

## PORTUGUESE RIGHTISTS SABOTAGE MPLA FIGHT

Aug. 17 (IPS)—Heavy fighting continues throughout the Portuguese colony of Angola as units of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) struggle to maintain their ports of re-supply. According to West German press reports, the pro-Soviet MPLA still strongly holds the railhead at Benguela and the large port at the capital of Luanda, while UPI reports tonight that MPLA has taken the key port city of Lobito from forces of the two CIA-controlled "Liberation Movements"—the FNLA and UNITA:

The FNLA-UNITA horde—which is still rampaging throughout the countryside, randomly destroying property and the population—is being replenished with Chinese and French arms and Zairean Army personnel by truck and plane from Zaire, according to the same West German sources.

The MPLA's supply problems were complicated this week by right-wing elements of the Portuguese Army stationed in Luanda, who this week began interfering with the aid being shipped to the MPLA from several socialist and Arab countries. On August 14, the right-wing Portuguese officer who is Temporary High Commissioner of the colony, Fereira do Macedo, announced that he was unilaterally taking "full executive power... in the absence

of any effective rule from the Transitional Government." Rumors are spreading in the capital that, as part of this illegal move, Fereira do Macedo will try to disarm the MPLA's civilian militia in Luanda, organized to defend the city from threatened assaults by the FNLA-Zairean mercenaries.

The MPLA makes up the entirety of the Transitional Government since the staged walkout of the UNITA and FNLA representatives from the government several weeks ago.

Macedo's declaration was largely ignored in Angola, however. MPLA Politburo member Iko Carreira, speaking on August 15 in Algeria commented simply, "The MPLA will continue to govern, despite the defection of the other movements," according to the French daily *Le Monde*.

The MPLA's rejection of the absurd Macedo statement will probably be shortly backed by pro-communist elements of the Portuguese Army. Colonel Varela Gomes, the former second-in-command of the strongly pro-Communist Party Fifth Division of the Portuguese Army has volunteered to go to Angola with several Fifth Division officers. Gomes is a revolutionary organizer who was recently purged from the leadership of his Division by right wingers in Portugal.

Simultaneously, the MPLA has made several initiatives this week which underscore their complete ability to act as Angola's government. Speaking on the beginning of an international organizing tour this week, Carreira offered Angola's resources to the cause of development: "Independent Angola will know how to put her mineral resources, particularly petroleum, to the service of economic independence and to the service of creating a new economic world order."

Setting an example for New York City's workers, MPLA member Dr. Saydi Mingas, Angola's Finance Minister, suspended the directors of five private banks in Luanda on August 14, for "sabotaging the economy." One of the banks is half-owned by Rockefeller's First National City of New York, another by the British Standard and Chartered, according to yesterday's *New York Times*.

In addition, Reuters news service complains today that Angolan Information Director Luis d'Almeda threatened newsmen with "grave consequences" if they continue their "deliberate distortion of the news," correctly citing the false battle reports of BBC, UPI and Reuters. This Reuters report is subject to confirmation by reliable sources.