

## ARMY OF ANGOLA NATIONAL LIBERATION

Press Conference by the Brigade-Major of the  
Army for the Liberation of Angola, Marcos KASSANGA

After the beginning of the armed fighting in Angola, this is the first time that I have the opportunity of addressing myself to the national and international public opinion. I must thank deeply the government and the people from the brother Republic of Congo-Léopoldville for their kindness and hospitality always shown towards our people and especially for their moral and material support contributing in a concrete way for our people's liberation.

Also, I want to thank all who were kind enough to come here, thus answering to the appeal from the Staff of the Army for the Liberation of Angola. At his press conference, I want to explain to the national and international public opinion some aspects of the armed fighting in Angola.

Some days ago, the Union of Angola Peoples, U.P.A., published a false press communiqué about the death of Commander JOAO BAPTISTA TRAVES PEREIRA, a member of the Staff and leader of the military operations within Angola. On its communiqué, the U.P.A. charged the Portuguese with Commander Baptista's death. An opposite communiqué by the Staff, last February 24, states no responsibility for the context of that UPA communiqué. The Staff communiqué has created serious divergence within the party. In order to prevent serious divergence of disastrous consequences within the party, a second communiqué was published by the Staff itself on February 26, expressing its desire to make an important statement about the conclusions of the Inquiry Committee nominated by the Staff to study in loco the death circumstances of one of our first leaders.

The U.P.A. political leadership aware of its complicity on Commander JOAO BAPTISTA's death prevented the above mentioned Committee from entering Angola. Not only the Committee met some difficulties, but the delegation from the locality where this martyr was murdered, was also imprisoned by the U.P.A. leaders settled at Fuesse (Congo-Angola border) to prevent it from reaching Léopoldville where it would provide concrete insights into Commander BAPTISTA's death. However, the U.P.A. plans baffled because one of the eyewitnesses of Commander Baptista's death succeeded in reaching Léopoldville and explained to the Staff Officers the circumstances of this national hero's death.

The Angolan popular insurrection against Portuguese slavish domination and exploitation sprang up a few days after a true murdering excited by the U.P.A. leadership of which Holden Roberto is the head. Holden has never desired to fight sincerely for the liberation of Angola, but rather to impose the Angolan people's fight in order to force the acceptance of the supremacy of his tribe, his religion - protestantism - and the French language to become the official language for the entire national territory. Moreover, he aimed at eliminating the Angolan élite because of his own lack of political maturity, fearing an opposition preventing the realization of his personal plans.

### THE STAFF OFFICERS

The Staff was formed by Commander BAPTISTA's and my own initiative and it was charged with the urgent framing of all Angolan nationalists. Meanwhile, Holden did not agree with the organization of the fight fearing that its development in such conditions could lead to an immediate independence, because he used this same fight for his personal profit. Because the Staff is the supreme responsible body for the military aspects of the revolution, it has deployed all its efforts to put in practice such plans and it sent to Angola Commander BAPTISTA on April 10, 1961.

Holden, afraid of Commander Baptista's activities, the activities for a true national cause, nominated himself Commander at a press conference held on June 7, 1961, in Léopoldville, with neither the consent nor the support of the personalities who made up the Staff of the Army for Angola National Liberation.

To prevent divergence within the party, the leaders of the Staff did not count the vague and foolish statements of a person without the least military knowledge self-styled Commander. This act aimed only at thwarting Commander BAPTISTA's task which end was to restaure the fraternal mode among all Angolans engaged with the struggle for the national and social liberation of Angola.

Informed about the framing of most nationalist fighting people, Holden pretended that all decisions concerning the framing of the people into the fight should come from him himself. Instead of cooperating to systematize the fight, he has always gone in the opposite way, fearing a great barrier to his personal ambitions.

Commander BAPTISTA, who has always endeavoured himself with sincerity and true devotion to carry on our plan aiming only at the liberation of Angola and not at satisfying Holden's pretensions, was an obstacle to this latter's plans of retarding the independence of Angola, of physical annihilation of all people with a character and political training superior to his own, of imposing his religion, the supremacy of his tribe and the commerce with the economic resources of the Revolution. The Staff engaged itself to maintain order and increase the fighting level within Angola in such a way that Holden considered it as of a subversive activity, opposite to his plans.

#### LET US PASS NOW TO THE FRATRICIDE FIGHT

Saturated with the fratricide war carried on in Angola by the U.P.A., under Holden Roberto's inspiration, the Staff of the Army of Angola National Liberation decided to denounce and tell all the truth to the national and international public opinion.

