



QUARTERLY ISSUE

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AT AN MPLA PRODUCTION BASE A MEMBER OF THE ORGANISATION OF ANGOLAN WOMEN RECOUNTS SOME EPISODES FROM HER LIFE IN THIS ARDUOUS LIBERATION STRUGGLE

The sun was going down and the little room in the grass hut became even darker. The ochre-coloured mud walls did not reflect the last light of the departing day. Outside the leaves and grass lost their outlines, and from the earth came a myriad of songs in a mysterious melody.

Comrade Ja-Mundo was sitting beside me telling me about some of the events that had taken place in Angola, and about her new life in the MPLA.

She is 36 years old, well-built, with a pleasant face and the healthy look of a person who has grown up in the pure air of the countryside.

This was the story she told.

I fled from Angola in 1963 after they killed my husband, Sebastiao Antonio de Carvalho, a male nurse who, at the time of his arrest, was working at the Maiumba estate at Kizokola, in Dembos.

I myself was arrested for a few hours for going to the prison to try to see him, and the PIDE made terrible threats about what they would do to me if I got involved in nationalist activities.

My husband was killed the day after his imprisonment together with a group of 80 people, among them D. Fernando, the chief of Dembos, his secretary and nephew Antonio Fernando, and his adviser Paciencia. I also remember the names of Augusto Manuel, a man who had a small coffee farm in my village Gombe Mukiana, and perhaps they killed him so that they could take it over, Afonso Sebastiao, a tailor at the Ngoge estate, Armando Gomes, a male nurse at the Lebre estate, Joao Kissamva, a male nurse at the Carmo estate, and Pedro Angelo, a tailor at the Magalhaes estate. All of them were from Dembos.

When I ran like mad to the administrative post to know something about the fate of my husband and his companions, the sepoy (Africans in the colonial police) blabbed without thinking and told me that the whole group had been killed in the woods by the Kenge river. But it was only later that I learnt the details of that horrible massacre.

Domingos Mussungu, a survivor of another massacre who is also from my village, told me how the colonialists murdered his companions.

A few metres from the administrative post where they take the newly-arrested prisoners, on the opposite side of the street, there was the enormous house of a doctor called Dr. Serra. The prisoners were taken there after having been tortured at the administrative post, where many of them confessed to crimes that they had never committed just to stop the torment, and it was there that with machette blows they decapitated some, cutting off the limbs of others and hacking others all over their bodies.

The heads of many of them were impaled on stakes at various spots in the woods where they thought that people who had fled would pass by, the aim being to make them refrain from nationalist activities.

The colonialists were bloodthirsty!

Then, to put the final touches to their rabid action, they put the prisoners in a truck and took the road to Kibache. In order to conceal their crimes from the population, they made three or four of them shout from the truck: "We are going to Kibache, we are going for a drive to Kibache!"

But after covering a certain distance, they entered the woods by the Kenge river and there they put all the bodies, whether dead or alive, into a big hole, sprinkling them with petrol and burning the evidence of their crime.

Now it happened that during one of these killings, Domingos Mussungu, with his body all slashed, managed to escape into the woods because the butchers had forgotten to fill the petrol drums. This was how we later learnt the details of these crimes against our people.

Domingos Mussungu managed to get to Congo to get weapons, returning to the woods to avenge his people.

People are often amazed that our people in the First Politico-Military Region have held out in the woods for 13 years despite the terrible sacrifices involved, without clothing, without salt and with little war material. Yet they are still fighting and constantly setting traps for the enemy, knowing that the victorious MPLA will come one day armed with machine-guns to liberate our heroic people.

Who will be able to forget these monstrous crimes in the decades to come? Absolutely any of the people there can be assigned the most dangerous mission and will carry it out with no thought for his or her own life.

I was left with a ferocious hatred for the Portuguese colonialists and it was very difficult for me to control myself. My heart cried out for vengeance against those murderers who martyred our people so cruelly.

