

POPULAR LIBERATION MOVEMENT

OF ANGOLA

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LEOPOLDVILLE

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S T A T E M E N T

Today we are remembering the heroic act of February 4th, in Luanda. The Angolan could no longer endure the oppression from the colonial authorities, more and more arrogant and deaf to all popular demands.

After a formal warning to the Portuguese government making it "responsible for all bloody events that could come", under pressure from the masses, the MPLA gave the watchwords of DIRECT ACTION, the only way left to the nationalists by the stubborn colonialists.

Thus, at the dawn of the historical February 4th, 1961, troops of the MPLA, followed by other patriots, seized weapons from a Portuguese patrol and attacked the Luanda prisons. Here the aim was to set the political prisoners free, among whom a great number of MPLA leaders. The radio station was also attacked by our troops.

These are the facts that marked the beginning of the armed fighting in Angola.

You remember the barbarous repression launched the next day by the police, military and administrative forces of Luanda and the coward crimes committed by these same forces in the inland. Meanwhile, their press created a mood of collective hysteria.

Our heroic people has known to answer with a remarkable firmness to all rude tests. Thousand of innocent people fell, victims of the colonialist, hysterical fury.

MPLA pays a moved tribute to all Angolan heroes and martyrs who gave their lives and blood that the Country may live.

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MPLA states again its firm determination to pursue the struggle until the complete recovering of our national independence, on behalf of their memory.

To all those who, in an increasing number, join the fighting, we urge them to intensify the Resistance all over, wherever they find themselves.

On behalf of our people we thank our many friends - countries, institutions, personalities - who have been kind enough to express their precious solidarity on this date.

VICTORY OR DEATH!

LONG LIVE FREE AND INDEPENDENT ANGOLA!

LONG LIVE MPLA!

Léopoldville, February 4, 1963

The MPLA Steering Committee
(M.P.L.A.)