

AFRICA



1974

LIBERATION

CALENDAR

Liberation Support Movement Information Center

SUMMARY OF LIBERATION SUPPORT MOVEMENT'S PRINCIPLES OF ANTI-IMPERIALIST WORK:

(1) To accelerate, through various concrete forms of material support, political education and ideological struggle, that revolutionary process whereby vanguard subjugated classes and peoples in the countryside are fighting their way out of the imperialist system and contributing significantly to the emergence of post-capitalist socialist internationalism;

(2) To unceasingly strive to achieve an international socialist content and direction to the various struggles emerging within the metropolitan centers as contradictions there sharpen due to revolutionary successes in the countryside and the resulting decline in imperialist super-profits and ruling-class capacity to sustain "peoples imperialism";

(3) To work toward the formation of revolutionary internationalist structures and forms of effective collaboration across national lines, and at the same time fight against those tendencies which, if not checked, might well lead to a post-capitalist world of unevenly developed, internally stratified and competitive (if not warring) "socialist" countries.



1 1963: Beginning of the armed struggle in Guiné, led by the Partido Africano da Independência da Guiné e Cabo Verde (PAIGC).

3 1968: President of Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola (MPLA) announced that MPLA headquarters would be established within Angola.

9 1973: Strike waves which convulse South Africa for two months begin. Over 100,000 South African workers around Durban strike demanding living wages and political rights.

9 1973: Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith closes borders with Zambia in a desperate attempt to pressure Zambia into withdrawing support from the increasingly active Zimbabwe liberation movements (ZAPU and ZANU).

16 1966: First Conference of the Organization of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America (OSPAAAL).

20 1973: Assassination of Comrade Amílcar Cabral, Secretary General of the PAIGC, by agents of the Portuguese secret police (DGS).

25 Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of the Arab People - in support of the progressive Arab forces in their fight for the liberation of Palestine against imperialism, racism and Zionism.

26 1973: SWAPO guerrillas attack a South African police post in Caprivi Strip, wounding five policemen.

1963 - PAIGC Begins Armed Struggle in Guiné

"The death of Cabral will act as a catalyst increasing our anger and redoubling our efforts."

January

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3 1969: Assassination of Comrade Eduardo C. Mondlane, President of the Frente de Libertação de Moçambique (FRELIMO), by the Portuguese secret police (PIDE - now called DGS).

3 1972: Start of a week-long rebellion by peasants in the Cunene District, southern Angola, against the "head taxes" and mandatory fees imposed by Portuguese colonialists. In a letter to MPLA, an organizer reported that when the Angolan Governor, Rebocho Vaz, came personally to put down the uprising he was confronted by a united people and forced to yield to many of their demands.

4 1961: Revolutionary armed action is initiated in Angola's capital, Luanda. Led by MPLA, the Angolan Revolution begins.

13 1960: Assassination of Patrice Lumumba, progressive leader of the Congolese people.

13 1964: First Congress of PAIGC cadres and delegates held inside Guiné; creation of the People's Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARP), integrating the existing guerrilla forces, Regular Army and Popular Militia.

16 1972: MPLA opens its 6th Military Region in Moçâmedes and Huila, where Portugal and South Africa are constructing the Cunene River hydro-electric and irrigation project. Both MPLA and South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) are fighting this imperialist scheme which calls for extensive settlement in Angola and new sources of power for the foreign owned mines of Namibia.

1961 - MPLA Initiates the Revolutionary Struggle

"There can be no freedom without independence and no independence without struggle."

February

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2 1969: Angolan Women's Day, in memory of five murdered OMA comrades. Led by MPLA's Organization of Angolan Women (OMA) and active in all aspects of the revolution, Angolan women are struggling alongside men for the total liberation of the Angolan people from Portuguese colonialism and imperialism.

8 International Women's Day since 1911. This day marks the continued struggle of women against exploitation and imperialist wars.

8 1968: FRELIMO launches major military actions in Tete District. One major objective is to stop construction of the Cabora Bassa Dam and the settlement of one million white settlers in the Zambezi Valley.

14 1971: A fleet of 14 helicopters plus three Dornier training planes destroyed by an Armed Revolutionary Action group (ARA) at Tancos Air Base, 95 miles from Lisbon.

17 Zimbabwe Day, a day of rededication to the struggle for the liberation of Zimbabwe.

21 1960: Sharpeville Massacre. Thousands of Africans gather in peaceful protest against the Pass Laws at Sharpeville and Langa in Cape Town. Police open fire and kill scores of people.

