

1967 REVOLUTION AND RECONSTRUCTION

PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT LUSAKA ON THURSDAY
24th FEBRUARY 1967
BY Dr. JONAS SAVIMBI - PRESIDENT OF UNITA
AFTER HIS 4 MONTHS STAY IN FREE ZONES OF
ANGOLA

Messrs, Journalists and Friends,

I thank you very much for coming to attend our Press Conference. I am happy to be back in Lusaka and to exchange with other freedom fighters our experience in our common struggle.

I take this opportunity to extend to you all an invitation for any one who would like to visit our zones to realise "in visu" how far we have gone in our fight against Portuguese colonialism.

The Constitution of UNITA calls for the establishment of UNITA head-quarters inside the country. It is why I went there to start the process of establishing our headquarters in Angola more especially in Luso the capital of Moxico Province.

The force which is fighting the Portuguese soldiers in Angola is the perfect organisation of Angola masses. We have local committees with chairmen, Secretaries, Treasurers Women and Youth Brigades. The duties of the local Committees are :

1. To explain to the people why we have to fight the Portuguese colonialism. The people to understand and know WHO IS THE ENEMY.
2. To create new branches throughout the country.
3. To organise a literacy campaign.
4. To improve the methods of cultivation and storage of products.
5. To give informations about the movements of Portuguese soldiers.
6. To create sanitary bodies to take care of the people because the Portuguese government had not at all built any hospitals in the vast rural areas. The local committees are helped by the MILITIAS

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7. To help the people to protect the crops and to defend the masses in case of attacks.

The guerrillas are the best trained and the best equiped groups of our armed forces for National Liberation. We have one group of 25 guerrillas in each community of 20 villages. We have altogether 64 guerrillas detachments making a total of 1'000 guerrillas. They are now better equiped than they were some 6 months back. We never got any assistance from any foreign country. All the arms we have were captured from Portuguese soldiers.

While in Luso I had notised the presence of South African Officers in the Portuguese army who are improving the INFORMATION SERVICE. The Katangese gendarmes of Moise Tchombe are still in Angola, somewhere near Nova-Chaves less than 100 miles from the Katanga border. Our attack at Teixeira de Sousa on Christmas Day has embarrassed very much these mercenaries who are now returning to Luso. UNITA guerrillas are preparing to launch an attack against them.

The Portuguese arms that we have captured are from Nato countries as well as Israel. While infantry troops are equiped with Nato arms, the paratroops are equiped with UZI guns from Israel.

It is clear that Portugal alone could not stand the pressure from African Nationalists. The imperialists still dream to exploit all the wealth of Angola quietly. We tell then all more particularly, the Nato allies and Krupp of West German that their guns will not prevent Angola.

It is high time that they realise that there is no weapon which can fight against the will of people to freedom.

Portuguese soldiers in Angola are today about 85.000. They burn entire villages, massacre innocent people, steal cattle and more than that, they rape African women.

UNITA has today 2.900 branches covering 5 provinces of Moxico, Lunda, Cuando-Cubango, Bie and Malange. 500.000 people are under UNITA control. We appeal to African States and to all peace-loving to bring their assistance to our struggle.

The President has presented to the Conference photos taken in Luso the capital of Moxico Province, Dala in Lunda Province, photos of burned houses, UNITA nurses treating the masses, UNITA guerrillas in action, raped women (on one photo a Portuguese soldier was photographed with a telephoto ill treating the raped African woman). All these photos can be asked for from UNITA office P.O. Box 2246, Lusaka, Zambia.

The Conference was attended by the representatives of SWAPO, PAC, COREMO and ANC (South African) and hundreds of UNITA supporters in the capital of Zambia.