

Africans FIGHT

*NAPALM
HERBICIDES
WAR INJURY
DISEASE
MALNUTRITION*



in

ANGOLA MOCAMBIQUE

THE STRUGGLE AGAINST PORTUGUESE IN AFRICA

PORTUGAL IN AFRICA

Portugal is the last European power to try to maintain direct colonial control over the territories it rules in Africa. Guinea (Bissau) in West Africa, Sao Tome off the coast of the Congo, Angola and Mozambique in Southern Africa, have not been given the option of peaceful political independence. The African populations are not allowed control over their own economic resources, their own labor, their own political futures. Portugal maintains the theory that these areas are simply "provinces" of Portugal, and, in spite of innumerable United Nations resolutions, refuses to consider independence. Peaceful protest, not allowed to the Portuguese people who live under a dictatorship in Portugal, is even less of an option for Africans, who know any talk of independence will be regarded as treason and met with brutal repression. That is why there is now war in Guinea (Bissau), Angola, and Mozambique.

THE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION: 1961-1971

War first came in 1961, in Angola. Angolan revolts in February and March were met with savage reprisals. Hampered by the political situation in neighboring Congo, the struggle nevertheless continues. Since 1966 the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) has been able to generalize the struggle to ten of the fifteen provinces of Angola.

In 1963 in Guinea (Bissau) the PAIGC (African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde) took up arms, and has by now confined the Portuguese presence to a few isolated enclaves and urban areas.

In 1964 the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) began the armed struggle in Mozambique. By 1968 FRELIMO had extended the battle area to three of the nine provinces, and in 1971 began to move south of the Zambezi River.

NATION-BUILDING IN THE LIBERATED ZONES

In all three countries the liberation movements have gained control over areas where the Portuguese can now only operate from the air or occupy isolated fortifications. Over most of the territory of Guinea; in eastern and southern Angola; and in northern Mozambique, the movements not only fight, but also organize production in agricultural cooperatives, operate schools, and provide medical care, organize governmental institutions and, in short, begin the building of new societies. With very limited material resources, and in the midst of war, they are building the future--the first fruits of the liberation struggle.

THE FORCES OF COUNTERINSURGENCY

The Portuguese response includes the classic counterinsurgency techniques: regrouping the population into strategic hamlets, bombs, napalm and herbicides, occasional "search and destroy" missions against guerrilla bases, the attempt to exacerbate tribal divisions. To do this they have had to put over 150,000 troops in Africa, for Portugal's small population a burden proportionately five times as great as that of American troops in Vietnam at the highest point.

STRUGGLE

EUROPEAN COLONIALISM

IN AFRICA

Desertion and draft avoidance is high, as young Portuguese flee to France or other countries. But Portugal counts on logistic support from South Africa, and on a supply of military equipment (particularly military transport and aircraft) from her NATO allies, above all France, West Germany, Great Britain, and the United States.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

There are two things we can do: (1) act for the elimination of U.S. political, economic, and military involvement in support of Portugal; (2) raise support for the liberation movements.

Both activities were called for by an overwhelming majority in the United Nations' General Assembly (**November** 1969) when they passed a resolution that:

--"urges all States, and particularly the States members of the NATO, to withhold or desist from giving further military and other assistance to Portugal which enables it to pursue the colonial war in the Territories under its domination."

--"calls upon all States, the specialized agencies and all the international organizations concerned to increase, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, their moral and material assistance to the peoples of the Territories under Portuguese domination who are struggling for their freedom and independence."

THE NEEDS

The requests of the movements include medical supplies, supplies for use in education and in agriculture. For weapons the movements and the Organization of African Unity make their own arrangements. Assistance can be given in cash or kind.

we
need
you



OUR GOAL NOW: \$2000⁰⁰

For Medical Supplies for M.P.L.A. and FRELIMO

REASON: Urgent calls for medical supplies from the Medical Assistance Services of M.P.L.A. in the wake of intensified Portuguese use of herbicides in Angola in 1971. Recent reports indicate Portuguese use of herbicides in Mozambique as well.

SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

MADISON AREA COMMITTEE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA
306 North Brooks Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53715

ORGANIZE OTHERS:

Approach organizations or living units you are in:

--To Contribute.

--To have a speaker or film on the liberation struggle.

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For more information, especially if you are willing to help, CALL

Wandile (256-1359) or Ruth (241-1137)