23 1972: Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) and Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) form Joint Military Command to coordinate military operations against the racist white minority regime in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).

International Women's Day

March

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Angolan Youth Day

1964: Como Island, liberated by the PAIGC since February 1963: site of one of the most crushing defeats inflicted on colonial troops since the imperialist penetration of Africa. After 75 days of fierce fighting, Portuguese troops are forced to retreat, leaving more than 600 dead behind.

7 Mozambican Women's Day, commemorating the death of Comrade Josina Machel, head of Social Affairs and of the Mozambican Women's Section in FRELIMO's Department of Foreign Affairs.

10 1870: Birth of V.I. Lenin.

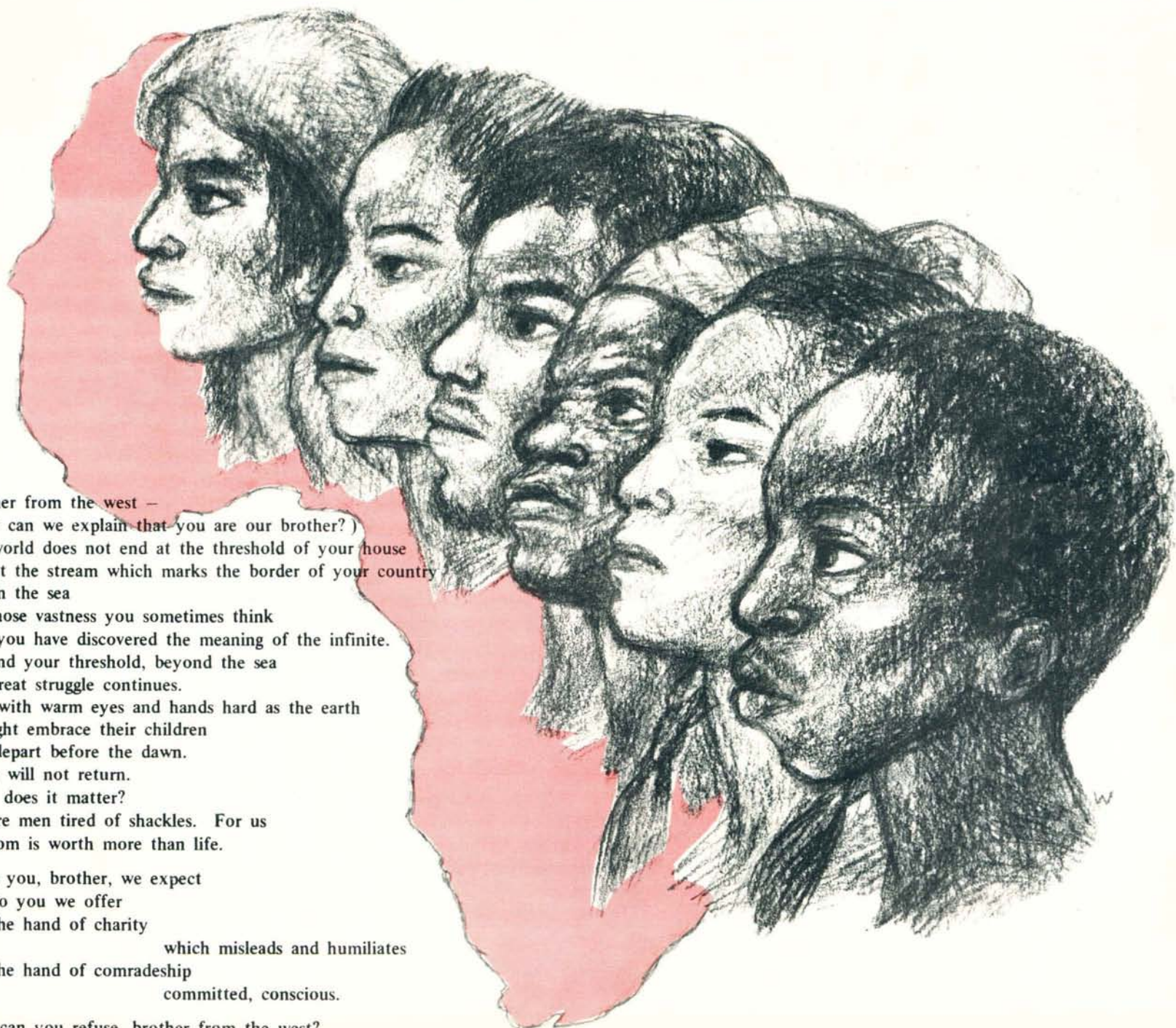
13 1972: Returning from its special mission into the liberated areas in southern Guinea (April 2-8) the UN Committee on Decolonization "affirms its recognition of the liberation movement of Guinea (Bissau) and Cape Verde, PAIGC, as the only and authentic representative of the people of the Territory."

