

“Terrorist Centres” of UNITA and MNR “Operate Openly” in Lisbon

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Text of commentary by Yuriy Konstantinov:

The parliamentary group of the PCP has submitted for debate in the Assembly of the Republic a bill seeking to ban the hatching of terrorist acts against Angola and Mozambique from Portuguese territory. In this connection, our observer Yuriy Konstantinov writes as follows:

Of late, there has been a considerable intensification in the hostile activity by the agents of UNITA and MNR counterrevolutionary groupings. This activity takes various forms: publicity for the criminal acts committed by the terrorists against Angola's and Mozambique's civilians and direct threats to the official representatives of the two African sovereign countries in Lisbon etc. In the Portuguese capital, a number of terrorist centres maintained by the special services of racist South Africa and America's CIA operate openly. Many Portuguese are angered by the fact that the Lisbon-based terrorists release communiques and hold news conferences denigrating the policies of the Angolan and Mozambican governments and urging the Portuguese to back the counter-revolutionary groupings. One of them, Oliveira by name, publishes anti-Angolan lampoons and has been officially accredited by the Ministry of information; MNR representatives openly recruit mercenaries for its bases in Mozambique.

Public opinion in Portugal notes that this is taking place with the evident tolerance, and sometimes with the knowledge, of the Portuguese authorities. As the newspaper 'O Diario' reports, the ringleaders of UNITA and the MNR have friends in Portugal's right-wing political parties, its armed forces and state apparatus. Is this not the reason why a much-publicised, if not solemn, reception to introduce Savimbi as a poet

was recently (?held) in Lisbon? Is it not due to this that Portuguese television screened a provocative interview granted to it by the MNR ringleaders after the death of Mozambican President Samora Machel?

It is evident that the protection enjoyed in Portugal by the representatives of these counterrevolutionary groupings in no way tallies with the Sao Bento administration's statements about wishing to develop relations of friendship with the Portuguese-speaking countries. The provocative activity of agents of UNITA and the MNR only goes to worsen those relations, turning Portugal, as 'O Diario' rightly says, into an unwitting conveyor of the will of others, specifically into a instrument of the will of imperialist forces keen on seeing bloodshed in Angola and Mozambique as part of their undeclared war against the frontline states.

(?The bill submitted by the PCP parliamentary group) to the Assembly of the Republic seeks to ban the activity of the terrorist organisations in question and expel their representatives from Portugal. Communist delegates have urged other opposition democratic parties in Parliament to back the bill.