

27-9-74

PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT FOR THE
LIBERATION OF ANGOLA (MPLA)

C O M M U N I Q U E

Subsequent to the various stages gone through with a view to effective decolonisation - officially accepted by the present Provisional Government - culminating not only in recognition of the right to independence of the peoples of Angola, Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe, but also in the proclamation of the Independent States of Guinea Bissau and Mozambique, certain Portuguese Government personalities seem determined to devalue the objectives which they had set themselves.

The process of decolonising Angola is not being seen in the light of the principles which have led to the emergence of two new states in Africa, in so far as the Angolan problem has recently been subject to numerous misleading manoeuvres which are not unconnected with Angola's potentialities and its geographical and strategic position. While on the one hand we witness conflicting statements and intentions and obscure arrangements and deals at high foreign government levels, without any mandate from the Angolan people or their legitimate representatives, on the other we note the stated intention of concentrating the solution to the Angolan problem in exclusive hands.

Under these circumstances, not only has the crowning point been reached where "tribal representation" in the future government of Angola is being sought, but "personalities" from Angola are being invited to go to Lisbon for so-called "discussions" on decolonisation. But these eager personalities - who until 25 April had maintained the most complete silence and inactivity on Angola's independence - who do they represent and by who have they been mandated? Emphasis must be given, however, to the clear-sighted attitude of a number of representative personalities and organisations which have declined such invitations so as not to lend themselves to a farce.

To claim to be laying the foundations for any negotiations on Angola's future while not taking into account the principal nationalist force, the MPLA, constitutes the most flagrant disrespect for all those who have voluntarily shed their blood and their sweat in the course of these thirteen years of armed struggle. Any such attitude or intention becomes all the more serious in view of the undoubted fact that it was above all those who fought arms in hand who made the most decisive contribution to the recognition of the Angolan people's right to complete independence. To ignore this fact is tantamount to perpetuating the war in Angola, in so far as the MPLA has not yet laid down its arms, and nor will it lay them down so long as negotiations are not established with the Angolan people's revolutionary vanguard, thereby safeguarding the Angolan people's most just aspirations, particularly those of the most exploited strata.

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