14 Angolan Youth Day: In honor of the Heroic Guerrilla, Commander Hoji ia Henda, who was killed in 1968 during an MPLA attack on Karipande Barracks. Hoji ia Henda, *nom de guerre* of José Carvalho, means "Lion of Love".

18 1961: Conference of Nationalist Organizations from the Portuguese Colonies (CONCP) founded in Casablanca. CONCP members include FRELIMO, MPLA, PAIGC. An important internationalist structure uniting the three liberation movements.

April

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Brother from the west —
(How can we explain that you are our brother?)
the world does not end at the threshold of your house
nor at the stream which marks the border of your country
nor in the sea
in whose vastness you sometimes think
that you have discovered the meaning of the infinite.
Beyond your threshold, beyond the sea
the great struggle continues.
Men with warm eyes and hands hard as the earth
at night embrace their children
and depart before the dawn.
Many will not return.
What does it matter?
We are men tired of shackles. For us
freedom is worth more than life.

From you, brother, we expect
and to you we offer
not the hand of charity
which misleads and humiliates
but the hand of comradeship
committed, conscious.

How can you refuse, brother from the west?

Day of International Solidarity

"The workingmen have no country...United action is one of the first conditions for the emancipation of the proletariat."

1 International Day of Solidarity. First designated as International Labor Day in 1889 by the International Socialist Congress.

5 1818: Birth of Karl Marx.

8 1968: MPLA launches the armed struggle in Lunda (4th Military Region: northeastern Angola).

18 1966: MPLA launches the armed struggle in Moxico (3rd Military Region: eastern Angola).

18 1967: Namibian Hero's Day, commemorating the death of Tobias Hainyeko, first commander-in-chief of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, military wing of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO).

19 1890: Birth of Ho Chi-Minh.

25 Africa Freedom Day. "People of Africa Unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains, you have a continent to regain." Meeting of African Freedom Fighters; Accra, Ghana, December 1958.

25 1971: African Liberation Day. Annual demonstrations in USA by Afro-Americans in support of African liberation struggles.

May

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31 May - 4 June 1966: First Congress of the League of Mozambican Women.

6 1969: MPLA opens the 5th Military Region in Bié, central Angola.

9 1971: Liberation forces launch first direct attack on the last enclave of Portuguese colonialists, the coastal city Bissau, capital of Guiné. Followed by an assault on the country's second city, Bafata, on June 26, PAIGC effectively demonstrates the vulnerability of colonial rule to popular forces throughout the city.

16 1960: Mueda Massacre. Large crowd of people gathers in Portuguese administrative center Mueda in peaceful demonstration demanding recognition of the Mozambican people's right to Independence. Portuguese troops respond with bullets and grenades, killing more than 500 Mozambicans. "The 16th of June made our people understand the necessity of the 25th of September."

25 1962: Founding of FRELIMO.

26 South Africa Freedom Day. 1950: ANC declares a National Day of Protest, dedicated to the people slaughtered in the May 1 Strike. 1955: Congress of the People held in Kliptown, Johannesburg, culminating ANC's campaign to gather freedom demands from all sectors of the population. Some 3,700 delegates assemble and adopt the Freedom Charter.

30 1963: PAIGC extends its armed struggle into the northern region of Guiné.

South Africa Freedom Day

"The many dark years of extreme persecution have steeled the people for the sharper struggles ahead."

June

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15 1971: Following intensive attacks by MPLA, Portuguese troops evacuate the strategic Karipande Barracks. This significant victory for the Angolan liberation forces culminates a three-year siege of the entrenched positions of the colonialists in the Eastern Region.

20 1968: Second Congress of FRELIMO, held in Niassa Province. "Here for the first time in our history Mozambicans from all over the country were gathered, to discuss together the problems of the whole nation and take decisions which will affect its future." (Eduardo Mondlane).

21 1967: Chief Albert Lutuli, Nobel Peace Prize Winner and President-General of the ANC, was killed in a train "accident" which remains unexplained.

