

Third World Wrapup

by Roy Harvey

OAU Decision Prolongs Angolan War

The OAU stalemate on the question of the recognition of the Peoples Republic of Angola was a victory for reaction, but as Guinean president Sekou Toure noted last week, the lack of a wholehearted backing of the MPLA by the OAU will mean the end of the OAU, and the formation of new institutions and alliances that are more meaningful. Most probably this will be worked out within the Committee of 77 non-aligned nations -- or the group of nineteen which recently met in Paris. The head of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Adebayo Adedeji, said January 6th in Addis Ababa "African states are more conscious everyday of the necessity of strengthening their economic relations with the socialist camp...recent ECA statistics are testimony to the fact that the current economic crisis in Africa has been provoked by Western capitalist countries."

The vote in the OAU was split 23 to 23. None of the 23 countries which did not vote for recognition of the MPLA's People's Republic of Angola has officially recognized the FNLA-UNITA Huambo concoction as a government. The

following OAU members have recognized the RPA:

Algeria, Somalia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Congo-Brazzaville, Cape Verde, Niger, Sao Tome, Libya, Burundi, Ghana, Nigeria, Mali, Sudan, Madagascar, Comoros, Benin, Equatorial Guinea, Togo, Mauritania and Mauritius.

Other nations which have recognized the RPA: Bulgaria, Brazil, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Laos, Iraq, Governments of North and South Vietnam, North Korea, German Democratic Republic, Poland, Rumania, Syria, Sweden, South Yemen, Yugoslavia and USSR.

While the fighting in Angola will be prolonged as a consequence of the stalemate in Addis Ababa, out of the wreckage of the OAU the leading Black African countries will increasingly merge with the pro-development Arab sector -- and the Socialist bloc. Typical of this kind of arrangement is the Group of nineteen Third World countries which have called for Soviet block participation in global economic reconstruction -- a move toward bypassing the International Monetary Fund and the bankrupt dollar.

Economic Warfare

The mechanism used to frighten wavering African states (in particular Ethiopia, Gambia, Upper Volta, Uganda) from recognition of the RPA was economic blackmail. Next week in this column we will analyze this in detail, but a taste of economic warfare used by the IMF can be seen in last week's funeral IMF Washington meeting. The IMF issued extraordinary and explicit demands for import reductions, currency devaluations, government spending cuts and industrial investment-slashing for IMF member nations -- as a precondition for loans (IMF conduits capital from the Chase and First National City and other banks -- or rather it collects debt for those banks). The short term loans issued to member countries are immediately to be returned to the very banks (to pay off old loans) which issued them! The IMF countries must force austerity on their working populations -- but get a 'good credit rating' with the banks. This is called 'bilateral financing'. On top of it all, there is only about \$9 billion in the IMF coffers, while the outstanding Third World debt is \$60 billion -- not even enough capital exists to develop the labor

intensive austerity programs the IMF demands: some countries are simply slated for extinction.

The primary targets of the IMF maneuver are the leading Third World countries India, Mexico, Peru, Algeria and Turkey -- which have made the most substitution moves toward the implementation of the new world economic order (though none of these countries has forthrightly called for debt moratoria). The irony of the OAU decision is that those countries which did Kissinger's bidding will suffer most from their decisions: they are the countries to be triaged, according to the IMF-World Bank scenario.

On January 4th Mexico's President Echeverria stated "to prevent World

War III the new world economic order is needed: the response we want is a favorable chain reaction from all countries, including industrial nations...our defeat would mean ruin for all." The coalescing of the leading Third World countries will again occur at the second session of the North-South talks January 26th: the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (CIEC). It is probable that the organizing efforts of the leading OAU countries will be directed toward the CIEC, rather than trying to herd various CIA and Rockefeller African satrapies into a pro-development decision of any kind.

Meanwhile, Back In Angola January 5th the Nigerian Head of State Murtala Muhammed said "Nigeria's sup-

port of Angola is only the beginning of a deeper Nigerian engagement in southern Africa." It is likely that if the U.S. continues to fund its counter-gang concoctions in Angola, more Black African nations will commit troops to the People's Republic of Angola. Meanwhile the MPLA has consolidated its hold in the northern enclave of Cabinda -- last week capturing some 100 white South African prisoners, New Solidarity reports. In the south the MPLA army faces South African troops -- with no UNITA/FNLA troops with them -- in Quibala, just a hundred miles south of Luanda. At press conferences in Addis Ababa and Luanda, UNITA prisoners told reporters: "South Africans provide the cannon, we provide the fodder."

National Black Assembly reorganizes

Recently in Dayton, Ohio 400 delegates and observers, from nineteen states attended one of the most crucial meetings ever held within the National Black Political Assembly. By an overwhelming 2-3 majority the NBA delegates voted to adopt a new structure, a Statement of Principles, a Constitution, and elected officers under the new structure.

Elected to office were the following persons: Chairperson -- Ronald D. Daniels, Assistant Professor of Political Science, and Pan-African Studies, Hiram College, Hiram, Ohio. Co-Chairperson -- Mashariki Kurudisha, Social Worker, and Community Organizer from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Secretary -- John Warfield -- Chairman of the Afro-American Studies and Research Center, University of Texas at Austin; Treasurer -- State Representative Lois Deberry, Majority Whip, Tennessee State Legislature, Memphis, Tennessee.

