

MPLA

ANGOLA IN ARMS

SPECIAL ISSUE

4



FEBRUARY



**always for Angola,
until victory!
it is certain!**

On the 4th February the Angolan people and the majority of the world's people commemorate the thirteenth anniversary of the beginning of the armed national liberation struggle.

The past thirteen difficult years have been years of constant struggle against the Portuguese fascist colonialist regime and a whole range of manoeuvres by the imperialist power and their agents trying to destroy MPLA and end the armed struggle. But MPLA militants have worthily continued the passive resistance and armed struggle begun by their forebears against foreign presence and the domination of Angola.

Throughout this time, MPLA militants have always honoured the ideas and memories of those who have fallen on the battle field for the freedom and independence of the Angolan people.

In the course of this bitter armed struggle heroic chapters of Angolan history have been written with the blood of MPLA militants, of deeds which show the spirit of sacrifice, the determination, courage and heroism of the Angolan people.

Without doubt the armed struggle of the Angolan people will be a long protracted

EDITORIAL

war. It has already been going on for 13 years! But it is the unequivocal conviction of MPLA fighters that they must continue in arms until the just demands and rights of the Angolan people have been won and universally recognised. In this way the true dimensions of the historic event of the 4th February, 1961 can be understood and the heroic sacrifice of its authors shall not have been in vain.

With greater unity of the Angolan people; the fourteenth year of war in Angola presents better perspectives for achieving the noble objectives to which MPLA is devoted.

M.P.L.A. THESES PUT FORWARD BY COMRADE AGOSTINHO NETO IN HIS NEW YEAR MESSAGE

In his New Year message to the Angolan people, the leader of the Angolan Revolution, Dr. Agostinho Neto, put forward the following MPLA theses - presented here in condensed form- on the changes that have taken place in Angola on the imperialist plot against MPLA and on MPLA's political line.

On the changes that have taken place in Angola

1 Two types of changes have taken place, those in the colonial system and those in Angolan society itself.

2 While it is conducting its genocidal war, colonialism is trying to soften its oppressive methods. It is here that changes are only in appearance because they in no way alter the exploitation and discrimination which characterize the colonial system.

3 All apparent political change that has taken place is entirely as a result of the national liberation struggle led by MPLA.

4 The supposed changes in the colonial system are in two areas. On



one hand, they give a semblance of administrative autonomy, presented as a political progress. On the other hand, economic growth is promot-

ed and presented as improvement for the people.

5 The sole objective of the so-called autonomy is to hold back the inevitable evolution of our country to true and complete independence.

6 Economic development cannot be achieved within the colonial framework without further increasing the pillage of our country, pillage which giant international monopolies carry out together.

7 All these manoeuvres in strict co-operation with imperialism, are designed to prepare the way for neocolonialism.

8 The colonialists and imperialists are very closely associated, both in the exploitation of Angola and in their

On the imperialist

1 There is an imperialist plot to destroy MPLA, the only organised force in Angola and the only one which consistently opposes colonialism.

2 The imperialist plot, the military offensive and the Portuguese political manoeuvres are all part of a single

desperate attempt to continue imposing an unjust system on our people, in a neocolonialist form.

9 On one hand, the colonialist manoeuvres are the continuation of the present policy. On the other, they demonstrate the weakness of the autonomist policy, which has shown itself incapable of stopping the war or of deluding the people.

10 The changes which have occurred amongst Angolan people are real. The Angolan people have acquired a greater understanding of the History of Angola as a Nation, and the war has laid the foundation for future political, economic, social, and cultural progress.

plot against MPLA plan.

3 The imperialist plot to destroy MPLA can only be understood in the light of the present attempt to impose a neo-colonial yoke on Angola

4 All means are used to make the plot succeed: the infiltration of PIDE agents into the ranks

of our Movement; influencing certain countries against us; playing on tribal, racial

and class differences amongst the Angolan people and within its vanguard Movement.

