

1967 . Interview With Mac Gill University Student .

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" REAL REVOLUTION MUST REVOLUTIONIZE ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE "
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I see today the need for a real solidarity among all forces fighting neo-colonialism and imperialism. For UNITA the real struggle will not take place only in the African continent or in our respective areas, but our efforts in Angola will help other progressive forces fighting in the continent itself, fighting outside the continent, most specifically those heroic people fighting against imperialism in Vietnam.

Question : Many people consider the struggle in Angola to be crucial to the revolutionary movements of all southern Africa today. Would you like to comment?

Savimbi : The struggle in Angola, strategically and geographically, can help other liberation movements in southern Africa. Strategically, as I said earlier, Angola shares the border with Namibia, which is called South West Africa. Our brothers in Namibia cannot engage in a successful struggle without the co-operation of Angolan people, because if we don't fight, more specially the southern part of Angola, the Portuguese will see the efforts of our brothers in Namibia as a danger to their own sovereignty. They will co-operate with South African authorities in South West Africa to suppress the liberation movement. In the Portuguese colonies, for the Portuguese authorities, Angola is economically the most important colony.

If Angola succeeds in waging an effective struggle, definitely the economic situation of the Portuguese will be catastrophic. They will be forced to give up one of their colonies, and possibly the other two, Mozambique and Guinea. If Angola can help the struggling forces in Mozambique, Guinea and Namibia, Angola will help the people of South Africa as well, because through Namibia the Azanian forces can readily reach Azanian soil. This is why we believe strongly that the struggle in Angola can give a very effective contribution to other people fighting in the southern part of Africa.

Question : Are you gaining support from workers as well as peasants? Are people from other areas of the country willing to join your growing struggle against foreign aggression ?

Savimbi : In Angola the majority of our people are peasants. I can say we have almost 80% peasants out of 5 million people. Basically the struggle against Portuguese colonialism has to be waged, organised and mobilised by the peasants, but in towns, in urban areas we have to organize the workers. Up to now in the areas we control, in the provinces under our control we have full support of peasants because only the peasants can provide us with food, information and guerrillas. In towns our work is being concentrated more specially in Teixeira de Sousa, Malanje and Vila Luso. Up to now we have received a very positive response from the workers in towns. The time will come when they will be able to wage their own struggle in towns, but at this stage we can support the urban struggles later on.

Question : What are the military tactics of the Portuguese army? We have heard about the use of bombs and napalm, is this correct?

Savimbi : Portuguese soldiers are using the most cruel methods. It is a pity that we have no practical and material means of providing all the evidence to the world. There is no difference between the methods used by the Americans in Vietnam and those used by the Portuguese in Angola. Portuguese soldiers bomb villages entirely, destroy all the crops and use napalm bombs against innocent villagers.

The Portuguese are not fighting alone, are not using their tactics in isolation. The Portuguese are being advised by what is considered today the most cruel and aggressive imperialism in the world, that of the United States as displayed in Vietnam. And, I think, going back we can recall that the French imperialists used similar methods against the Algerian people. For instance, the raping of Angolan women is a daily occurrence. Portuguese soldiers are used to stealing everything they find in their path. Yet we believe that nothing can stop the will of the people in their fight toward freedom!

Question : How could we, youth, students and workers on the "outside" help your fight against oppression?

Savimbi : It is with joy I salute the Internationalists in London and other parts of the British Isles for the clear line you are taking to support the liberation movements, and to support oppressed peoples fighting colonialism, neo-colonialism and imperialism. Your attitude is a very great encouragement to our struggle. Your support can be very effective specially in trying to spread the news about our struggle in Europe and the Anglo-American world. As far as UNITA is concerned, you can help us in at least two ways.

