MOVIMENTO POPULAR DE LIBERTACAO DE ANGOLA M.P.L.A.

STATEMENT

After five hundred years of colonialism and thirteen years of colonial war Portugal at last decided, through the voice of the President of the Republic, to recognise the right of the peoples of the colonies to independence.

The taking of this undoubtedly historic position, lays a real basis for a definitive solution to the colonial problem.

Only the defeat of fascism, brought about by the common struggle of the colonial peoples and the Portuguese people, could allow this to happen.

As MPLA has always said, the basic interests of the Angolan and Portuguese peoples are the convergent, and it is from a correct understanding of them that the bases of future cooperation between two independent countries can be established, based on the principles of non-interference, mutual respect and reciprocal advantages.

It has been MPLA's constant theory and practice not to put the colonial problem in terms of racial conflict. As in the past, the doors continue to be open for a fraternal union of all ethnic groups and races within the Angolan nation.

The carrying through of the negociations and later putting them into practice will prove the sincerity of the proposals of the Portuguese government.

For the Executive Committee of MPLA

Agostinho Neto
President

Lusaka, 1st August 1974.-AN/MPLA/DIP.-M.P.L.A. Box 1595 Lusaka Zambia.-