

NATIONAL UNION FOR TOTAL INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA

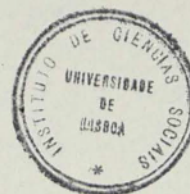
U.N.I.T.A.

MEMORANDUM

From: The Angolan WOMEN BRIGADES - UNITA

Tirana, Albania

July 6th 1971



NATIONAL UNION FOR TOTAL INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA

(U.N.I.T.A.)

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- M E M O R A N D U M -

To the Fighting women of the world, meeting in Tirana - Albania

Dear comrades,

The National Union for Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) takes this opportunity to convey to all of you, especially to the Women's Union of Albania its most sincere thanks for extending us an invitation to attend this meeting with the representatives of the Women's organizations of other countries engaged in armed struggle to conquer their freedom and national independence.

Similarly, on behalf of UNITA and all the fighting people of Angola, I convey to all the Albanian people, to the Party of Labour of Albania and Government, and to the great leader of the Albanian people, comrade ENVER HODJA, our warmest greetings.

The gathering of the fighting women of the different countries, is a very important date for us. This is an important opportunity for UNITA (National Union for Total Independence of Angola) to share concrete experiences in our common struggle against colonialism, neo-colonialism, international imperialism and modern revisionism.

National liberation struggles are concrete practice of proletarian internationalism of the peoples of the oppressed nations. It is in this revolutionary spirit that we salute the heroic and fighting people of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, China, Albania, Korea, Palestine, and all the fighting people of Africa, Asia and Latin America. We are sure that in the next days to come we will be able to learn from each other in the light of our concrete experiences of armed struggle taking place in our respective countries.

The oppression of the Angolan women and people is a product of 500 years of oppression. Like other people and women in the world fighting against oppression, the Angolan women are today part and parcel of the whole process of the Angolan liberation struggle.

It is this consciousness of 500 years of injustices, humiliations, suffering that led the African people of Angola to take up arms and to organize a revolutionary armed struggle spearheaded by the oppressed people of Angola.

The first Angolan organizations failed to organize and mobilize the African masses, because their methods of work were not revolutionary, their political lines were not based scientific methods of appraising concrete situations and reality that prevail inside

the country, they failed because the leaders were incapable to live with the people inside the country, and to share with the people the daily problems of the liberation struggle. They became exiled movements which survive a la grace of international sympathies and manipulations.

This is why UNITA (National Union for Total Independence of Angola) was created in 1966 in the heat of the battle inside Angola. Since then, UNITA has been enjoying the support of the local population who are essentially the peasants. UNITA became the only liberation movement in Angola whose leadership is permanently based inside Angola and leading the people and the struggle from within the country. Since 1966, UNITA has been relying on its own efforts and on creative power of the Angolan people.

Because of this, UNITA has developed from a weak, scattered and small organization into a strong, large and well disciplined force of politically conscious people. And since then, the National liberation struggle inside Angola has undergone significant qualitative change. Today, UNITA has not only under its control more than 1 million people, but also it has succeeded in liberating vast areas within Five Provinces out of Sixteen. From Cuando-Cubango, Moxico, Lunda, Bie, and Malanje UNITA has established and consolidated Military Bases where we operate from. The establishment of a small nation within a nation was achieved with success.

The current situation of our armed struggle in Angola is excellent. From our side, the achievements can be measured from what is taking place in the liberated areas. From the enemy side, one can measure from the amount of military equipment, soldiers, and finance that is being spent in the three Portuguese colonies (Angola, Mozambique, and Guine). Portugal is the smallest and poorest country in Western Europe, with the highest infant mortality rate, with the lowest income per capita, with the illiteracy rate ranging around 46 per cent. Despite of this national misery in Portugal itself, her military expenditure in 1970 reached the figure of 50 per cent. This is even higher, if one compares with what the USA imperialists are spending in Vietnam. The total number of Portuguese soldiers engaged in combat in the three Portuguese colonies is about 160,000 troops fully equipped with NATO airplanes, boats, arms, napalm bombs, and financed by the NATO countries.

