

COUNTER-REVOLUTION IN ANGOLA: SAVIMBI'S LINKS TO PORTUGAL

Roberto's twin brother in counterrevolution was Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, a dropout from medical school in Portugal. This political chameleon, after having flirted with MPLA and FNLA formed UNITA in 1966.

From the outset like FNLA, UNITA's enemy was MPLA. This was confirmed after the coup de'etat in Portugal in 1974 when secret files of the fascist regime were opened. Savimbi's letters to Portuguese authorities about plans and strategies to liquidate MPLA were found.

In his own words Savimbi had this to say: "...it was our intention to weaken MPLA with hard blows and to undermine its authority aboard, so the world would wonder if it even existed". "The authorities know that we possess a mobile force on the banks of the Luanquinqa close to Zambia. It was this force that attacked the MPLA during April and May in Zambia and forced them out of Lutembo". (Extracts from letters Savimbi wrote to General Luis Cunha former Commander-in-Chief of the Portuguese armed forces in Angola -1972).

it is to be expected that the imperialists will intensify pressure on Angola to negotiate with UNITA.

2. Solution involving UNITA without Savimbi - analysts have raised the possibility of the Angolan government talking to a UNITA without Savimbi. But the Angolan government has rejected this, again from a position of strength. Splits have developed in UNITA over Savimbi's dictatorial style and collaboration with Pretoria. It is possible that UNITA may disintegrate under the pressure, with the dissident elements accepting the Angolan government's offer of amnesty.

3. The 'Savimbistan' option - SA and UNITA's plan to declare an independent republic in Southern Angola under UNITA control collapsed with the SADF/UNITA defeat around Cuito Cuanavale. FAPLA's counter-offensive has prevented UNITA taking towns along the Benguela railway line which would have been vital to their plan for a Savimbistan. With Angolan forces having sealed the Namibian border and launched a new offensive in September,