

# Angola is not Seeking Peace at Any Price

The racist South African regime, with the assistance of the United States, and the Mobuto dictatorship in Zaire, which has just concluded a defence agreement with Israel, is now intensifying its campaign to 'destabilise' the government of the People's Republic of Angola. In view of this, we print here some of the statements that have been made on the situation by the Political Bureau of the MPLA, the Angolan President, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, and the Minister of External Relations, Paulo Jorge.

In a statement issued on the 4th February, 1983, to commemorate the beginning of the armed struggle for liberation in Angola, the Political Bureau of MPLA defined the state of affairs:

"South Africa, spearhead of international imperialism in Southern Africa, is occupying a substantial part of our national territory and supporting, training and arming puppet gangs who, apart from spreading terror and death among our people, are destroying strategic economic targets as part of the destabilising activity aimed at preventing the consolidation of our independence and the development of the People's Republic of Angola on the road to socialism."

The statement went on to accuse the press and other information services in the west of misrepresenting the situation in Angola:

"From the ideological standpoint, and within the context of this imperialist political and military offensive, a vast international disinformation campaign has been unleashed, aimed not only at discrediting the People's Republic of Angola, but at dividing our people and confusing Party members by putting out false reports."

In the same month, the Minister of External Relations, while on a visit to London, moved to counteract the 'disinformation campaign' by holding a press conference, at which he accused some of the western countries of putting out reports intended to "deform the reality of our country." In this connection, he dealt with two matters — reports that at the Sal talks in Cape Verde



*Angolan Foreign Minister, Paulo Jorge*

the South African representatives had proposed a ceasefire, and reports that the Angolan Government had been negotiating with the Pretoria-backed rebels of UNITA.

#### **Fabrications in the Western Press.**

He declared that all these reports were fabrications. In answer to a question about ceasefire proposals, he said:

"...we saw the proposal you are referring to in the western press. At the meeting in Sal between the two delegations the South African delegation did not propose any ceasefire. The meeting between official Angolan and South African delegations took place at the request of the South African government. And the proposal for that meeting was merely an exchange of views to see what steps could be taken to find a solution to the war situation prevailing in Southern Africa. And these ideas were clearly also related to the independence of Namibia. And the South African delegation in fact proposed a further meeting between the two delegations. That meeting has not yet taken place, although the western press has already

announced that it took place and that there was such a ceasefire agreement, which is not true."

He dismissed the suggestion that the Angolan government had been negotiating with UNITA:

"The position of the Central Committee of our Party and the position of the Angolan Government is that there is absolutely no question of any conciliation, or reconciliation, as we now hear, between the Angolan Government and that band of puppets and traitors. And if that group of bandits is still able to do anything in our country, it is thanks to the massive support it is given by the racist Pretoria regime. That group of bandits does not have the military capacity to face up to a confrontation with our armed forces. And we are convinced that with the independence of Namibia, this problem will be gradually solved."

#### **Racist Mercenaries**

The Minister was asked some questions about the foreign mercenaries now imprisoned in Angola, and one in particular, whose children have no relatives to care for them. He replied:

"...in making...a gesture of clemency, the Angolan Government must also take into account the feelings of the Angolan people, insofar as many members of the Angolan population also lost their relatives who were killed through the dreadful activity of these mercenaries...And we have parents who lost their children through the activity of these mercenaries."

#### **'Contact Group' and 'Linkage'**

At the conference, the position of the Western Contact Group concerning 'linkage' between the withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia and Cuban troops from Angola, was touched on more than once. In answer to various questions put to him on the subject, Comrade Jorge said:

"...that question has been put to me very often and I have answered it very often. If answering it today means that I will not

hear the same question in times to come, I shall be very pleased. The question of the presence of Cuban forces in Angola has to do with the twofold invasion carried out by two regular armies a few weeks before the proclamation of independence in 1975. And when this double invasion took place the problem of Namibia's independence was not involved. It should be recalled that the Contact Group was set up in 1977, two years after these events. Security Council Resolution 435 was adopted in 1978, three years after these events, and it does not refer to the presence of Cuban forces in Angola...

"The Angolan position is as follows. We consider that once a ceasefire has been established — a ceasefire between SWAPO and the Pretoria regime, since the Pretoria regime is illegally occupying Namibian territory — which would mean the first step towards the implementation of the United Nations plan, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 435, and this plan has four aspects — a ceasefire, the gradual reduction of South African forces in Namibia, the participation of United Nations forces, and free and fair elections for Namibia's independence... We were therefore saying that once a ceasefire has been established and once the United Nations plan is under way, in our view the possibilities of aggression and armed invasion by the racist Pretoria regime will have been considerably reduced. And on the basis of the process under way for Namibia's independence, the Angolan Government will examine, with the Cuban Government, the drawing up of a new programme for the gradual reduction of Cuban forces in Angola.

*"The Cuban forces are in Angola on the invitation of the Angolan Government, and the same is not true of the South African forces, whom we did not invite..."*

"What we fail to understand is how it can be that an American delegation, knowing that the African continent clearly rejects the attempt at 'linkage,' knowing also that the Non-Aligned Movement rejects the attempt at 'linkage,' and when the Americans also know that the General Assembly of the

United Nations itself — recently in December — adopted a resolution clearly rejecting that attempt, should come and talk about that same problem again."

Later, he added:

"What we fail to understand is the concern expressed, especially by some of the western press, about the presence of Cuban forces in Angola, when they do not show the same concern about the presence of South African forces in the People's Republic of Angola, illegally occupying part of its territory. At the same time, one cannot understand why they do not have the same concern about the presence of multiple American military contingents in various parts of the world. Why are they not also concerned about the presence of American contingents on Cuban territory?"

He laid the blame for the present deadlock over 'linkage' on the United States:

"As we see it, the United States bears the main responsibility for the present impasse in the solution of the problem of Namibia, which responsibility is also shared, in our view, by the Pretoria regime."

#### **President dos Santos' Statement.**

In a speech made on the occasion of the visit to Angola of the United Nations Secretary-General, the President of Angola accused the Reagan government of causing this deadlock and of deliberately bringing about the failure of the 1981 Geneva talks on the independence of Namibia:

"The conference failed for reasons independent of our will and at a time when the United States Government was changing administration. Then, on the initiative of that government, there came into being the concept of phases of implementation of Resolution 435 and that of regional security problems, in a veiled attempt to introduce into the negotiating process elements extraneous to Resolution 435, the internationally accepted basis for the solution to the Namibian problem. One of these extraneous and utterly unacceptable elements is the artificial 'linkage' of the decolonisation of

Namibia with the presence of Cuban internationalists in Angola.”

The President then added:

*“The People’s Republic of Angola is not seeking peace at any price.”*