Anti-Mobutu PRP Liberation Forces in Zaïre Tell Their Side of the Story

Mobutu: A Puppet Trembling Without the Master Pulling Strings—Part 2

by Mwana wa Lumumba

Joseph Sese Seku Mobutu, puppet president of Zaïre, and former aide to Patrice Lumumba and later an accomplice in the CIA’s overthrow and murder of Lumumba, Mobutu has made Zaïre safe for U.S. imperialism to the tune of over $200 million in U.S. military and economic aid (80% of Zaïre’s incoming capital). Mobutu has tried to front off as progressive with his “African authenticity” campaigns while he murders and muzzles all political liberation forces like the PRP, who are struggling for true national liberation and self determination for the masses in Zaïre from U.S. imperialism and its lackeys and native agents like Mobutu.

The PRP is led by its President Laurent Kabila, former military commander of guerilla forces in the east and its Secretary-General Gabriel Yumbu, a former Minister of Finance in a Stanville Government and now a major bone of contention between the PRP and the Tanzanian government. Kabila and Yumbu first brought together roving bands of Simba guerillas, who ineffectively remained in the forest after the fall of the eastern front, and began their ideological remoulding. New guerillas were recruited despite the dearth of arms. Great emphasis was placed on developing the infrastructure needed to support a self-reliant struggle. And most importantly the peasant masses were mobilized for a protracted peoples war.

In 1969, three years before Mobutu’s authentically campaigned, the armed struggle - which precipitated the name changing mystification - was launched. Mobutu responded brutally but the elusive guerillas used available terrain to frustrate and kill pursuers and augment their small arsenal. By 1973, the PRP had released pictures of a downed Zairean army helicopter and reported the death of a Zainist advisor in the second attempt encirclement of the liberated areas.

Gabriel Yumbu, the PRP Secretary-General, was sent to Tanzania in the first quarter of 1973 in an attempt to contact friendly emissaries and follow up letters sent to the Tanzanian government by the PRP that had not been answered. Unofficial contacts were made with TANU, the Tanzanian ruling party. The PRP was interested in obtaining “arms” destined for the Congolese liberation forces that had been seized by the Tanzanian government in the late 1960’s and opening up a route for the supply of badly needed medical supplies, or other essentials needed in the liberated areas. The talks were inconclusive.

While in Dar-es-Salaam, the Tanzanian capital, Yumbu was spotted by one of the many Zairean agents haunting the city, and, following a Boarded a train for Kigoma, a port on Lake Tanganyika twenty-five miles from Dar-es-Salaam, he was taken off the train by the Tanzanian police and directed to the Central Police Headquarters in Dar-es-Salaam. His whereabouts have been unknown.

Two possibilities existed. Either he was sent by the government or placed in detention. Recent revelations support the former hypothesis.

Following Yumbu’s capture the PRP sent repeated requests for his repatriation to the liberated areas. As always the communications were not answered. Over two years passed before PRP guerrillas resorted to the abduction of four foreign students, three Americans and one Dutch, from an animal research station twelve miles from Dar-es-Salaam to force the release of Yumbu and other PRP patriots held in Tanzanian prisons.

On May 19, forty (PRP armed) guerillas crossed Lake Tanganyika and abducted four Stanford University students studying at an animal research station without leaving a ransom demand. The Tanzanian government mounted a huge search operation and branded the guerillas bandits.

A few days later the guerrillas’ identity was known. Barbara Smith, one of the kidnapped students, was returned to Tanzania. A few days after, 219-233-0215 or 234-3522

Imperialism’s Answer: Detente

Recentely, Kalama ya Salama, head of a pseudo-Kanuma edition, has written an article on the African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC), which attempted to analyze the dangerous political trend of ALSC’s liquidation of the question of Africa, but in the main the author uses this article to attack the introduction of scientific socialism into the Black Liberation Movement. This article will cut through the reactionary & subjective approach that Kalama makes at the reality of the contradictions in the Black Liberation Movement today, and specifically the united front in support of African Liberation, and present some crucial issues we face in the ALSC right now.

The ALSC is definitely in crisis, but the crisis in ALSC is rooted in the internal contradictions within ALSC today, the struggle between revolutionary nationalism and bourgeois ideology, is crucial to understanding the dynamism of ALSC. Kalama thinks that ALSC is “unified along ideological lines”, and that “what is true of the ideological and political lines in ALSC is true of the ideological and political lines in Africa.”

ALSC is an incorrect line that dominates ALSC right now, the crux of the matter is that those of us who are committed to making the liberation of Africa and the liberation of the world are not even faintly connected to the reality of ALSC 1975, where a line struggle is raging, that reflects the 2 line struggle between third world liberation movements and imperialism all over Africa today.

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