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TRUE COPY OF THE COMMUNIQUE

UNION OF THE PEOPLES OF ANGOLA
COMMITTEE OF THE ANGOLAN NATIONAL REVOLUTION

BEMBE BARRACKS, ANGOLA

Bembe, February 6, 1962

C O M M U N I Q U E

The Committee of the Angolan National Revolution, an organ made up of various ethnic and social strata of Angola, makes it known that after the massacre of several Angolan nationalists by elements of the 'Mukongo' people under UPA leadership for the simple reason of 'tribal differences', Commander Joao Baptista Traves Pereira, native of Sa da Bandeira (Southern Angola) was also assassinated by elements of this area of Bembe (Angola) on the 6th February of the present year.

Commander Joao Batista, deserted from the Portuguese Colonial Army in 1960 in order to enlist in the ranks of the National Liberation Army of Angola on the 17th April 1961, the date of his arrival in this area, having been nominated by the Leading Committee of UPA and its General Staff as Chief of Military Operations, according to the documents in his possession as well as various letters and leaflets received from UPA headquarters in Leopoldville which affirm the legality of his nomination. Commander Batista always led military operations with great heroism from the moment when the armed struggle was launched in Angola up to the time of his death by treachery, thus providing the party with great prestige internationally and he has received as a reward a horrible death. Obsessed with a hatred which is attributed merely to 'tribal differences' the local people nevertheless thought his presence constituted an immense obstacle to their interests which involve the extermination of all who are not natives of the Northern region of the national territory, as has happened and will happen with many nationalists and at the end of it all these activities are always attributed to the Portuguese or to other nationalist political parties.

In these conditions of fratricidal struggle unleashed by the people of the Northern region of the national territory, under the leadership of the Union of Peoples of Angola, against those resident here from other parts of the country for purposes of the war of liberation, we draw their keenest attention and place the responsibility for our threatened lives and those of our brothers who have already vanished under the tribal fury, on all those countries that support such a struggle, among them African countries, who will one day answer before national, African and international public opinion.

Our legitimate aspiration is to liberate ourselves from the Portuguese colonial yoke. We nevertheless energetically warn the Afro-Asian countries who want genuinely to help and contribute to the liberation of the Angolan people by despatching material resources for this purpose, to deliver the same to liberation movements that are based on a sense of responsibility and Angolan unity and will therefore use those resources for the sole aim of the national and social liberation of Angola as a whole and not for a fraction of this territory (the North). Furthermore, the National Liberation Front, or a Provisional Government of the Republic of Angola in arms, are ways of fulfilling in a viable fashion the responsibility of a liberation war with the help of all Afro-Asian countries or others that may wish to associate themselves in solidarity with the Angolan people.

Moreover, we make the Union of Peoples of Angola and their stupidly armed and undisciplined elements responsible for our threatened lives and those of all the other Angolans who are not natives of this area (the North).

For the National and Social Liberation of Angola.

Bembe Barracks (Angola) February 6, 1962.

For the Committee of the National Revolution of Angola.

(signed) Pedro ZALA (Silva Porto - Angola)