And I used to ask myself why it was that we did not succeed in barring the way to the first adventurers who set foot on our soil.

I later learnt in the MPLA political education classes that it was because of our internal quarrels and the consequent disunity among our people.

Comrade, the MPLA is making giant strides in its efforts to build a united Angola, and this will have future repercussions which some people do not as yet appreciate properly.

The MPLA will emerge victorious against Portuguese colonialism, because the MPLA is the people and the united people cannot be defeated.

Well, I came to Congo, sought out the MPLA and joined our Movement. In 1968, I went to the Third Politico-Military Region and I was in our country's liberated areas, at Madume II and Madume III bases. There I contributed to the work of the Organisation of Angolan Women, as well as to that of the guerrillas and pioneers. I worked at our Augusto Ngangula School Centre. I did a lot of work in the fields. Now I have been on the Northern Front for some time and I am at this MPLA production base

prepared to go on giving my all for the advance of our struggle. I know that if we all contribute seriously, we will achieve the victory we want so much. We may have many friends and world solidarity may be great, but all I want is to be in our country.

Everyone with the MPLA in this final push! Imperialism can never deter us in our determination and neither can it diminish the strength we feel in ourselves.

Victory is certain!

Dusk gave way to the night and our two profiles were projected, huge, onto the wall, the candle-light giving them whimsical shapes in the semi-darkness.

Hope Base, 11 December 1973.



A group of OMA comrades who took part in the readjustment movement on the Northern Front.

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LUANDA A FEW MONTHS AGO

An exhibition of statistical tables was held at the University of Luanda, dealing particularly with education in various parts of the world and using data from UNESCO sources.

The exhibition was first opened in the Faculty of Science and transferred the following day to the Faculty of Medicine by the organisers.

The exhibition was appreciated and roused a great deal of comment, since it showed the bitter reality in Portugal and the colonies. The tables showed that Portugal is far behind other nations! Beside each table was a comment. And there were facts which upset many and which many did not want to believe; hence the violent arguments which took place between progressives and reactionary fascists, harsh shouted comments combining with the comments written on the wall. The shock was such that the fascists felt powerless to hide the facts, which were virtually an open invitation to the PIDE to come there.

After the initial shock, the Vice-Rector of the University ordered the closure of the exhibition, which he described as "false, unilateral and tendentious". All that remains to be said is that it was evil spirits from abroad who were obstinately seeking to disrupt social order in Angola.....!



AN MPLA DELEGATION VISITS ROMANIA

An MPLA delegation led by our President, Dr. Agostinho Neto, recently visited Romania. One of the members of the delegation was Maria Mambo Cafe, an OMA comrade.

Matters of great importance and interest to our two peoples were discussed, and a joint statement was issued in which Romania undertook to continue to help the MPLA, the vanguard and vital force of the Angolan people, in every way it could.



MPLA WARMLY RECEIVED IN CANADA AND A NUMBER OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

An MPLA delegation comprising members of the Executive Committee and an OMA delegate, and led by our President, visited Canada, where the press, radio and television gave impressive coverage to our visit.

Our delegation was received by a Parliamentary Commission and several other members of the Government.

The MPLA was warmly hailed by the Canadian people and we could see for ourselves the effectiveness of the work done by the Support Committees. People understood our difficulties and on numerous occasions expressed respect for our struggle and our Movement, glad that the MPLA had again emerged strengthened from an imperialist attempt to weaken the Angolan people's vanguard. At meetings of from 500 to 600 people and at the final reception, the MPLA delegation saw that it could count on its friends from the other side of the Atlantic.

In Europe, the delegation visited England, Portugal's oldest ally, where a leader of a liberation movement was for the first time received at Government level. This honour was accorded to our President.

In Sweden, Belgium, Holland and Denmark the delegation was received by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of those countries. At the end of its tour, our delegation visited the German Democratic Republic, where it was received by the President of the Republic, Comrade Willi Stoph.