The decisions of this meeting climaxed more than three years of struggle to define the purpose of the NBA, outline a political direction, and adopt clear procedures for action. Within the last year in particular serious internal conflicts largely provoked by playwright, political activist, Amiri Baraka of Newark, New Jersey and the Congress of African People which he heads, Baraka's disruptive tactics, harassment and intimidation of the delegates, and abrasive leadership style had become the

major obstacle to further NBA progress, growth and development.

In the face of massive and mounting opposition to his leadership, Baraka submitted his resignation as Secretary General before the new structure was adopted in Dayton. In submitting his resignation Baraka expressed an interest in being elected to the Executive Council under the new structure. However in the North regional caucus election for representation on the Executive Council, Baraka was defeated in his bid for election.

While all ideological points of view and political factions, including the Congress of African People remains welcome within the NBA, the newly elected Executive Council has resolved that disruption tactics will not be tolerated and that any future disruption by the Congress of African People will be met with total expulsion from the NBA.

The Dayton Mandate provides the foundation for the launching of a new era in the development of the National Black Political Assembly. The present NBA leadership is determined to offer a new leadership style characterized by an energetic effort to work co-operatively with Black Elected Officials, National, regional and local Civil Rights organizations, human rights groups, labor organizations, and grass roots community organizations around concrete issues of

mutual concern. An immediate dialogue with many of these groups is expected to be immediately.

Pragmatically, the NBA can be expected to press forward vigorously with its 1976 political strategy and its 1976 National Black Political Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio March 17th-21st, 1976. The NBA's "76 political strategy calls for a Black candidate for the Presidency, as an independent," the selection of a Peoples Cabinet, and the adoption of a 1976 platform of issues of vital concern to Blacks and other oppressed national minorities. Among the issues expected to receive detailed attention are National Health Insurance, Tax Reform, and Full Employment legislation. The NBA is also expected to launch a drive to register a significant number of the same six million Blacks who remain unregistered in the U.S.

Plans for a series of State Conventions are also underway. The Assembly plans a massive effort in the southern states where with the exception of Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky, no assemblies have been active since Gary in 1972. The State Conventions will elect the 5,000 delegates to the national convention, and prepare recommendation and resolution on issues. The ratification of the platform and nomination of the Black Presidential Candidate will occur at the National Black Political Convention at Cincinnati in March.

Radicals say: U.S. out of Angola

by Roy Harvey

Jim Watson, at a Socialist Worker's Party forum, called for the U.S. to quit Angola -- and leave the nationalist groupings to fight it out amongst themselves. Watson said "the dominant nationalist group is the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola -- MPLA." Watson said "the imperialists in Washington are not united on the question of Angola, and see as foolhardy Kissinger's determination to stop the MPLA in Africa..." Under questioning Watson could not say what section of capital Kissinger represented. "Ford is in a bind, because he wants detente in an election year -- while the Soviets want detente too -- Angola is one of their bargaining chips." Having analyzed the conflict in Angola in that fashion, Watson went on to say "there is not a whole lot of difference between the FNLA (National Front), UNITA (National Union) and the MPLA (Popular Movement) in terms of program." Under questioning the speaker said he was unaware that UNITA and the FNLA had coalesced (in Huambo) as an anti-communist force to destroy the pro-socialist MPLA.

Questioned by the audience as to whether it didn't make some difference that FNLA and UNITA got their financial support from the CIA, South Africa, and NATO countries, while the MPLA was supported by the COMECON countries and other pro Socialist coun-

tries, Watson replied that it was "not an indictment of their politics that their monies came from various places..." The SWP's mayoral candidate Kontanis added: "It is not a principled question where you get your money, but what you do with it..." Or, added another SWP member, "what you say you will do with it." Jim Watson said that the statements of the three groups in Angola were virtually identical: "None of the movements has an anti-capitalist policy or program...all support sustained foreign investment..." As an indictment of the MPLA the speaker offered these events: 1. MPLA forced striking dockers to go back to work. 2. MPLA was willing to collect \$500 million from Gulf Oil. 3. MPLA called for the Portuguese troops to intervene in Angola. Discussion of these events was not permitted in the meeting (question period). Dockers striking while the young PRA government is under attack by the CIA financed FNLA from the north, and South African troops from the south would appropriately be viewed as CIA instigated activity. On the third point the MPLA called for intervention by the MFA, at a time when the MFA was closely aligned with the Portuguese Communist Party (the soldiers group which became the SUV). During that period the MFA published documents identifying the FNLA and UNITA as counter-gangs created by the CIA and the Portuguese secret police (respectively). As for point

number two, Watson was unaware of the new world economic order and what that represents for the development of the Third World; raw materials for industrial development: an international development bank type arrangement.

An SWP member summed up his group's position: "Americans shouldn't try to formulate Angolan policy. What is important is that all American involvement should cease. That is the radical demand."

Now what's a radical? It is this writer's objective view that a radical is a physically grown up proto human who has wet its diapers and screams loudly for someone to change them. The more loudly the radical screams, the more 'militant' it is. The radical says "the world is a mess" but rather than actually formulate program -- and take responsibility for the implementation of that program -- the radical says "do something!"

Several members of the SWP forum audience including this writer expected to hear a cautious defense of the MPLA -- the group which in fact has been the only movement in Angola which fought the NATO-backed Portuguese, while UPA-GRAE-FNLA-UNITA counter-gangs spent their time fighting the MPLA. This writer was not prepared for the SWP's moral-intellectual debasement which could not distinguish the MPLA from the CIA-South African financed counter-gangs in Angola.

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Pieter Bruegel must have attended an SWP forum in the 16th Century: Bruegel's 'Blind leading the blind' parable