22 1973: Final day of the Second Congress of PAIGC, held in the liberated regions. It was decided to honour the late Amílcar Cabral with the title "PAIGC No. 1 Militant". Aristides Pereira, one of the founders with Cabral of the Party in 1956, was unanimously elected new Secretary General.

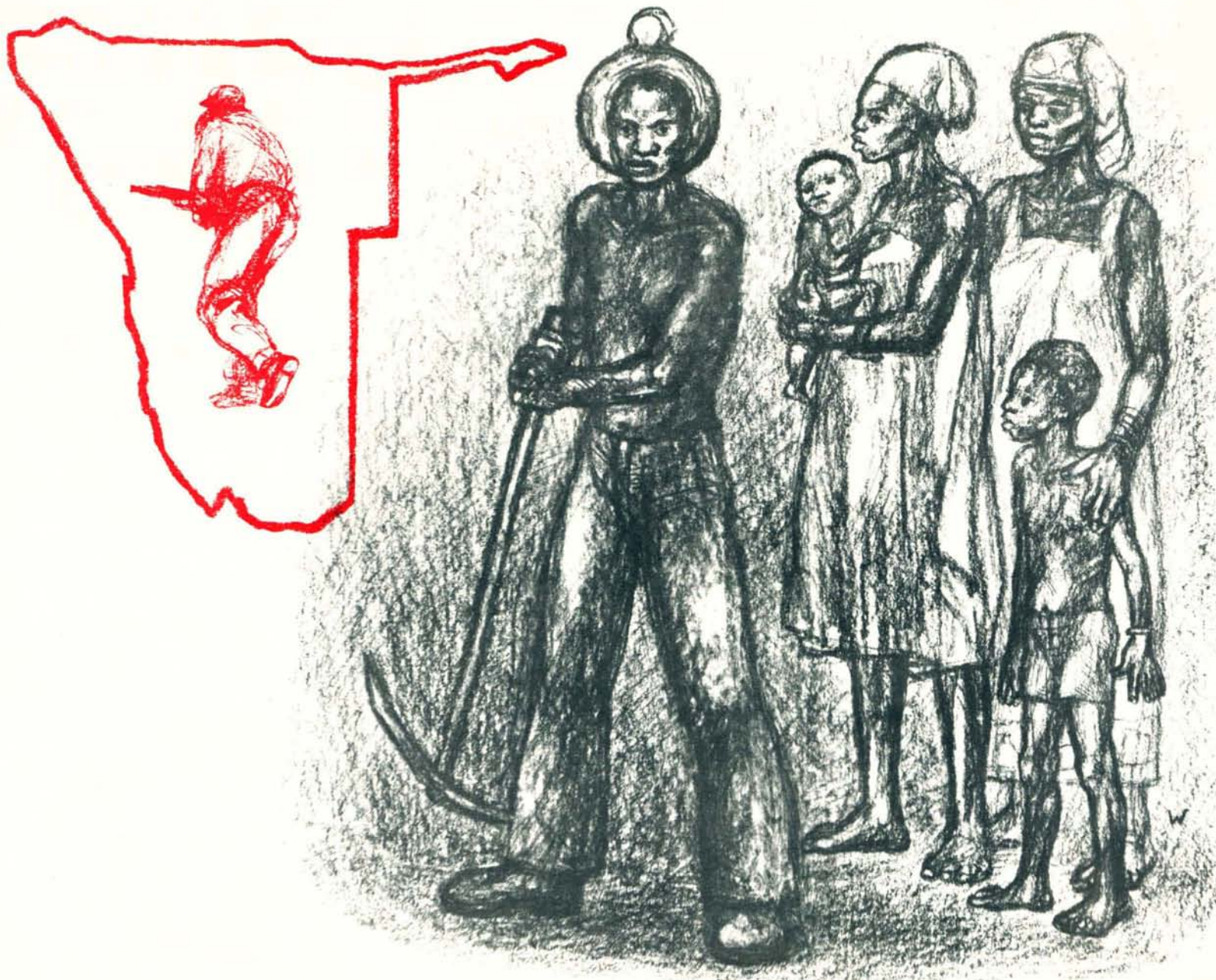
25 1972: FRELIMO launches armed struggle in Manica e Sofala Province. Threatening Portuguese and imperialist economic interests in this strategic province - as well as supply lines to Cabora Bassa and Rhodesia - FRELIMO continues to mobilize popular forces to defeat the colonialist troops in the field.

26 1953: Attack on the Moncada Barracks led by Fidel Castro opening a new epoch of liberation in the life of Cuba and Latin America.

