

# US AND USSR GRAB FOR ANGOLA

Once again the U.S. government is up to its waist in a war in someone else's country. Once again the newspapers are full of talk about the "National interest", references to "aid and advisors" and official denials. Once again it has become necessary for the American people to oppose the ruling class' military adventures.

This time it is Angola, on the west coast of southern Africa, that the American capitalists hope to keep under control. For years, the U.S. government aided Portugal to maintain its colonial rule in Angola and U.S. businesses profited. Now, they have helped stir up a civil war there between organizations which all had fought to free Angola from Portuguese colonialism.

The U.S. government admits having sent \$35 million in cash and arms in the last three months alone to the groups it backs, UNITA and the FNLA. Another \$25 million is on its way, and just recently Ford called for sending another \$50 million, with another \$80 million for Zaire(which has been heavily involved on the U.S. side). The U.S. also has a friend in the racist settler regime in South Africa which has invaded Angola, and is taking part in the fighting there.

The U.S. capitalist class has a rival in its attempts to deny the Angolan people independence and control the country. This rival is the Soviet Union, which because it is now capitalist and not socialist, has become the U.S.'s chief competitor in international robbery. Only after the Portuguese were beaten and had made arrangements to grant independence to a coalition government made up of all three groups, did the superpowers jump in with large-scale "aid" to play on the differences between the groups.

The Soviets have been pouring "aid" to one organization, the MPLA. They have been pouring guns, tanks, rockets, even MIG jets into the Angolan capital, Luanda, which is held by the MPLA. During the long war against Portugal, they had never provided the liberation forces with such weapons. They have also brought in 9500 troops(with another 1,000 on the way)from Cuba, whose economy is permanently mortgaged to the capitalists of the USSR and whose leader, Fidel Castro, has pledged "Cubans will never be disloyal or ungrateful" to Brezhnev and company.

The U.S. and USSR each point to the involvement of the other side and its sidekicks in the fighting to justify their own role. What both are after, however, is control over the tremendous wealth of Angola and its strategic location. Angola has oil, gold, diamonds, iron and other minerals in abundance and soil and climate so favorable for agriculture it is already the world's third biggest coffee producer. Its location is important both for naval ports in the south Atlantic and for influencing all of southern Africa.

As the war in Angola continues, so does the extent of U.S. involvement. There is a lot of debate within the American ruling class over how best to proceed, but one thing is clear. They are ready to sacrifice the lives of tens of thousands of Angolans to advance their interests, and, depending on developments, may even send in American forces to strengthen their bid.

The only solution to the current conflict in Angola is for both of the superpowers, and the other countries they are working through, to get the hell out and let the Angolan people settle their differences. More and more the feeling of the American people is to keep our government from carving up another country.

**SUPERPOWERS---GET OUT OF ANGOLA!  
END ALL U.S. AID/C.I.A.---OUT NOW!  
NO MORE RECRUITMENT OF MERCENARIES!**

Those who are interested in working with us on this issue, or would like to find out more, should contact us at either 995-8957 or 995-0536.

---REVOLUTIONARY STUDENT BRIGADE