

STATEMENT BY DR. AGOSTINHO NETO, PRESIDENT OF THE MPLA,
ON THE MILITARY COUP D'ETAT IN PORTUGAL

A coup d'etat has just taken place in Portugal, following on a long period of crisis described by the Portuguese leaders themselves as "the country's most serious" crisis. There is no doubt that it is the colonial wars that Portugal has conducted for nearly 14 years in Angola, Guinea Bissau and Mozambique which are the main cause of this crisis. The military expenditure which swallows up half the state budget, the galloping inflation, the massive emigration of young workers, peasants and technicians, the desertion of soldiers from the army, and the growing number of young men killed and disabled are all phenomena which are closely bound up with the war and which have sharpened to this high degree the contradictions in Portugal itself, where democrats have been fighting for half a century for a change of regime.

It is too early to judge how far-reaching the recent events will be, but the MPLA emphasises here and now that it does not agree to a federation as proposed by General Spinoza, that is a federation in which Portugal would have the last word.

The MPLA has always struggled for complete independence and a basis for cooperation with other countries can be established only on this principle.

Our people's multiform struggle will continue until freedom, but as from now the MPLA declares that it is prepared to negotiate the problem of our country with Portugal.

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President of the MPLA

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