On the political line of MPLA

1 In the world today colonialism does not exist without imperialism.

2 MPLA is fighting for complete independence.

3 When the colonial system has been broken, relations between men will be changed. Co-operation will be possible and fair relations will be established between the Angolan and Portuguese peoples.

4 Within the colonial system justice is impossible. As long as there is colonialism or neocolonialism there will be war.

5 The material wealth of honest Portuguese living in Angola can only be guaranteed by the independence of the Angolan people. Without it, they will always be the first target of our military action and our people's hatred.

6 In the interest of

everybody, imperialism must stop trying to neo colonise Angola.

7 Unity is a fundamental strategic element in MPLA's political line, at any stage in the development of the country.

8 Unity will carry the struggle forward.

9 We must know correctly evaluate regional and ethnic differences, class and educational differences, contradictions which exist within our society. But they should not constitute an obstacle to our unity nor to our winning of true freedom.

10 All patriots should constantly struggle for the unity of the people and reject divisionist elements.

11 The Angolan people, united and led by its vanguard, M.P.L.A., will WIN!

Balance sheet of MPLA military activity in 1973

In a war like the one we are waging, all political problems are reflected in the military activity and successful military activity reflects a correct political line.

The bald figures alone reveal neither the difficulties overcome nor the success achieved throughout the year: periods of greater and lesser activity by our fighting forces, qualitative advances in some sectors of our armed forces and the repercussions of energy spent in fighting against counter-revolution activity.

During the course of 1973, MPLA had to confront another enemy — internal counter-revolution! A vast plot which sought to physically eliminate the President of MPLA, as well as a number of leaders and outstanding cadres in the Organisation, was discovered and dealt with. Also in this field

our organisation achieved a notable success. There was a victory for the correct ideas and the political line and program of MPLA.

Right in the midst of our enemy, clandestine MPLA cells increased their activity and improved their organisation. 1973 saw processions in the avenues of Angola's capital, Luanda, and large demonstrations of workers demanding increased wages. In a number of towns there were acts of sabotage and workers strikes.

Comparing the military balance-sheets of the last 2 years (Table 1), it can be seen that the 1973 activity was effectively of the same order as in the 1972, although there was a decrease in the total number of actions.

In spite of this decrease, the 1973 results are approximately equal to those of the previous year, mainly due

to two factors:

- a qualitative advance in the organisation and fighting capacity of our armed forces;

- the use of more potent and sophisticated weapons in our attacks on enemy barracks —122mm rockets

So it can be seen that while in 1972, 231 actions including attacks on barracks, ambushes and mines, caused 837 enemy losses —that in an average of 3.16 losses per action— in 1973, 89 actions caused 900 enemy losses —that is an average of 10 losses per action.

Other factors which confirm the efficacy of the actions can be seen from the three helicopters shot down and the increase in the amount of material captured in each action.

Better organisation and the use of better technique should, of course, have produced even better results in 1973. However, this did not happen because our activity was interrupted, and in some areas paralysed, due to the energy spent in dealing with internal counter - revolutionary

activity.

In Table 2, one can clearly see that there was greater activity and better results in the first and last quarters of the year.

The drop in the activity shown in the second and third quarters clearly coincides with the period in which our organisation carried out intensive political activity, including vigilance, detection and neutralising of the vestiges of the enemy subversion in our ranks. Also, the activity of divisionist elements was most intense during the third quarter, leading to a partial paralysing of activity in some of our sectors on the Esatern Front.

The last quarter shows a quantitative and qualitative improvement at a result of increased efficiency in attacks on barracks and in annihilation ambushes, as can plainly be seen in the numbers of actions (39%), military vehicles destroyed (52%) and attacks on barracks (29%).

As we enter the fourteenth year of war in

Angola, MPLA is fully confident of the possibility of dealing even harder blows to any enemy force and of obtaining greater success in the course of our armed struggle for national liberation.

