

## Special Report:

# Portugal: Civil War Is Already On

Oct. 28 (IPS) — In Faro, a city deep in Portugal's south, Communist Party cadre led local popular assembly formations in the seizure of the local civil government headquarters this week. The action, triggered by the Sixth Provisional Government's replacement of the left-wing civil governor with a reactionary, was carried out under the slogans, "Popular power to victory! Don't obey fascists' orders!" The occupation forces, which reportedly were supported by the area's soldiers, were attacked by fascist gangs led by Socialist Party and Popular Democratic Party (PPD) agents. Military units were then forced to intervene, and latest reports of the outcome of the confrontation are contradictory. Similar incidents are reported in Lisbon and Braga.

With the CIA-mapped Social Democratic path of Portugal's current government now totally discredited, both the Communist Party and its allies and NATO and its Portuguese agents are preparing their forces for imminent, all-out war, as the initial skirmishes are already beginning.

The MDP, a party closely aligned to the Communist Party, put out a communique Oct. 24 declaring that "this whole situation is unsustainable, and a solution will have to be found in the short term that is favorable to the interests of the working masses...one that ousts from power all the civilians and military men who oppose the revolution." Another group close to the Communists, the FSP, stressed the necessity for "the working class to be ready to take power from the bourgeoisie," which it said will no doubt follow a right-wing coup attempt "that could come in weeks, or days, or even hours."

Pro-Communist Gen. Vasco Gonçalves, the head of the pro-working-class Fifth Government who is certain

to figure prominently in any new worker-installed regime, is reported to be receiving a steady stream of visitors from the former Fifth Division (a pro-Communist military body abolished by right-wing officers two months ago) at a fort just outside of Lisbon. The nation's trade union confederation, Intersindical, ordered its members to maintain a state of "vigilance" in a communique released today, implying the danger of a right-wing coup attempt.

The other side in the class war now shaping up is also preparing for battle. The head of the Portuguese army, NATO agent Gen. Carlos Fabaio, has just arrived in West Germany to confer with top military officials there and to work out arms deals for supplying weapons to the last batch of right-wing Angolan refugees, scheduled to arrive in Portugal by the end of this week.

Fabaio will meet in Bonn with West German Defense Minister George Leber, a top NATO operative. He will also visit with notorious ex-Nazi Lieut. Gen. Hildebrandt, who was last seen in the Iberian peninsula last year marching in a pro-Franco parade in Madrid and proudly wearing his Iron Cross.

Fabaio's itinerary also includes a meeting with the heads of a major arms manufacturer. It is by now an open secret that West German arms are being conduited to both the mercenary forces of the CIA's Angolan counter-gang, the FNLA, and the Agency's "Portuguese Liberation Army" front led by Portugal's fascist ex-president, Gen. Antonio de Spínola.

Fabaio's return to Lisbon Oct. 31, probably with an arms deal in hand, will coincide with the termination of the refugee airlift from Angola to Portugal.

Many of these refugees, NATO hopes, will be recruited into the Portuguese government's new AMI shock-

troop apparatus and assorted right-wing gangs, and armed with West German weapons. It was returned Angolan refugees, for example, who on Sunday destroyed the Lisbon offices of the pro-Soviet Angolan liberation movement, the MPLA.

As civil war becomes an immediate question, the NATO forces are junking their "pluralism," "social democracy" rhetoric and reverting to slogans worthy of Czar Nicholas II. The Lisbon weekly Expresso, which is controlled by the right-wing PPD, a close ally of the CIA-funded Socialist Party, has no apparent qualms about printing a caricature showing the PPD and the Socialists marching heroically into the battle against international Communism — behind the American flag and the CIA's banner! With similar candor, Expresso this week published all the gory details of the agent government's planned "emergency austerity program," including increased taxes on wages, freezing of collective bargaining contracts and forced reductions of imports. Expresso goes on to itemize the military hardware and "operational capability" of the country's leading right and left army regiments.

Informed observers are currently watching the Portuguese-Spanish border as a possible CIA-provoked flare point. As a result of the recent high-level military shake-up in Spain engineered by the CIA, two of that country's most paranoid, ultra-right generals have been appointed heads of the two key military regions bordering on Portugal, Galicia in the northwest and Sevilla in the south. In view of Spain's political instability on the eve of Franco's death, it is possible that a provocation against Spain from "Red Portugal," run by the CIA, could provoke a Spanish intervention with disguised NATO support.