

question of forming a party, and discussions have already been initiated at the local level of the MPLA organization. Lara: "There are various opinions about what such a party should be like and what place it should fill, and for that reason congress has to decide this. Earlier on the dominant opinion in the Central Committee was that the MPLA should be transformed into a party. But now more and more members seem to think that the MPLA should continue to exist as a movement, and at the same time a completely new party should be formed. In that case it will be a Marxist-Leninist cadre party. We feel that it would be politically unwise to abolish the MPLA, which has such a good reputation among the population of this country, in order to turn it into a party."

The May 27 coup attempt was probably the second most serious threat that has ever confronted the MPLA, surpassed only by the war. Despite the continued fragility of the economy, the demise of a major subversive network embedded in the country leaves the MPLA in a better position. Without such a subversive network in place, the military threats represented by the CIA's anti-MPLA gangs squatting on Angola's borders have only a nuisance value and do not represent a significant threat.

By successfully marshalling its forces against overwhelming odds to defeat attempts to destroy it on several occasions, the MPLA leadership has established itself as the cornerstone of the frontline African states, and by

doing so has changed entirely the geometry of the southern African situation. None of Henry Kissinger's or Zbigniew Brzezinski's schemes to break Angola have succeeded, and consequently the other frontline states have remained firm.

The inability of South Africa's traditional ally, the U.S., to subvert the frontline states and therefore guarantee the continued existence of South Africa as it is presently constituted, combined with the pledges of military aid to the frontline states from socialist and African countries, has changed the strategic picture completely for South Africa. If South Africa wants to avoid a suicidal war and develop economically, it will have to reorient towards non-Wall Street forces in Europe and the Soviet Union. It is precisely to prevent this from happening that the same forces ultimately behind the Alves coup attempt in Angola, the Rockefellerers, are now inciting race riots in South Africa.

The continued existence of Angola will serve as the basis for liberating the rest of Africa. Ever since independence in the 1960s the CIA has used counterinsurgent synthetic ideologies to keep African countries controllable. These ideologies of "negritude" and "African socialism," variations of which were used by Alves as well, are now being attacked openly by the Angolan leadership, and they have promised to carry this issue to the Organization of African Unity as a whole (see box page 4).

—Douglas DeGroot

OAU Recognizes Patriotic Front

The Organization of African Unity summit meeting in Libreville, Gabon on July 4 gave exclusive recognition to the Patriotic Front liberation movement which is conducting the guerrilla war against the white minority regime of Ian Smith in Rhodesia. The pro-socialist Patriotic Front already has the exclusive backing of the five "frontline" states bordering or near Rhodesia.

The OAU's action is a serious defeat for the counterinsurgency campaign — politely referred to as a "peace initiative" — being conducted on behalf of the Carter Administration by British Foreign Secretary David Owen, since it removes from consideration the State Department-allied Rhodesian nationalists Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Reverend Mr. Ndabaningi Sithole. The removal of Muzorewa and Sithole precludes any attempt to rerun the Angolan civil war scenario where U.S. arms, funding, and mercenaries were conduited to the CIA's liberation groups the FNLA (National Front for the Liberation of Angola) and UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) in an effort to prevent the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) from becoming the government.

The Patriotic Front has already rejected two out of three of Dr. Owen's melodramatically introduced "final proposals" for a peaceful transition to majority rule in Rhodesia, including his proposal for a British Commonwealth military force to maintain law and order during the transition. A Patriotic Front spokesman

recently noted that the precedent of the United Nations peacekeeping force in the Congo in the 1960s — which resulted in the death of the Prime Minister, Patrice Lumumba, and ultimately the installation of Rockefeller puppet Mobutu Sese Seko — was a "bad experience" which his organization did not wish to see repeated.

Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, who introduced and organized for the resolution to recognize the Front, also replied to Dr. Owen's constant requests to "tone down" the guerrilla war for the sake of his plan in a comment after the resolution was passed. "We will not stand in the way of the Anglo-American initiative," said Kaunda, omitting any hint of endorsement, "provided they do not stand in the way of our own strong support for the armed struggle in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)."

