

Africa: Will Write its own History

As the heroic Prime Minister Patrice Emery Lumumba said, both to the north and to the south of the Sahara, Africa will write its own history; the development of the awareness of the African masses is something that must not be minimized. On the one hand, the progressive African countries continue consolidating their independence and sovereignty, on some occasions dealing ever more fatal blows to foreign capital thus recovering that which in reality belongs to them and further developing and increasing the African peoples' wealth, as has happened in Algeria, Tanzania, the UAR, Guinea, and the Congo (B).

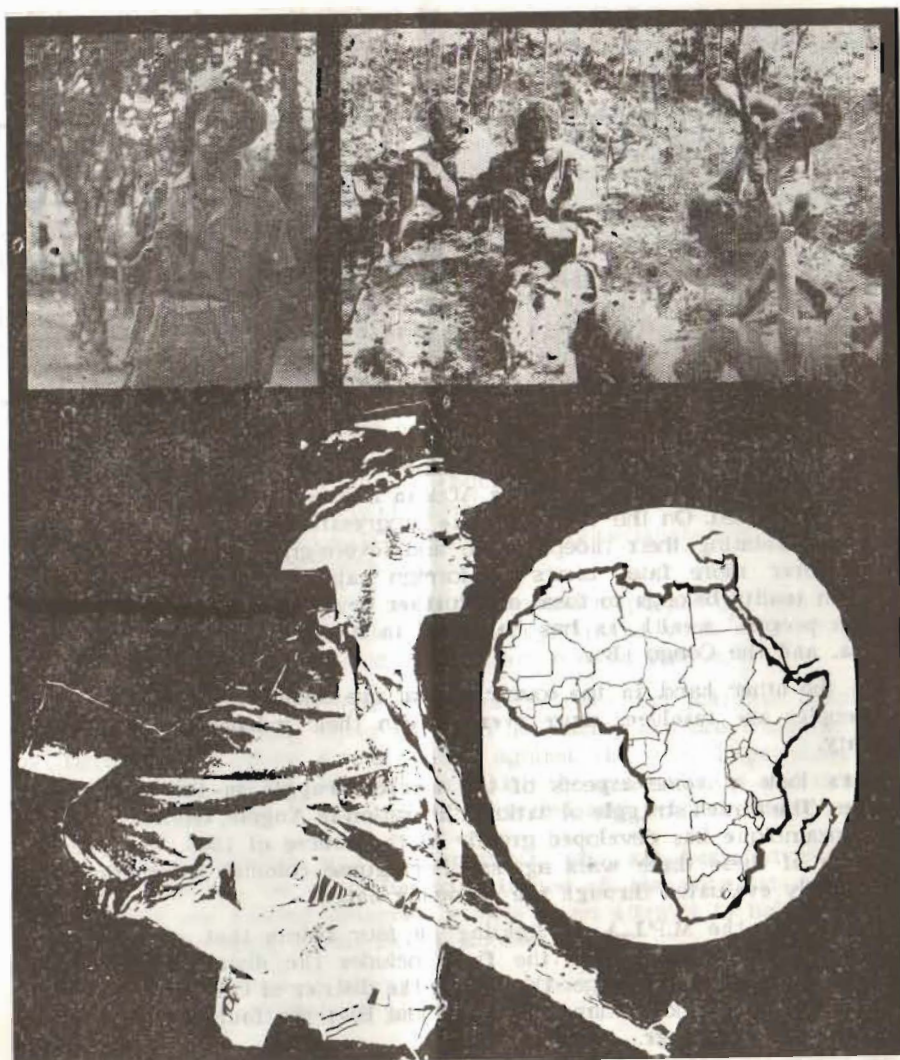
On the other hand, in the countries that are under colonial domination, the peoples are resolved more ever, to win their independence and sovereignty.

Let's look at some aspects of the armed struggle in the Portuguese colonies. The armed struggle of national liberation in Angola, Guinea (Bissau) and Mozambique has developed greatly in the course of 1968. The present situation of these three wars against Portuguese colonial domination can be partially evaluated through the following data:

In Angola, the M.P.L.A. is fighting on four fronts that correspond to four politico-military regions: the first includes the districts of Luanda, North Cuanza, Zaire and Uige; the second the district of Gabinda; the third, the districts of Moxico, Cuando-Cubango and Bie; the fourth, the districts of Luanda and Malange.

Thus, the armed forces of the MPLA are fighting in 8 of the 14 districts of Angola and almost a third of the total territory of the country is under the control of the Angolese guerrillas.

Following the order to "generalize the armed struggle throughout the national territory, launched by the MPLA in 1967, the Angolese combatants have intensified their struggle against the Portuguese colonial forces, mul-



tipling their ambushes, acts of sabotage, attacks on military posts and barracks. At the same time, they continue the mobilization and political education of the masses and the training of new combatants in the guerrilla detachments.

The entire leadership of the MPLA and all the mass organizations were moved to the interior of the country at the beginning of the 1968 so that the leaders could work among the people constantly thus permitting the formation of new guerrilla detachments.

On the first three combat fronts at the present time there are four centers of Revolutionary Instruction functioning for the military and political preparation of the new cadres. Furthermore, literacy schools, medical care centers and organized militia units are functioning in the areas controlled by the MPLA despite the intensification of air bombardment and the terrorism against the towns carried out by the Portuguese colonialists.

In Guinea (Bissau), the combatant forces of the PAIGC extended the armed struggle to all the regions of the country and at present are continually waging fierce battles in the areas still occupied by the Portuguese colonialists. Almost all the national territory has been completely liberated and the great task of national reconstruction is being carried out in all fields there.

