



Gentlemen, good afternoon,

I would first like to thank you for having responded to the invitation which I sent you.

I would like to put into focus for you the situation within our country, on the military operations level as well as the international level.

Before I approach the subject of the Angolan problem, however, I would like here to express the sincere thanks of the struggling Angolan peoples to the Government and the people of the Republic of the Congo for the hospitality which they have always accorded us in the true spirit of African solidarity. We are determined to see to it that our presence on Congolese soil will not in any way hinder or embarrass the Congolese authorities who are already pre-occupied with so many problems of their own. In any event, the Union of the Populations of Angola and its militants will maintain a strict respect for the sovereignty of the country which so generously offers us its hospitality.

Before broaching the problems relative to the situation existing in Angola I would now like to clarify a most unfortunate and painful event which we consider a cause for national mourning but which certain persons have tried to exploit for their personal benefit. The death of our national hero, Commandant JOAO BAPTISTA, and the exploitation which has resulted from it. I should like to report the circumstances as they really occurred in the death of Commandant BAPTISTA.

As you know, Commandant BAPTISTA on 30 March 1961 had been given the responsibility for military operations of the Angolan National Liberation Army. It was in the course of one of these operations, on 6 February 1962 to be exact, that Commandant BAPTISTA fell on the field of honour at Bembe, after having carried out one of the most intense battles experienced to date by our army in its struggle for national liberation against the repression forces of the Portuguese.

The loss of Commandant BAPTISTA was sorely felt by all Angolans.

When the Angolan people had firmly decided to avenge its hero, by increasing its rate of attack against the Portuguese occupying forces, certain persons, without the most minute speck of decency, wanted to exploit the death of Commandant BAPTISTA and thus to divide the people at a time when they had been cruelly

affected by one of the best of their sons. It was within the scope of this systematic denigration of the Angolan Liberation National Army and certainly at the instigation of the occupying power, that one CASSANGA, in a statement to the Press, blamed the death of Commandant BAPTISTA on the Union of the Populations of Angola. I need not go into detail on accusations which were as idiotic as they were untrue, accusations made by a person who is in the pay of elements with interests opposed to those of the Angolan people. It suffices here to recall the prestige and influence enjoyed by Commandant BAPTISTA within the combattant ranks. It was thus that, having learned of his death, the Executive Office of the Union of the Populations of Angola Supreme Organ of the Angolan Revolution, gave him a post-mortem promotion to the rank of Colonel. One had to have the greatest disrespect for Angolans and international opinion to believe that such insensate and odious accusations could achieve any credibility.

I recall, furthermore, that this CASSANGA who accuses us today of a thousand crimes, was named by decision of the Executive Office of the Union of the Populations of Angola as Chief of Staff of the Angolan Liberation National Army, his nomination having been announced by myself during a press Conference which I held on 7 June 1961 in Leopoldville. Therefore he shares fully in the responsibility for the events which he attributes to us and which he is perfectly aware never existed except in his own imagination and that of his employers.

In any case, the Angolan people, united by the Union of the Populations of Angola and supporting the Angolan Liberation National Army, its military organisation, continue the fight for independence, without pausing to worry about the mad rumblings of a CASSANGA, a traitor to the cause and conscious of his acts, except that he only represents himself, since he was removed from his functions by the Executive Office of the Union of the Populations of Angola, the Supreme Organ of the Angolan Revolution, which had named him to it.

I should like now to get to the primary subject of this press conference, that is, the current situation of the war being carried out by the military organisation of the Union of the Populations of Angola, and our activity on the external plane.

The Angolan Liberation National Army, the military arm of the Union of the Populations of Angola representing all of the tribes of Angola, including the North, the Center, the East and the South, has continued since 15 March 1961 to carry out intensive battles causing increasingly serious losses to the Portuguese occupying forces. I should like to cite a few of the figures which we recently received from our military organisation .

23 Feb. 1962, the Portuguese forces suffered the following losses :

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Mucondo | = 11 dead |
| Cambamba | = 6 dead |
| Quitexe | = 13 dead |
| Zombo Macando | = 2 " |
| Noqui | = 31 " |

On 24 February 1962

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Longa | = 1 dead |
| Vila Viçosa | = 10 dead |
| Cambamba | = 7 " |
| Roga Santa Izabel | more than 15 dead, the plantation was completely burned down and food taken away. |

On 25 February 1962

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Buela | = 11 dead |
| Lucunga | = 4 " |
| Bembe | = 6 " |
| Colonato de Loge | = 5 " |
| Quipedro (3 successive attacks) | = 8 " |

On 29 February 1962

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Ambriz | = 3 dead and 1 wounded |
| Zalala | = 1 dead |
| Toto | = 9 " and 1 aircraft seriously damaged. |
| Roga Santarem | = 1 dead |
| Vila Viçosa | = 2 dead |

As you can see, the Angolan people, strong in the struggle, are more determined than ever to liberate themselves, and if war engenders additional suffering to the life of privation which our people have known for five centuries, it has also consolidated the Angolan nation. There is a real national feeling among Angolan people today. I could give thousands of examples showing where men of different tribes are fighting side by side and have saved each other's lives. Certain among them have even sacrificed themselves for those who, because of the colonial presence, had been considered traditional rivals. We are convinced that this is the element which produces and forms the principle of the Nation. Obviously, we are not so stupid as to believe that all tribal rivalry is already completely obliterated, but we are sure that the revolutionary war which the colonial system of the Portuguese has imposed on us will serve to consolidate, just as in other cases with which we are familiar, thanks to the history of liberation of colonized peoples, the unifying breath.

The forces of the Union of the Populations of Angola which control an important zone of the North of the country are accomplishing a far-reaching task. They continually confiscate the the harvest of the Portuguese colonials, thus restoring the products of the land to the true proprietors of that land. In other cases, the plantations have been purely and simply destroyed in order to deprive the enemy of them. The destruction of more than a thousand coffee plantations, sugar plantations, of cacao, cotton and other plantations, have caused serious losses to the Portuguese economy of exploitation, an economy which has always been basically stimulated by exports from Angola in exchange for goods from other countries. Already poor, Portugal is suffering the counter-attack of our desire for liberation and we shall soon perceive the difficulties which the Portuguese will experience in facing up to the cost of a long war, the reflexion of what the Union of the Populations of Angola and its thousands of adherents have accomplished on the battlefield.

On the international plane, we have won a resounding victory. 99 voices gave enormous weight to the passage of the Afro-Asian resolution demanding that Portugal cease its armed action in Angola and that she accept the right of the Angolan people to self-determination and independence.

Elsewhere, I would remind you that the African Trade Union Conference held in Dakar adopted a resolution demanding that each African State donate 1% of its national budget to the Angolan people for its struggle for freedom.

Since we speak of Africa, I cannot but render the greatest homage to our gallant Algerian brothers who, after so much voluntary sacrifice, so many privations and tears, have seen their efforts crowned by the explicit recognition of their right to national independence. This vivid example represents a stimulus for us and demonstrates once more that, once a people is determined to liberate itself and takes up the struggle seriously, there is no other issue than the restoration of its sovereignty and independence. Let this example serve as a lesson to Mr. Salazar's Portugal and to all other colonial powers.

At a time when colonized people are preparing for their accession to independence, it is unthinkable that we who have already paid a heavy tribute to freedom are still living in slavery. This is what we mean when we say that the war will not cease.

Gentlemen, through your good offices I am launching an appeal to all good people the world over who have shown a sympathy for our liberation struggle, that they commemorate with us on 15 March 1962 the first anniversary of the beginning of fight for the independence of our country.

I thank you in advance.-