The armed fighting in Northern Angola is a true fratricide fight under all its aspects. About 8,000 (eight thousand) Angolans were savagely slaughtered by the tribalist elements of the U.P.A., foolishly armed and undisciplined at some extreme. This inhuman massacre of Angolans by the Angolans comes from a blind tribalism presenting itself under four aspects: religious, linguistic, ethnical and ideological. Religious tribalism because everybody must be protestant; ethnical tribalism because everybody must come from S. Salvador; linguistic tribalism because everybody must speak "Kikongo"; ideological tribalism because everybody must support Holden's interests.

Eleven months went by of fratricide fight excited by Roberto Holden supported by some countries not aware of his personality, his tribal character, his lack of political maturity and his total ignorance of the Angolan problems. Holden has succeeded in deceiving many countries that have supported him in his fratricide struggle, presenting himself as the Angolan leader - actually, he is not an Angolan, he has never been in Angola, he cannot speak Portuguese, the most spread language in the country he wants to rule. Then he takes profit of Angola to deceive the international public opinion to which he presents himself with a fantastic standard of life. There you have the adventurer, the bandit!

Holden Roberto practices a policy of intimidation among the exiled Angolans in the Republic of Congo (Léo), affirming that he has great influence among the imminent personalities of the government who, according to him, give a total support to his policy and that the local administrative authorities had intrusted him the management of the affairs of the Angolan refugees in the Congo.

For example, we know that the Republic of Tunisia and its President, Mr. Bourguiba, aid in a uninterested way the Angolan people's fight against Portuguese colonialism freely providing war material. However, Holden, in

order to demonstrate that these provisions of material from Tunisia were bought by him at a price of some thousand francs, he presented false documents now at the Staff's hands. Appeals for financial contributions addressed to the Angolan people and to the foreign countries have multiplied themselves in order to help the payment of these so styled expenses and other purchase of weapons, when actually the contributions turned into Holden's personal coffers.

Still pursuing the denunciation of the fratricide struggle, we confirm, besides the 8,000 Angolans massacred under Holden Roberto's secret orders, the murdering of Commander Ferreira and his column of 21 elements sent to Angola by the Peoples' Movement for the Liberation of Angola, the M.P.L.A., to reinforce the struggle for the liberation of Angola. The Commander and his companions were savagely hanged by the U.P.A. tribalist elements.

Now we regret Commander Baptista's death, leader of the military operations within Angola and member of the Staff of the Army of Angola National Liberation only because he did not agree with the Angolans' annihilation, because he could not speak "Kikongo", because he did not come from S. Salvador and because he was not protestant.

Will some countries still continue their support to his drama? All those who will should be called up to answer before the justice of the world History, one day. Because of the exposed facts, we ask the national and international public opinion to know the present situation in Angola and to support without any reserve the measures proposed by the Staff, supreme body of the Armed Revolution, on the following conditions:

- that henceforth, the Staff of the National Army of Angola withdraws completely its confidence from the Union of Angola Peoples, the U.P.A., and from its leaders because they have been the fomenters of the fratricide struggle in Angola since March 1961;

- it calls attention to the responsibility of U.P.A. leaders and their accomplices for the death of Commander Baptista and 8,000 Angolan nationalists from several social, ethnical and political strata, including 21 nationalists under the leadership of Commander Ferreira from M.P.L.A., all slaughtered by the same U.P.A. elements both foolishly armed and undisciplined;

- it call the attention of public opinion to the imminent danger threatening the lives of the Angolans fighting for their national liberation and it sees all the countries, especially the brother African countries, as responsible for this fratricide war;

- it appeals vehemently to all African-Asian countries actually willing to help the Angolan people for their liberation that all material resources for this end be provided to the nationalist movements with a sense of responsibility and engagement in the promotion of our people's unity;

- it reveals the constant massacre by those same elements of all Angolan patriots who do not support the fratricide fight led by Holden Roberto and his assistants within Angola and the murdering of Commander Baptista by treason;

- it denounces the meddling of Holden Roberto into the Army of Angola National Liberation, self-styling as Commander without the support and the permission from the Staff;

- it condemns energetically all those who henceforth continue to support Holden Roberto in the slaughter and extermination of the true Angolan people;

- ending, the Staff of the Army of Angola National Liberation appeals to all Angolan nationalist organizations and movements to support, without any reserve, its proposals and contributing by all means to maintain the Army of National Liberation and to create a FRONT OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION OF ANGOLA which corresponds honestly to the aspirations

of the Angolan people, impatient to free itself from the slavish Portuguese domination and exploitation and from the U.P.A. traitor leaders.

I beg you to accept my best thanks.

Léopoldville, March 3, 1962

For the Army of Angola National Liberation

COMMANDER MARCOS KASSANGA

Chief of the STAFF

( Copy from the French original signed by  
the speaker)

