process in our country.

The year 1961 marked a fundamental qualitative leap in the history of the MPLA's struggle when it took the road of armed struggle as the only one left open to it to achieve its objectives: the Angolan people's total and complete independence.

As it pursued this objective, always mindful of the unity of the Angolan people under the leadership of the MPLA, their legitimate representative, and consistently defending the interests of the most exploited strata of our people, because of the size of its war, its political policy and its eminently national character, the MPLA asserted itself both nationally and internationally as the principal nationalist force in Angola, whose prestige has been increasing uninterruptedly among the broadest strata of our people.

The international situation is favourable for the national liberation struggles, despite its present great complexity. The national liberation struggle of the peoples under Portuguese colonial domination was the basic cause of the political change which has occurred in Portugal, in that it created the conditions for the democratic Portuguese forces to bring about the fall of the fascist system in that country.

The fall of fascism in Portugal and the ensuing process of democratisation have caused the emergence on the Portuguese political scene of the genuinely progressive forces which, up to then, were unable to come fully or legally into the open. These forces, which represent the Portuguese people's true feelings and aspirations, are tending to make the political process now started in Portugal move in the direction of a regime capable of recognising our people's right to

self-determination and independence.

It is thus possible that Portuguese colonialism, our direct enemy, will cease to appear on the political scene, and that imperialism, which has always been our principal enemy, will now also become our direct enemy. Whereas Portuguese colonialism now seems to be on the decline, imperialism has not yet sustained any fundamental blow. Our present task is to follow attentively and carefully the metamorphoses and forms in which the activity of imperialism may manifest itself in order to prevent the achievement of our objectives, whether attempts by the racist regimes in Southern Africa to support anti-independence forces, attempts aimed at watering down the MPLA in an anti-popular front, emptying it of its progressive content, or attempts by the international monopolies to establish puppet independence.

Aware of all these dangers, the MPLA is remaining alert, deciding to carry on the liberation struggle with the aim of achieving real and complete independence.

The national liberation process seems to have reached the stage where, through armed struggle, we are wresting back our people's right to self-determination and independence. This being so, new ways are now opening up for achieving our objective, and there will no longer be any reason for armed struggle once our people's right to immediate, total and complete independence is recognised by the Portuguese Government.

Of fundamental importance is the fact that with the process of liberalisation, which has also spread to Angola to a certain extent, new forces are emerging on the political scene which support the MPLA, together with a widespread and growing acceptance of the objectives pursued by our Movement, and national forces are surfacing, albeit cautiously, which confirm the position of our Movement as the sole legitimate defender of the aspirations and interests of the majority of the Angolan people.

The present priority in our struggle is to unite the broadest strata of the Angolan people behind the MPLA.

Hence, the holding of our Congress is indispensable in order to make a full assessment of our activities, solve the Movement's problems, draw up a programme and endow the organisation with stable structures capable of tackling its immediate tasks and meeting the high responsibilities we will be called upon to fulfil, in the prospect of taking power.

It will also be a Congress of unity. In this context, and in accordance with the MPLA's programme, the Congress will call upon the entire Angolan people, irrespective of ethnic origins and religious or political beliefs, and upon all the country's leading figures to join the MPLA in the common struggle against the common enemy.

The Congress will have to make it clear that, now more than ever before, neighbouring countries are important logistic bases of operations. The Congress will reaffirm the principle of the independence of our Movement and emphasise its policy of non-alignment. Thus, putting our fight within the general framework of the struggle for progress, the Congress will stress that our struggle is a help to all the peoples in the world, that the help granted to us therefore comes within the realm of international solidarity, and that consequently it is the duty of progressive peoples and countries and specially adjacent countries. Recalling these basic principles, the Congress will stress that foreign aid must not be used as a weapon to seek to make us alter our policy.

The Congress will vehemently call for the release of our prisoners held in prisons in different countries.

It will express our fighting solidarity with the CONCP and its constituent organisations, the PAIGC, FRELIMO and MLSTP, with the peoples and nationalist organisations of Southern Africa, with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the heroic Vietnamese people, with the Korean people and the people of Cambodia, with the Palestinian people and the Arab countries as a whole, with the Chilean people, and with the struggle of the Portuguese people now freed from fascism, expressing our special solidarity with their progressive vanguards.

The Congress will stress the importance of the diplomatic struggle and issue general directives for adapting it to the present political time.

The Congress will express its adherence to the OAU Charter and the United Nations Charter.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF MPLA

