

This Is Where Granite Wall Policies Lead!

STOP THE SLAUGHTER IN ANGOLA!

People Massacred By Portuguese Tyrants

WITH arms supplied by its NATO allies, Portugal is committing mass murder in its African colony of Angola. In two months over 30,000 have been massacred—some put the figure as high as 50,000. Thousands more are in concentration camps.

Troops and supplies are being poured in. The Portuguese have just launched an offensive which they claim will exterminate all those who oppose their rule.

The events in Angola are a direct sequel to the refusal by the Portuguese authorities last year to conduct peaceful discussions with the leaders of the popular movement in Angola.

Since then there has followed a series of brutal and murderous actions by the Portuguese settlers, police, army and air force.

In June 1960, 30 Africans were killed and 200 injured when a crowd went to the district office at Catete to demand the release of the arrested leader of the People's Liberation movement. On the following day troops

and Algerian wars, has razed villages to the ground, burned men, women and children in an orgy of brutality that defies description.

Eye-witness Account

In a recent issue of the New Statesman and Nation, a missionary who has just returned to England after spending many years in Angola writes:

Many Europeans have died in Angola since March 15. The world knows this, and has seen some of the pictures of the atrocities. But there are no pictures and little publicity concerning the counter-atrocities, carried out by the armed civilians of 'vigilantes' whose terrorism is far more efficient and deadly for being enforced with the weapons of modern warfare—automatic guns and napalm bombs.

To kill with knife or panga produces more blood and more violent emotional reactions. The hand-to-hand struggle is more personal and primitive (and needs greater courage), but is it any more heinous than the impersonal and indiscriminate bombing of villages, the hunting of Africans 'like game' and the mass shooting of suspects?

Fear and Vengeance

In the African suburbs of Luanda in the days following the uprising, fear and vengeance nightly took their toll when white civilians broke into the homes of innocent people, dragged them into the street and shot them. The police came: but only to carry away the bodies.

A brother of the chauffeur of the British Consul, a qualified nurse working in a government hospital, was one such victim. His crime: that he was black—and educated. As an immigrant said recently to a foreign technician, 'Some of these Africans speak better Portuguese than I do.' And it was perfectly clear from the intonation of his voice that to him this was an affront. The present struggle has proved a first-class opportunity for ridding oneself of such challenging competitors.

Reconciliation

One case which came to my knowledge concerned a leading African in a village where there was no spontaneous outbreak on March 15. Disturbed by reports of Europeans having been killed in nearby plantations, he offered his services to the local administrator in the cause of reconciliation.

He was pounced on by the local militia and, with other leading men, accused of complicity in the revolt, beaten and shot. Their bodies were thrown into the nearby river.

In another case, two young lads were sent by their elders to investigate the smoke rising from a

neighbouring village. They found the army burning houses and destroying goods and chattels. The lads were arrested, taken by jeep back to their village and shot as a warning.

The Guns Spoke

A third case: an evangelist was arrested and taken to the local European playground. A group of his parishioners was assembled, but not for worship. 'These are people to whom you preached,' came the hard voice, 'but they were deaf, and this is what we do to the deaf.' The guns spoke and the moans of the dying mingled with the echoes.

Deaf! For how long must men remain deaf to the agony of Angola? Rigid censorship has muzzled liberal opinion for more than a generation in Portugal itself. Now that the muzzle is in danger of slipping, a bullet is safer.



Vicky in the New Statesman

A COUNTRY LOOTED BY IMPERIALISM

PORTUGAL is now faced with a national uprising in Angola.

But the responsibility is not Portugal's alone.

In this country of Angola, where slavery has continued to exist up to the present day, Britain is involved up to the neck.

Apart from British banking and commercial ties with Portugal, big British companies are directly concerned with the exploitation of Portuguese colonies in Africa.

Investors

The powerful BRITISH monopoly Tanganyika Concessions is the dominant interest in the Angola railway network. De Beers, with substantial SOUTH AFRICAN and British capital, exploits the diamond mines.

The WEST GERMANS are involved, too. The valuable iron ore in Angola is being exploited under a recent agreement with Krupps. The UNITED STATES is a growing investor in Angola and is prospecting for oil.

Portugal does not stand on her own. Her power in Africa is propped up by the bigger imperialists. She is part of the network of military alliances of the "free world."

"The worst thing about Portuguese Africa is forced labour," wrote John Gunther in his book "Inside Africa." "It is not quite—but almost—a form of slavery. The man becomes a chattel."

Basil Davidson, writing after his visit to the Congo and Angola in

1956 was more outspoken. "There are now more slaves in Angola than there were 50 years ago."

"Only the dead escape forced labour." The words are those of Henrique Galvao, the former colo-

JOHN SIDDON

writes about the way the people of Angola have been exploited by foreign capitalists

Not only are the African people robbed of their labour and their freedom, their land too has been taken. The most fertile areas have been grabbed by the big European plantation owners or by the Portuguese settlers.

In Angola 99 per cent of the population is illiterate. Out of a school-age population in Angola of over 1,250,000 children, fewer than 50,000 find a place.

For decades the Portuguese claimed that Angola has been and always would be trouble free and happy under their rule. It has been a "zone of silence."

But the lie does not bear examination. The silence has been that of the Portuguese and Western Press.

The people of Angola have repeatedly struggled against their terrible conditions throughout the imperialist epoch.

Resistance

Apart from the resistance to slavery in earlier days, the Bailundu war in 1902, the Butu rebellion in 1913-15 were followed by other stormy and bloody struggles for freedom.

Angola is part of Africa. The peasants and migrant workers can no longer tolerate imperialism and in Angola they are shaking Portuguese colonialism to its foundations. They are doing so under the leadership of mass organisations united in their determination to free their country.



raided the villages and massacred or arrested everyone they could lay their hands on and burned down the dwellings.

A fresh clash took place in February in the capital, Luanda, when over 40 Africans were killed and many more injured.

On March 15 forced labourers at a coffee plantation approached their employer for pay. His reply was insults and the shooting dead of several of their members. By next morning, says one correspondent, Europeans on neighbouring plantations were shooting at every African they saw.

Since then napalm bombing, a hideous reminder of the Korean

Robbed

Political, social and trade union rights are completely denied the Africans.

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