

ANGOLA MPLA

On Nov. 11, 1975, President Agostino Netto of Popular Movement for Liberation of Angola (MPLA) proclaimed the formation of the People's Republic of Angola (PRA) in Luanda, the capital city of the republic.

MPLA was the organization that had fought against the Portuguese colonialism and imperialism for fourteen years. MPLA had succeeded to lead the heroic people of Angola in their national liberation movement. MPLA had succeeded to organize the masses against the colonialists and imperialists during a period of fourteen long, bitter and bloody years of armed struggle. Depending on the masses in the course of a just armed struggle had enabled MPLA to achieve the independence of Angola.

For almost five centuries, the Angolan people had suffered under the yoke of Portuguese colonialism. To note the barbaric treatment of the colonialists in Angola, it should be enough to mention the change in the population of Angola. Through systematic campaigns of genocide, the population of Angola which was around 18 million in the 17th century was cut down to around 4 million in the late 19th century.

After the 2nd World War, along with the achievement of socialism by a number of countries, and the rise of national liberation movements in scores of others, the Angolan people too stepped up their resistance against the colonialists and imperialists. In the words of PAULO JORGE, minister of foreign

affairs of the PRA: "The MPLA was founded in 1956. In the beginning it was a front, formed by different organizations which had existed since 1953. The MPLA was founded as a response to and as an appeal for unity of all nationalist forces." And about the aims and character of the MPLA he says, "we fought 14 years with the principal aim of responding to the legitimate interest of the Angolan people, in particular, the most exploited - the peasants and workers. And we ~~feel~~ we fought to have a country in which the Angolan people could ~~expres~~ free their needs. During these years the people obtained not only a national consciousness but also a political understanding of the role of the popular masses in the revolutionary process."



Soldier of MPLA, fighting neocolonialism.

However, the proclamation of the PRA did not end the sufferings of the Angolan people. Two organizations who claim to be "liberation movement" are waging a war against the PRA which is clearly instigated by the CIA. Troops of the puppet regime of Zaire, thousands of troops from the racist government of South Africa, and a least 300 American mercenaries have also joined the battle against the Angolan people.

The imperialists have a lot of reasons to be worried about Angola. Angola is a large country located on a strategic point along the western coasts of Africa. She is rich in diamond, iron ore, copper and oil, (which Gulf Oil Corporation of the United States of America has been exploiting). She is the world's third largest coffee producer. The South Africans have also a multi-hundred million dollar hydro-electric project at stake in Southern Angola. Angola's common borders with the racist dominated Namibia (South West Africa) is also certainly a source of serious worry for the South Africa racist settlers.

It is no wonder then that the U.S. imperialism has been secretly meddling in Angola. CIA funds are but one way of counter revolutionary interference in Angola. The U.S. imperialism can use her puppets to do what she can not do directly on her own. If U.S. funds are cut off for any reason, there is always Saudi Arabia who can spend fifty million dollars in support of the "pro-Western factions". The petro dollars which are supposed to help the Middle Eastern people, are an easily obtained budget for the U.S. imperialists, which can be used without the approval of the U.S. Congress.

We are confident that the people of Angola will surmount all the reactionary and imperialist plots. The Angolans, the Eritreans, the Namibians, the Palestinians, the Omanis, the Iranians, the Latin Americans; in short, all the oppressed peoples of the world shall be liberated and shall smash the imperialists and their local puppets. The PRA shall be victorious.

ATTEND THE WORKSHOP ON AFRICA WITH A FOCUS ON ANGOLA

Program: Speakers and a film
Date: Saturday, Jan. 24, 1976
Time: 7:00 pm
Place: Room 336 - Union Building

Sponsors:

Organization of Arab Students
Iranian Students Association
South African Liberation Committee