"Our children are taught so that they can work for the people."

July

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1966 - SWAPO Launches Armed Struggle in Namibia

"It is better to die fighting than to die of TB or malnutrition."

August

3 1959: Massacre of striking dock workers of Pidjiguiti, Guiné — some 50 workers are killed and hundreds wounded by the colonialist Portuguese.

3 International Day of Solidarity with the People of Guiné and the Cape Verde Islands.

9 South Africa Women's Day.
1967: The Federation of South African Women lead 20,000 demonstrators converging in Pretoria. Speeches and a petition denounce Government plans to introduce passes for African women.

13 1967: ANC-ZAPU military alliance announced. In launching guerrilla activity in Zimbabwe, joint forces successfully engage enemy troops for the first time.

23 1968: MPLA holds first Regional Conference inside Angola, in the Eastern Region. MPLA reviews its policies and their implementation, particularly the decision to generalize the armed struggle throughout Angola.

26 1966: SWAPO launches the armed struggle in Namibia.

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"When Bullets Begin to Flower"

1964 - Frelimo Begins Armed Struggle in Mozambique.

September

- 9** 1956: Founding of the PAIGC in Guiné.
- 17** 1922: Birth of MPLA President, Agostinho Neto.
- 19** 1959: First Conference of Party Cadres held secretly in Guiné. PAIGC resolves to prepare for a struggle by all possible means, to develop unity around and through the Party, to prepare cadres for political and technical leadership, and above all, to mobilize and organize the peasant masses, "The main force in the struggle for national liberation".
- 25** 1968: Dr. Américo Boavida, Director of the Medical Assistance Services (SAM) of MPLA, is killed in combat in the Eastern Region of Angola.
- 25** 1964: FRELIMO launches armed struggle in Mozambique.
- 25** FRELIMO Day of Revolution. Observed in 1971 as a Day of International Protest Against Portugal's Colonial Wars in Africa.

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Day of the Heroic Guerrilla

"And let us develop a genuine proletarian internationalism with international proletarian armies..." (Che)

1972: The Liberation Committee of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) visits liberated territory in Mozambique, documenting the development of strong popular institutions under the guidance of FRELIMO and strengthening support for the struggle from independent African countries.

3/8 1965: Second Conference of Nationalist Organizations from the Portuguese Colonies (CONCP) held in Dar-es-Salaam.

8 1967: Assassination of Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

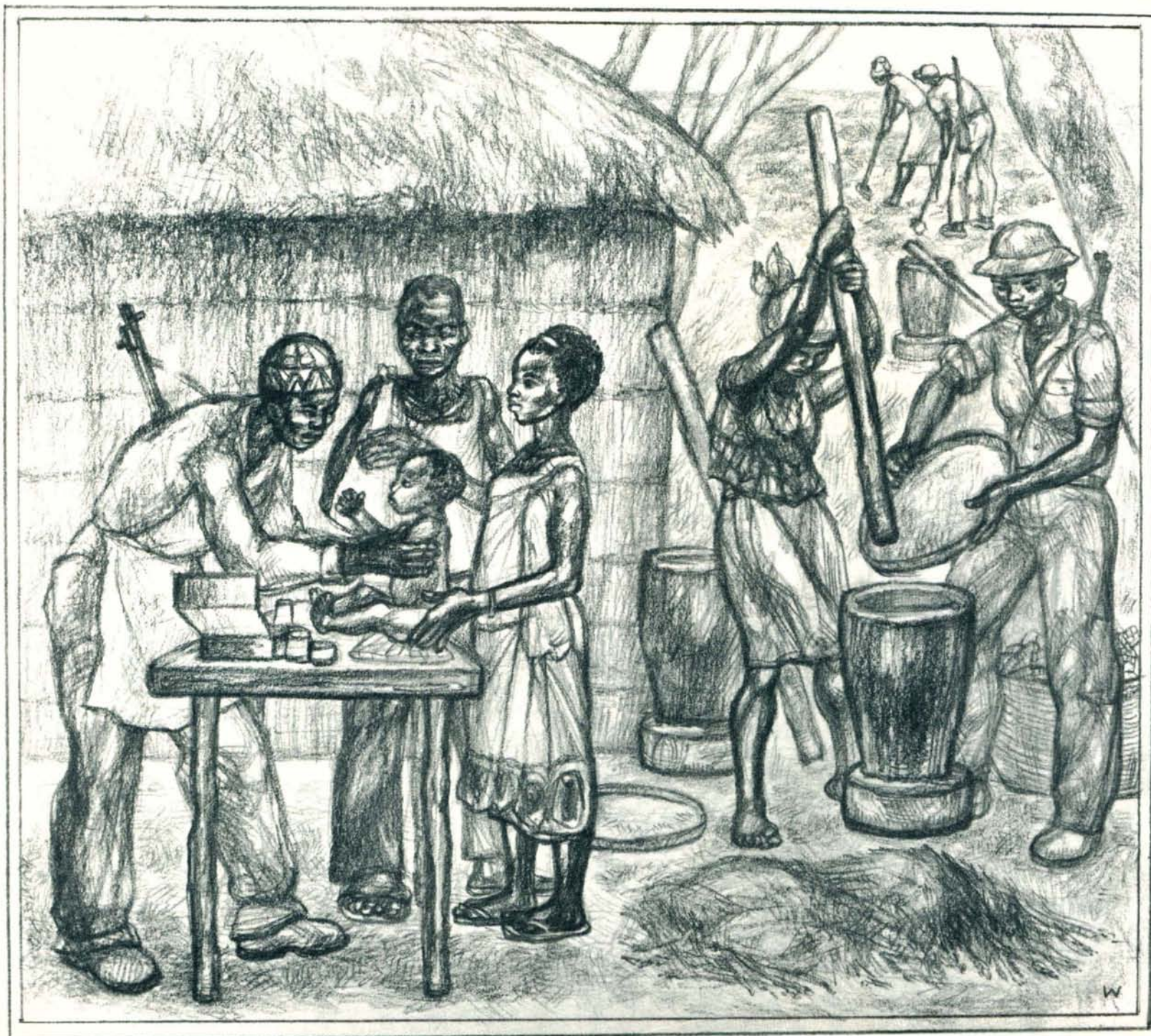
8 Day of the Heroic Guerrilla.