The armed struggle being waged by the PAIGC is mainly characterized by the systematic attacks on the entrenched enemy camps, by attacks on ships transporting troops, arms or merchandise on the rivers to supply the isolated camps in the interior, by massive ambushes and by commando operations against urban centers, airports and port installations.

The PAIGC already has a regular army with powerful mobile units for further harassing the enemy positions. And as a result of the victories won by the revolutionaries in Guinea and Cape Verde, the main action of the Portuguese colonialists has been specifically transformed into the daily intensification of the air bombardment, in the course of which the enemy uses principally fragmentation bombs with napalm, and recently, with white phosphorous against the towns and cities in the liberated areas.

The constant strengthening of the political work and the action of the PAIGC armed forces make it more and more certain that final victory will be achieved in this struggle for the independence and progress of the peoples of Guinea and Cape Verde.

In Mozambique, the combatants of the FRELIMO have already liberated almost all the southern provinces of Cape Delgado and Niassa and have also made significant progress, thus reinforcing their positions in the interior of the country.

Meanwhile, the opening up of the new front in the province of Tete takes on primordial importance for the extending of the armed struggle to all of the territory of Mozambique, since the struggle will be situated within a context more favorable to reaching more developed and populous areas.

From the second half of 1967 FRELIMO has concentrated its efforts on

the formation and sending of light artillery units to the interior, which permits the intensification of military activity and the inflicting of heavy losses on the Portuguese colonialists. The guerrillas of Mozambique attack the entrenched military posts and camps.

In the liberated areas they have established political, military and socio-economic organisms in order to guarantee the total participation of the population in the concentration of the objectives of the struggle for national liberation.

Recently, FRELIMO held its Second Congress within Mozambique in one of the liberated zones in the province of Niassa, during which they made important decisions mainly concerning the structure of the organization, the conditions of the development of the armed struggle, the strengthening of the unity of the people, the consolidation of the establishment of political and administrative power in the liberated areas, the improvement of medical and social welfare services and the reaffirmation of the political principles maintained by FRELIMO.

Meanwhile, in the countries that have achieved independence and have fallen under the control of neocolonialism, the peoples are putting up a heroic resistance in order to win back their independence and basic freedom.

In the Congo, the enemy—which hoped to lull African and world public opinion through demagoguery—has taken off its mask recently, after Mobutu assassinated Mulele and other Congolese who allowed themselves to be deceived by Mobutu's perfidy, abandoning the armed struggle, and the new intervention of the Yankee imperialists who have landed their Special Forces which today are fighting beside the puppet army.

The resistance forces within the Congo are looking for ways and means to reorganize and reactivate the struggle. In the West there was a rebellion within the ranks of the puppets and Mobutu—this scourge of the African people—has sent paratroop units to Korito to murder the survivors who remained there after the first slaughter which took place in 1963.

In the east and northeast, Mobutu's troops, accustomed to being supported by foreign mercenaries, are worried about their inability to liquidate the nuclei of resistance in these areas.

In Zimbabwe, where Ian Smith with the blessing of the British government unilaterally declared independence in order to apply "apartheid" in new forms, the South African people, in addition to the resistance they are putting up in their country are fighting beside the ZAPU combatants.

At present the heroic guerrillas of ANCZAPU are operating:

1) In the east, near Ntoko, Sipolilo, Umvukwosi and in the wilds of Nyamba.

liberation scene

2) In the northeast of Tlobojo, Wyemardlovu, Lupani, Gwai, Wankie, Nkai, Gokwe and Urungwe.

3) In the north, Chirundu, Kurubi, Karoi and Miami.

Another large operation of the ANCZAPU guerrillas took place on August 6 of this same year. This battle lasted ten days in the South of Kariba-Sam and Nyamumba. Up to now the number of casualties suffered are unknown.

Another violent clash was reported 20 miles (some 30 kilometers) to the northeast of Ntoko. On August 6, a group of explorers fell into an ambush set by the patriots some 30 miles (around 50 kilometers) to the north of Lupani.

On August 14, the ANCZAPU guerrilla unit managed to break an enemy encirclement, killing nine and wounding an undetermined number of enemy soldiers.

The difficult situation in which the racists find themselves forces them to step up the regression of the people. The African soldiers who have refused to fight against their brothers, the so-called Rhodesian African Rifles, have been arrested and mistreated in different areas of Zimbabwe, specifically those belonging to the Inkomo Garrison, located some 13 miles from Salisbury.

The African soldiers who have been arrested since the unilateral proclamation of independence have been confined in a Concentration Camp in Gonakudzingwa, near the Mozambican border.

In conclusion, we can state that in spite of all the maneuvers utilized by imperialism to implement their desire to dominate Africa, it will meet the heroic resistance of the African people.

Imperialism is moving toward its total defeat in Africa since no matter how young this continent may be it will know how to defend its sacred cause. Sooner or later, the African people will wrench their occupied territories out of the hands of the aggressors. The Sinai of the Africans, invaded by the Israelis, as well as other parts of Africa occupied by the Portuguese colonialists or by international imperialism in general, and by the United States of America in particular, will be recovered at any price, even at the price of the very blood of the sons and daughters of the continent.

Africa is in fact in a state of war. It has a number of anti-imperialist fronts made up of independent countries plus the national liberation movements against colonialism and neocolonialism.

African dignity has been energetically defended by the Africans since from 1954 up to the present Africa has sacrificed its best sons and has had more than 2 million martyrs who have fallen on the field of honor. As a result, Africa has decided to free itself. The only alternative, the only choice, is for this continent to become a decisive Viet-Nam. And its brothers in Asia and Latin America will also travel along this road to liberation.