

Compatriot Holden Roberto  
President of the FNLA  
KINSHASA

Compatriot,

It has become almost commonplace to assert that, now more than ever before in our history, the situation has become such that it demands of everyone the greatest of sacrifices, both collective and individual.

It is certain that, lashed by the fire of our patriotic guerrillas, the colonialists are already beginning to retreat and are seeking the least shameful way out.

We have entered upon a new phase in our national liberation fight and the enemy are trying to escape defeat to our detriment. This has therefore become a time of extreme complexity and difficulties.

Only fraternal mutual aid between our two nationalist organisations can prevent the retreating enemy from wresting from the hands of the people the legitimate fruits of their heroic struggle. If, both in thought and in action, cooperation between us does not replace the hostility and even the attacks which have characterised our relations to this day, the doors will be left wide open to enemy machinations, and we shall <sup>all</sup> be the losers!

On 13 December 1972, we signed the already historic agreement which laid the first foundations for dynamic unity between our two organisations. This has caused ~~disarray~~ <sup>disarray</sup> in the ranks of the enemy and gladdened the hearts of our whole people, of our African brothers and of all our friends the world over. The hope of approaching victory then shone in the eyes of all our courageous militants!

But the relative success of our meetings on unity yielded place to a deterioration in our relations. And to such an extent that none of us could in all honesty venture to speak of the SCLA, the UMC or the PCA, the supreme organs of unity we had jointly promised to create as a result of the agreement of 13 December 1972. Unfortunately, we have even arrived at the deplorable situation where cadres of one of our two organisations - the MPLA - are to this day

languishing in the prisons of the other organisation (the FNLA)!

I think, dear Compatriot, that the time has come resolutely to overcome all the causes of the recent deterioration, out of love for our people and country, and to return without reservations to the correct path we took together from December 1972 to May 1973.

Despite certain difficulties we are coming up against at present within our organisation (the MPLA), difficulties we are sure of being able to overcome shortly, following our invariable practice of always thinking and acting without foreign interference, the leadership of the MPLA has specially authorised me to address this letter to you and to repeat that our Movement is at all times ready to resume the talks on unity.

As regards unity between the MPLA and the FLNA, the spirit of all our militants and cadres is such that even just a very few months before our Congress meets, we are prepared to take up the negotiations where they left off. This shows the great importance that MPLA members attach to the pressing need to unite all the Angolan fighting forces, the guarantee of the impetuous advance of our liberation war and of winning a free, sovereign, united, democratic, prosperous and African Angola.

At present everything is in favour of the liquidation of colonialism on our national soil. The Republic of Zaire, as has always been the case in the difficult moments of your National Front for Liberation (FNLA), continues to be ready to support you in the final assault, fraternal Zambia and Congo are always at the side of our people in arms, the independent countries of our continent vigorously support our liberating efforts, the countries of socialism will certainly not fail in their aid and support, and in Europe and America there are ever more governments which, under the pressure of the powerful voice of their peoples and stimulated by their own interests, find it necessary to answer NO to the stupid obstinacy of the Portuguese colonialists in Africa.

It is clear that all this, combined with the terrific thrust forward of our companions of the PAIGC and FRELIMO, means that the conditions are excellent for the unity of our two nationalist movements, ~~and for~~

representing a powerful means of curbing all machinations to demobilise our people, the basic force of our true independence!

Despite all their noisy statements, the supporters of the colonial-fascist Portuguese regime have come to the end of their tether and with feverish haste they are preparing a masquerade of ~~independence~~ self-determination, against our people and against our two organisations.

It is therefore up to us to see their game clearly and, overcoming our differing options, to take up again and further develop the points of agreement already reached by us in May 1973.

Compatriot, the people are carrying on their fight and waiting for us. Let us take a further patriotic step for them and, through the practice of national unity, finally show that the unjust things which are said abroad are no longer capable of making us forget our true enemies and, hence, are not worth thinking about.

Awaiting your nationalist reply, I should like to conclude with the watchwords most dear to our militants at this critical moment in our national life:

LONG LIVE MPLA-FNLA UNITY!  
LONG LIVE OUR NATIONAL LIBERATION WAR!  
LONG LIVE THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE!  
VICTORY IS CERTAIN!

Agostinho Neto  
President of the MPLA

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