The endorsement is also a serious blow to Ian Smith's position. Smith is now beset by a rapidly collapsing economy, a rapidly deteriorating military situation, and a rapidly disintegrating political base. One of his former Ministers, Wickus de Kock, has resigned from Parliament and is packing to leave the country. Smith's chances of getting any credible outside support for a separate settlement with Muzorewa and Sithole have been diminished by the OAU's action, although he may still try. He is left now with the choice of capitulating, or provoking such a bloodbath that, he hopes, the West or South Africa will have to step in.

OAU Resolution

The resolution passed by the OAU expresses

satisfaction with the way the Patriotic Front is pursuing the armed struggle, urges Rhodesian nationalists to work in the Front, and asks OAU members not to support anyone outside that organization. A standing invitation to Muzorewa and Sithole to join the Front has been left open, further discrediting any support they may receive if they don't accept it. "We have cleared the decks for full-scale warfare," said one OAU delegate, reflecting the prevalent view that the Anglo-American initiative is not a serious effort. "We are united in seeking a military solution in Zimbabwe."

Until the passage of the resolution on the Patriotic Front, the Organization's meeting was widely reported as an ineffectual and inconsequential gathering, which the anti-Soviet "moderate" states dominated. The resolution itself was widely misreported in the British and American press as "ambiguously worded," merely because it offered Muzorewa and Sithole a chance to redeem themselves, ignoring the fact that this openness was the basis for founding the Front last year during the Geneva conference on Rhodesia.

In the early stages of the conference, the *New York Times* reported that the "more radical countries have determined that they have been outmaneuvered and are outnumbered by the moderates, and, rather than face a showdown, have decided to send delegations headed by men of ministerial rank..." rather than heads of state. Wide coverage was also given to the anti-Soviet ravings of Sudanese President Jaafar al-Nimeiry, who denounced the Soviet Union's "new socialist imperialism" in Africa. "Let us stand in solidarity against this new invasion aimed at impeding our march forward," he said, denouncing, among other things, Moscow's attacks on CIA agent Santiago Carrillo of the Spanish Communist Party and recent shipments of Soviet arms to Ethiopia that enable that country to fight several secessionist movements receiving sanctuary and considerable aid from Nimeiry himself.

In Rhodesia, the chairman of Prime Minister Smith's ruling Rhodesia Front party, Desmond Frost, resigned

over the weekend of July 2-3, to join 12 other dissident right wing members of the party who see Smith as "soft on terrorism." The resignations, according to British press reports, are merely the visible manifestation of the disintegration of the Rhodesia Front, which has ruled the country since its illegal declaration of independence in 1965. The dissidents' newly-formed "Rhodesian Action Party" is demanding an all-out war on the "terrorists," and the repression of related civilian political parties inside Rhodesia. The British conservative *Daily Telegraph* June 6 also reported on a "new breed of increasingly vociferous military commanders" including Chief of Staff Peter Walls and Army Commander John Hickman. "Growing dissatisfaction with Ian Smith's leadership among Rhodesia's hardliners," the *Christian Science Monitor* reported on the same day, "could lead to the collapse of Mr. Smith's government and its replacement by a military government, some analysts in southern Africa say." The article notes the support the Action Party has among the military.

Under pressure from the right, Smith may now be considering engineering his own demise, to be replaced by a blackface puppet government held up by the army. Both Smith and Sithole have denounced the OAU's endorsement of the Patriotic Front, and Smith announced July 6 that he was prepared to let Sithole reenter the country, indicating his willingness to negotiate with him. "One of the things in favor of Sithole is he is publicly condemning the Patriotic Front and also publicly condemning the 'front line' presidents because of their association with the Patriotic Front." The leader of the African National Council in Rhodesia which is associated with one branch of the Patriotic Front, charged on the same day that Rhodesian police have arrested more than 200 of his officials and supporters recently, and further charged that Muzorewa, Sithole and Senator Chief Chirau, one of the black members Smith appointed to the Rhodesian Parliament, were meeting secretly with Smith to set up their version of black majority rule.

— Peter Buck