In all these countries we found increased support and keen fellow feeling.



NEWS

On 4 February, President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania launched "Sacred Hope", a book of poems by Dr. Agostinho Neto, President of the MPLA, in a simple ceremony at State House in which he praised the book and suggested that it be used in secondary schools and at the University of Dar es Salaam. The book is published by the Tanzania Publishing House. The first collection of Comrade Neto's poems ever published in English, "Sacred Hope" contains poems of struggle, hope and certainty — certainty of the free Angola of tomorrow. It contains poems of love and fraternity towards all men in the world. The poet does not confine himself to the African continent, but encompasses the just aspirations of the peoples of all the continents and makes them his own.



A VICTORY FOR OMA

Comrade Antonia Silva, a member of our Organisation, was recently elected to the leadership of the MPLA.

Her dedication to our struggle and her valuable contribution have earned her this important position in our Movement.



On 7 February, Comrade President Agostinho Neto gave a lecture at the University of Dar es Salaam in which he dealt with important aspects of the national and international situation, with the interrelatedness of events in the world and their repercussions on our struggle.

He asked the following important question:

Who is our enemy? Is it simply the white man, or is it imperialism, which oppresses the Portuguese people themselves?

Because of the interest roused by this lecture at the University of Dar es Salaam and in many political and literary circles, it will shortly be published as an MPLA document.

WAR COMMUNIQUES

Two planes shot down by the anti-aircraft guns of our valiant guerrillas on 23 and 25 January 1974.

Colonial Administrator among several prisoners taken.

The MPLA's fighting forces are routing the Portuguese colonialists and inflicting ever more telling defeats on them.

EASTERN FRONT

On 19/12/73, two enemy vehicles proceeding from Jimbi to Kaianda were destroyed in a minefield laid by our guerrillas and 12 colonialists troops were put out of action.

On 21/12/73, an MPLA unit encircled the Makondo Barracks and attacked it with automatic weapons and mortars, destroying a large part of the installations and inflicting heavy losses on the colonialists. The enemy answered with wild and disorganised firing which went on for two days and achieved no results. We suffered no casualties.

During this period, and as a result of the MPLA's military successes, the fascist colonial army stepped up its atrocities against the civilian population, destroying crops and arresting and killing old people, women and children. Fifteen Angolans serving in the colonial army who tried to escape the clutches of the colonialists to join the MPLA were arrested by the Portuguese colonialists.

On the morning of 17/1/74, an enemy platoon stationed at Lumbala Barracks entered a minefield prepared by the MPLA near the barracks and sustained many losses. The victims were evacuated by two helicopters.

On 23/1/74, at 3 a.m., a PV2 aircraft overflying an MPLA base was shot down by MPLA anti-aircraft guns.

Also on 23/1/74, two enemy military trucks carrying building materials from Luanginga to Luso were ambushed by MPLA fighters between Gago Coutinho and Lutebo. The trucks were totally destroyed and we captured building materials. Three of the escorting troops were killed, but no helicopters came to evacuate them, their being Angolans serving in the colonial army. One prisoner was taken, treated and later set free. We suffered no casualties.

On 25/1/74, at 5.30 a.m., our anti-aircraft gunners shot down a PV2 bomber which crashed in the Lufuixi area. In reprisal, the enemy made indiscriminate attacks on the civilian population.

On 28/1/74, at 10 a.m., an enemy platoon suffered 15 confirmed losses after entering a minefield prepared by our guerrillas near Lumbala. This time enemy helicopters came to evacuate the colonialist victims.

On 4/3/74, at 5 p.m., MPLA fighters attacked the advance post of the Lovua Barracks, situated on the right bank of the Semba, on the road from Lovua to Kalunda. The intense fire of mortars, bazookas and light automatic weapons caused extensive damage to the post installations and all the enemy troops guarding the post were put out of action.

