

Some casualties reported

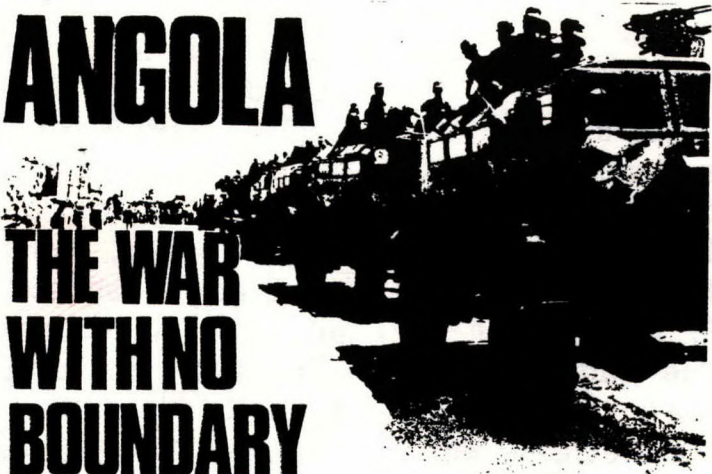
'Cuban-backed forces driven off'

SA units engaged in two Angola battles
Unita claims big victory in bush battle

MPLA in massive attack on Unita

ANGOLA

THE WAR WITH NO BOUNDARY



Defence Force armour involved in fighting, says radio

SAAF hits Angola — claim

Confusion reigns over SA's part in Angola battle

Why the people of Cuba are committed to helping out

WHAT ARE SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS DOING IN ANGOLA - A COUNTRY OVER 1 000 kms FROM SOUTH AFRICA'S BORDERS?

The official answer is the alleged presence of SWAPO and ANC bases in the area. Yet this is an area the South African Government boasts is completely under the control of UNITA.

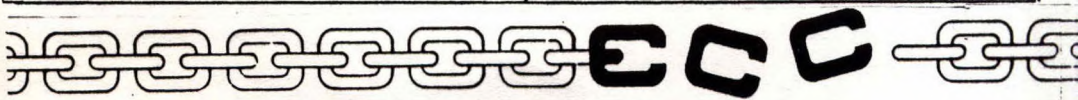
Ten days ago, the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, provided us with an answer. He confirmed that the SADF is playing an active role in the war in Angola. He admitted that South Africa was providing "moral, material and humanitarian" aid to UNITA, and that it was not in South Africa's interests to stand indifferent towards them. What we must realise is that this is not the first time the SADF has intervened in the Angolan Government's battle against the UNITA forces ...

+ 1975: South Africans crossed from Namibia into Angola, in an American initiated campaign to assist UNITA in their campaign against MPLA Government. The Cubans agreed to help the Angolan Government in response to this invasion and 20 000 Cubans were sent to Angola.

Since that time, Cuba has vowed to stay in Angola until the MPLA Government is able to defend itself against aggression from South Africa, which has repeatedly been accused of attacking Angolan villages, ostensibly in pursuit of SWAPO guerillas. An example of this occurred in May 1978, when South African troops allegedly killed 600 Namibian refugees near Cassinga in Angola.



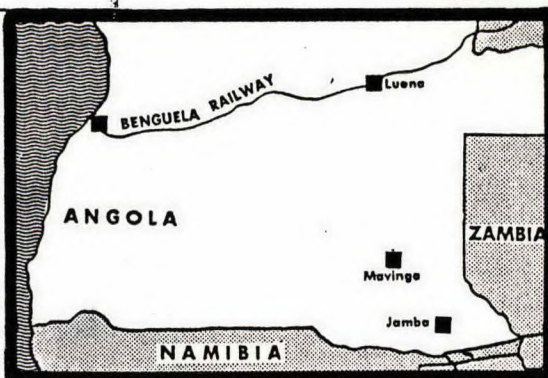
Sept. 1985 The MPLA Government launched an offensive against UNITA a



large-scale operation directed at Cazondo and Mavinga in Eastern Angola. In this government attack, the SADF intervened when UNITA's future began to look seriously threatened. It helped destroy 80 to 90 army vehicles and 6 Angolan helicopters were shot down.

This constituted a fatal blow for the government forces and halted the offensive. UNITA however, had lost between 50 to 60% of its combat capability. Its forces were crippled. It was this 'crippling' of UNITA's forces which prompted the United States into giving open military support for UNITA some 4 or 5 months later.

Sept. 1987 The cycle repeats itself. The SADF actively intervened in the Angolan war after the MPLA forces engaged themselves in operations



against UNITA. There are apparently 4 SADF battalions within the Angolan borders at this moment.

What is the purpose of the SADF's involvement in Angola or in Namibia, for that matter? It seems as if the SADF is prepared to commit itself to a war in Angola in order to ensure that the Angolan Government is unable to govern its own territory effectively; and in order to thwart pressure for the implementation of United Nations' Resolution 435 in Namibia.

South Africans are distanced from the horrors of war in Angola by strict press censorship. In Angola itself however, the war is a reality. The cost of the Angolan war has been devastating to the people of that country - 60 000 Angolans have died in the war, 750 000 are homeless and 150 000 have fled to neighbouring states. These figures are official from General Malan himself, however, what he fails to mention is South Africa's role in this tragedy through both its direct intervention and its support for UNITA.

It is worth remembering that during World War II South African troops were granted the right not to serve outside the borders of South Africa. Today, no such right is afforded to conscripts.

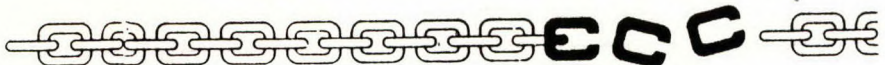
The SADF has undoubtedly suffered casualties in this recent battle, described as the largest land battle in the history of Africa, south of the Sahara. How many of these casualties have been conscripted youth, with no say over how they serve, or where they serve their country?

It is a pathetic situation which conscripts are forced into. Forced to die or kill in a war in another country, for a cause they do not necessarily support.



**TONITE!
MEETING
at 8:30
GREAT HALL**

YOU KNOW WHAT ECC CALLS FOR!!



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