Table 1

type of operation	1972	1973
ATTACKS ON BARRACKS	27	14
AMBUSHES	108	41
HELICOPTERS SHOT DOWN	-	3
VEHICLES DESTROYED	43	31
BRIDGES DESTROYED	12	7
RADIO SETS CAPTURED	9	8
MINEFIELDS PREPARED	96	34
ENEMY TROOPS PUT OUT OF ACTION	837	900
WEAPONS CAPTURED	352	321
AMMUNITIONS CAPTURED	4.834	3.500
ANGOLANS FREED	387	491



Table 2

type of operation	1973	1st. QUARTER		2nd. QUARTER		3rd. QUARTER		4th. QUARTER	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
ATTACKS ON BARRACKS	14	6	43	2	14	2	14	4	29
AMBUSHES	41	21	51	10	24	5	12	5	12
HELICOPTERS SHOT DOWN	3	3	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
VEHICLES DESTROYED	31	8	26	4	13	3	10	16	52
BRIDGES DESTROYED	7	1	14	3	43	2	29	1	14
RADIO SETS CAPTURED	8	8	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
MINIFIELDS PREPARED	34	8	24	13	38	5	15	8	24
ENEMY TROOPS PUT OUT OF ACT.	900	280	31	214	24	56	6	350	39
WEAPONS CAPTURED	321	106	33	109	34	21	7	85	26
AMMUNITIONS CAPTURED	3,500	1,200	34	1,020	29	620	18	740	21
ANGOLANS FREED	491	112	23	86	18	56	11	237	48



revolutionaries like CABRAL never dies!



A year ago, criminal agents at the service of Portuguese colonialism and international imperialism committed a further heinous crime against Africa, adding yet another name to the list of the martyrs of this much-coveted continent. The assassination of this great fighter for freedom was without doubt an irreparable tragedy for African revolutionaries.

A leader of exceptional political and ideological ability, AMILCAR

CABRAL had transcended the geographical frontiers of his country to achieve a continental dimension, and he had won the highest respect outside the African continent.

With his physical death Africa lost one of its most illustrious sons and a great leader. But AMILCAR CABRAL has, at the same time, become an extraordinary symbol especially for those who, arms in hands, are fighting for freedom and independence of the peoples still subjected to loathsome colonialist, neo-colonialist and imperialist domination.

As a revolutionary, AMILCAR CABRAL wholly fulfilled his duty, that of carrying out the Revolution. However, criminal hands prevented him from going further. But his weapon has been grasped by other hands to carry on his fight for freedom, in-

dependance, democracy, justice, peace and progress. And his work is being victoriously carried on and will be completed.

The vile assassination of comrade AMILCAR CABRAL can never demoralize or diminish the revolutionary ideas of PAIGC. On the contrary it binds the courageous fighters and leaders together more firmly than never, in their armed national liberation struggle.

The historic event of

Revolutionaries like AMILCAR CABRAL NEVER DIES!

the proclamation of Independence of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, on the 24th September 1973, was undoubtedly the greatest and most appropriated reply to the enemy's plans. At the same time, it was the greatest possible homage to the work and the memory of comrade AMILCAR CABRAL.

This homage is especially well remembered by MPLA today on the first anniversary of the base assassination of AMILCAR CABRAL.

It should be noted that, contrary to the usual pattern, the Portuguese terrorist forces did not intervene with helicopters.

On 25th January, at 09.00 hours, an enemy patrol set off in (4) boats on the Zambezi river; the Patrol disembarked at the confluence of the Zambezi and Lufwi rivers and fell into an ambush set up by MPLA fighters. The enemy suffered 10 (ten) losses, including dead and wounded.

As a result of the recent losses it has suffered the terrorist Portuguese army has intensified its brutal repression of the civilian population in areas near to where battles have occurred.

the Executive Committee

January 1974.

war communiqué

eastern front

Continuing with their political and military activities, MPLA armed forces inflicted more serious losses on the Portuguese colonialist army.