One MPLA fighter was slightly wounded in the attack.

NORTHERN FRONT

In accordance with the overall plan of operations, there has been intensive military activity in Cabinda District, the MPLA's Second Politico-Military Region, and special mention should be made of the following series of operations:

On 23/3/74, there were a number of armed confrontations between MPLA fighters and colonialist troops stationed in Cabinda.

On 24 and 25/3/74, the Miconge barracks was heavily and repeatedly shelled by MPLA heavy artillery, which destroyed most of the installations rebuilt after our attack of 8 October 1973, together with many of the colonialist troops' shelters and trenches, which served as their own grave. The enemy sustained huge losses in men, material and vehicles.

On 24/3/74, MPLA forces encircled and assaulted the Bitina Barracks, on the tarmac road from Miconge to Belize (the constituency headquarters and General Staff of the enemy troops operating in the area). Bitina was occupied for some time, its installations destroyed and heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy. Four prisoners were taken: one Portuguese soldier, two from Guinea Bissau and one from Angola.

At the same time, one of our infantry units assaulted and then surrounded and occupied the Alto-Sunda Administrative Post, taking prisoner the colonial administrator, Fernando Manuel de Oliveira, his assistant Raul Lopes Rodrigues, and two of his lackeys, Manuel Nascimento Barbosa and Luis Nitchuala. Two G3s and one FAL gun were captured. Fifteen Angolan puppet troops guarding the post were also captured, disarmed, politicised and subsequently released. A large quantity of ammunition and grenades was also captured, and 3 vehicles destroyed.

VICTORY IS CERTAIN!



A VICTORY OF OUR PEOPLES

We rejoice with the Portuguese people at the fall of fascism in Portugal, hailing the people of Portugal for this resounding victory, together with all the patriots now freed from the police dungeons who have contributed so greatly to the defeat of fascism.

We extend our fraternal greetings to the Democratic Portuguese Women, certain that now as in the past they will be at our side and struggle until the peoples in the colonies also free themselves and can feel the great joy of being free in their land, of being able to choose their own future. The struggle will continue until the final victory of our peoples over the colonial yoke.

SOLIDARITY WITH OUR STRUGGLE

OMA received many messages of solidarity on the occasion of 4 February, the anniversary of the start of the Angolan people's armed struggle, among which were messages from our sisters in the People's Republic of the Congo and Albania, and Portugal.



On 2 March, OMA received very great proof of the active solidarity of our friends throughout the world. In a number of countries it was remembered that 2 March is Angolan Women's Day, and articles were written in newspapers and messages sent to us. Deolinda, Tereza, Engracia, Irene and Lucrecia still on in the memory of the Angolan people, and also in the memory of all those who aspire to a better world.

Heroic deeds like those of these five Angolan women guerrillas who, because they wanted to contribute to their people's liberation, were killed by traitors to our struggle, are written in indelible letters in the history of mankind.

On the occasion of the World Peace Council session in February this year, the Organisation of Democratic Portuguese Women sent us a message of solidarity and support for our struggle.

On 17 and 19 March, the Dar es Salaam University guitar group gave two concerts in support of our Deolinda Centre, one in the centre of town and the other on the campus. The proceeds will be used to buy equipment for the Centre.



14 APRIL

ANGOLAN YOUTH DAY

Henda, the dauntless Commander, fell in an attack on the Karipande Barracks on 14 April 1968, since when he has come to symbolise the bravery, integrity and comradeship of our youth.

Henda will live on forever in our people's history. But Henda is also all the MPLA fighters who have shed their blood for Angola's freedom in these thirteen years of armed struggle.

How many tears have been shed and how much blood has drenched the soil? The colonialists are making us pay with our blood for the historical transformations we demanded of them. This is the price we have to pay for our freedom, but the colonialists will be defeated!

Onwards, brave MPLA fighters! Victory is certain!