In our side a guerrilla army of more than 3,000 men was set up and is called "Forças Armadas de Libertação de Angola-FALA". The armed struggle that is being taking the form of people's war is the consecration of the thesis of the People's war and People's Army of the great revolutionaries such as Chairman Mao Tse Tung, General Giap, Ho Chi Min, and many others who fought revolutionary struggles with success.

From the start of our armed struggle, the women of Angola have been fighting alongside with the Angolan men. They have shown through the struggle dedication, courage, and combative qualities equal to those of their male comrades. In 1968, UNITA had more than 600 women totally integrated into the ranks of our Armed Forces (FALA).

In the armed forces - apart from combat forces, our women take an active part in the consolidation of the military bases and in the administration of those same bases. As a result of this, the Armed Forces for Liberation of Angola have been able to score great victories in a series of attacks against the Portuguese

colonialists supported militarily and financially by NATO forces and weapons.

In education for young people and adults, Angolan women have also been playing a tremendous role. There are teachers in the military bases, and local committees, teaching not only reading and writing but also political education which always takes priority in the present stage of our armed struggle. The achievement of Angolan women in this aspect are very encouraging. In the academic year of 1969-70 we have had more than 300 pupils, and at the present moment we have an effective of 8,000 children in the areas under UNITA's control. They are formed politically in a revolutionary way so that the children start to understand the reasons of our sufferings. Angolan women also play a tremendous role in agricultural cooperatives of the local committees and in the military zones. On the agricultural sector the harvest of 1970 was a very good one, despite the permanent attempts of the Portuguese fascists to use planes to drop defoliants, poisonous gases. The present conditions of food in our liberate areas are so excellent that UNITA was able to show solidarity with Zambia who was blocked by the portuguese some months ago, in fact 2,000Kgs of maize was sent from our agricultural cooperatives. Faced with continuous threats from Portuguese colonialists to bomb our fields, the party set up Women brigades and youth brigades to protect the crops.

In the medical field, the Angolan women have been giving incalculable services to the people. They are nurses, and assistant-nurses in the clinics operating in the Central Base, and other clinics permanently functioning in the local committees and military zones. The UNITA clinics have been giving medical care to more than 20,000 patients, soldiers and civilians wounded by Portuguese attacks and bombings.

The Angolan women are also part and parcel of the people's militia. As women Brigades, they control the movements of the enemy around the disputed areas, and as intelligence units, the women undertake underground work in the cities and the rural areas still under enemy influence. They organize and mobilize politically the people living in the disputed areas, and in the areas under enemy control.

These, dear comrades, are some of our modest results of our revolutionary armed struggle in which the Angolan woman is an integral part. This has been achieved because right from the start, UNITA has resolutely emphasized the necessity of the struggle to liberate women, especially the working and peasant women from the decadent bourgeois colonialist ideology, in order to incorporate the Angolan women in the general revolutionary struggle of our people.

History of the people's struggles has recorded tangible examples of women's revolutionary activities from which the Angolan women are able to learn. The revolutionary actions of the Chinese women, the Albanian women are magnificent examples of sacrifice and heroism. The Heroic Vietnamese women, the Palestine women, the woman of Cambodia, Laos, and all the fighting women of the oppressed nations of the world are of great encouragement to our Angolan women and to our liberation struggle.

Dear comrades, the Angolan women express their conviction this meeting of the fighting women of the world will mark another important step forward towards the complete emancipation of the women fighting against political, economic and social oppression. Through armed struggle, the Angolan women ensure you again their combative solidarity. To our comrades and sisters of Albania we wish you every success in safeguarding your country, your nation, and your people.

Long-Live the solidarity Of Albania and
Angolan people,

Long Live Comrade Enver Hoxha, the great leader
of the Albanian people

Long-Live the People's War,

Down with Imperialism and Modern Revisionism.

On behalf of the Angolan Women's Brigade,

AUGUSTA CHITUNDA
ANABELA KASSOVA

July 6th 1971