On 10th January, at 05.30 hours, a PV2 bomber, flying over one of our bases, was shot down by anti-aircraft guns; the plane crashed in the LUFWIGI area of MOXICO DISTRICT and all the occupants were killed.

On 17th January, an enemy platoon on a patrol mission near to LUMBALA BARRACKS entered a mine field prepared by MPLA fighters. The enemy suffered a number of losses, the victims being evacuated by two French helicopters.

On 23rd January, at 08.00 hours, a plane flying over one of our bases was shot down by MPLA anti-aircraft guns. Some days earlier, MPLA fighters had repelled another air attack on the same bases.

Also on 23rd January, two military trucks escorting vehicles carrying building material on its way from LUANGINGA to LUSO fell into an ambush prepared by MPLA fighting forces between GAGO COUTINHO and LUTEMBO; after four minutes of heavy bazooka and automatic weapon fire, our infantry began an assault. The vehicles were completely destroyed and a variety of military equipment was captured.

During the operation, 13(thirteen) enemy soldiers of the escort were killed; one civilian, who was accompanying the building material, was captured and later set free after he had received medical treatment

In the immense grassy plains and bush of the Eastern Front a certain war name caused both panic and respect amongst the Portuguese colonialist army.

But within MPLA this war name was, and continue to be, a synonym for courage, fighting spirit, fidelity to the cause of Angola's freedom and rare intuition for military art. This war name is Kwenya Kwangungu! Makai Mpande, better known

Commander KWENYA as Kwenya, voluntarily joined the ranks of MPLA in 1968, having deserted from Mavinga Post. Accompanied by a group of local people, KWENYA presented himself to the MPLA guerrilla forces operating in the area.

Incorporated as a fighter, KWENYA's extraordinary qualities in combat were soon obvious. In 1969 KWENYA was made sub-leader of a Group and in the next year Group leader.

During 1971, KWENYA carried out intensive activity fighting against the colonialist troops and fantoche groups, especially those who tried to cross MPLA-controlled areas, in his zone.

His guerrilla tactics frequently caused heavy losses among the enemy. The capturing of enemy arms and equipment were primary objectives for him and his group, which explains the

heroic fighter

great quantities of war material (arms, ammunition, radios, uniforms, foodstuffs, etc) which were captured in numerous assault attacks. In July 1972, KWENYA was promoted to Commander of the Second Squadron. In spite of his rapid ascent and great success KWENYA remained the same as ever: modest, quiet and firm. But armed struggle implies life or death. One day, on the battlefield of honour Commander KWENYA was killed. On the 8th January 1973, while pursuing enemy forces, he fell into an ambush. He quickly reacted and tried to overcome the enemy. But in vain, for he was heavily outnumbered; KWENYA was covering the retreat of his comrades when he received a mortal bullet wound. For his exemplary patriotic activity, the President of MPLA, conferred on Commander **of MPLA** KWENYA the honoured title of :

"HEROIC FIGHTER OF MPLA"

THE FIGHTERS

To murder the Hero
was the mission
A batallion of death
with heliported arms
against the Hero Commander
Kwenye, a smile, a man,
a weapon, a certainty,
a body made of Angola,
Hero Commander Kwenye.

Some among us fell
after the order to attack
you gave
Hero Commander
to break the encirclement
of a murderous batallion
Angolan Hero Kwenye,
our country
a desire
a dream,
simple as a wild dove,
winged free Cunene

But we are all Kwenye!
Hero Commander Kwenye.

We ripped the encirclement and death.
To death we gave your name,
and its sickle vanquished
the Death which came to kill
the Hero Commander Kwenye,
a Hero
a smile,
a man.

1961

1974

13

YEARS OF ARMED STRUGGLE

HENDA

BOMBOKO

SUKA - HATA

KWENYA

SANGUE DO POVO

DEOLINDA

BENEDITO

WE WILL CONTINUE YOUR STRUGGLE

