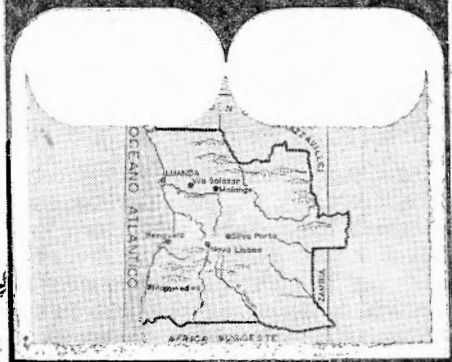




appeals and messages



Angola: Ninth Year of Armed Rebellion



A new day of solidarity with the Angolese people was celebrated on February 4 on the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the launching of the revolutionary armed struggle by the

People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA).

Since 1961, basically during the last five-year period, the revolutionary struggle has experienced a constant growth. The Eastern Front was opened which, with the reactivated Luanda and North Cuanza Front have made possible the existence of five political-military regions in the 15 districts where the guerrillas of MPLA operate.

The first of these political-military regions is located in the North, in the districts of Luanda, North Cuanza, Zaire, and Uige; the second in the Cabinda District; the third in the Districts of Cuando Cubango; the fourth in the Districts of Luanda and Malange; and the fifth in the District of Bié.

In keeping with the order proclaimed by the leadership of MPLA in 1967, the basis of new political-military regions are being set up in the countryside and cities and as a result of the development of the struggle and the improvement of its organizing methods the general headquarters has gone into the liberated zones to work more closely with the people on the political and ideological front.



In the latter part of the XV Century, after eliminating the system of collective ownership of the land under which the aborigines of the kingdom of N'gola lived freely, the Portuguese colonists took steps to convert this rich African territory into one of its so-called overseas provinces.

Bathed by the waters of the Atlantic Ocean on its western shores, Angola, a name which comes from the Portuguese corruption of the Bantu name Ngola, borders on the Congo, Zambia, and Southwest Africa. Its territory, an area of 1 246 700 km² has been the object of the voracity of the Belgian, West German, English, and North American monopolists attracted by the valuable diamond mines and its mineral and oil deposits.

Although it participates on a minor scale in the exploitation of the mines, the Government of Lisbon has reserved for itself the commercialization of the agricultural products harvested from the fertile Angolan soil which it manages like a colonial factory. Some products such as cotton and coffee are controlled by foreign industries.

Angola has a population of 5 084 000 inhabitants (1966 figures) of which 95% are black Africans and small minorities of Asians and members of the Bushmen tribes. For these natives there is forced labor in the agricultural enterprises and in the mines. The few whites in the country are officials and Portuguese colonists.

The balance of colonialism in Angola is terrifying. Unemployment affected 350 000 persons totally or partially in 1966. The incidence of illiteracy stands at 97% of the population and the participation of the Angolans in the economic life of the country is very slight.