14 1972: Final day of elections in the liberated areas of Guiné Bissau for the Popular National Assembly. This was the first-ever open general election; it took eight months of patient explanation and preparation by PAIGC political cadres, and two months to carry out.

15 1968: Liberation Support Movement founded in the U.S. and Canada with the objective of providing concrete and meaningful support to national liberation movements and struggles within the U.S.-dominated imperialist system.

October

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Services to the People

November

22 1970: Portuguese mercenary force of 300 invades the Republic of Guinea bordering Guiné, in an attempt to overthrow the government of President Sékou Touré because of its support of the PAIGC. It also meant to intimidate the states bordering Angola and Mozambique which support the liberation movements. The invasion was decisively repulsed.

28 1820: Birth of Friedrich Engels.

Late 1970: After extensive political work by FRELIMO cadres, mobilizing the people and establishing political and military structures necessary to the struggle, FRELIMO opens guerrilla operations south of the Zambezi River in the region of Tete. Breaching this great natural barrier, heavily fortified by the Portuguese as their ultimate line of defense, signifies a new phase of the struggle. "Nothing could demonstrate more dramatically the national character of our struggle, nor the impossibility of the task which confronts the Portuguese." (Mozambique Revolution, Spring 1971)

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- 1** 1968: MPLA Pioneer Day, commemorating the death of Augusto Ngangula, MPLA Pioneer who at 12 was murdered by Portuguese troops for refusing to reveal the whereabouts of MPLA bases inside Angola.
- 10** 1956: Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola (MPLA) founded in Luanda.
- 11** 1959: Windhoek Massacre. Demonstrations against Bantustan policy in Namibia are met by violent repression - 13 dead, over 60 wounded. This leads to the formation of SWAPO in early 1960 and the beginnings of a new strategy for national liberation.
- 13** 1971: Namibian workers begin strike against the contract labor system and illegal South African rule in Namibia. Strike paralyzes the mining and fishing industries in the country for several months.
- 13** 1972: MPLA and FNLA (National Liberation Front of Angola) form an alliance, creating a Supreme Council for the Liberation of Angola along with a united military command and political council to co-ordinate the work of the Angolan liberation forces.
- 14** 1960: UN General Assembly adopts the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Resolution 1514 XV).
- 17** 1961: Founding of Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU).
- 20** 1960: National Liberation Front of South Vietnam (NLF) founded.
- 26** 1893: Birth of Mao Tse-Tung.

1961 - ZAPU Begins Armed Struggle in Zimbabwe

"We are dealing a blow to international capitalism."
(G. Silundika, ZAPU leader.)

December

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