struggle takes; one cannot talk about tomorrow or the next day. The armed struggle will go on and the day is not far off when the Portuguese will no longer be able to leave their cities, and be strengthened from outside. They will be obliged to give in, in one way or the other.

The Role of the Angolan Worker in the National Revolution

MPLA

Trade unionism is the organization of workers for the defence of their own interests against capitalist exploitation. Our experience from the evolution of human society teaches us that the worker can only obtain his demands by uniting with other workers in the daily struggle against capitalist exploitation. This is the source of the principle of trade unionism.

But there are different types of trade unions: revolutionary trade unions of the masses, reformist trade unions, confessional trade unions, etc. Only the first one may be called a vanguard organization for the working class, since it is the only one which defends the interests of the exploited class, having a democratic structure at every level of the union movement under a form of organization based on Democratic Centralism.

Who are the Angolan workers? Workers are all those who, deprived of the means of production (land, machines, tractors, etc.) are forced to sell their labour (physical or mental) to the capitalists in exchange for a miserable wage, while the capitalists accumulate larger and larger gains, so that the workers live in impoverished conditions with an extremely low standard of living.

Angolan society is made up of the following groups: peasants, wage workers (i.e. workers in railways, ports, mines, factories, etc.), a small national bourgeoisie, and an insignificant intellectual class. The wage-earning class is one of the most developed and dynamic, due to the permanent contact which it maintains with the intellectual stratum, together with the great technical development of the urban centres in which it is located. The peasant class is also one of its natural allies since both classes share a common enemy — capitalist, colonialist and neo-colonialist exploitation — and a common objective, which is to raise their already very low standard of living. The intellectuals, together with some revolutionaries from the national bourgeoisie, struggle on the side of the working class to defeat the oppressor.

It is not by chance that the Angolan Revolution has had its beginning in the cities where there is a large concentration of workers. History tells us that on February 4, 1961, a handful of patriots set the process of armed
Anatomy of Colonialism

struggle in motion as an answer to the oppression and exploitation of the Portuguese colonialists and their allies, the NATO imperialists.

Worker and Peasant Revolution

ZAPU


It is a very common thing to hear people say workers are more useful in an armed struggle against exploiters than peasants. Other people tend to hold the opposite view.

In a situation like that obtaining in Zimbabwe, one would find it rather difficult to support one stand against the other. This is because the history of the workers is so short that the process of urbanisation is still incomplete. It would be correct to say that workers in Zimbabwe are in fact still basically peasants who rely to quite a large extent for their livelihood on the land to which they go occasionally yearly.

Under such circumstances, therefore, the worker becomes the peasant, depending on the season of the year. Having established this basic fact, we can then try to see whether or not these people are more useful to the armed struggle when they are in the urban areas working in the factories, hotels, residential houses or toiling in fields out in the rural areas.

In a guerrilla struggle like the one ZAPU has embarked upon, it is vitally important to have roots all over the country. It is necessary to operate in the urban as well as in the rural areas.

Firstly, in the urban areas we find the majority of the enemy forces and most of their means of livelihood and defence. In order to render the enemy impotent, it is, therefore, important to attack his means of production and defence. Hence the urban worker is duty bound to look into the effect of actions like going on strike, sabotaging the enemy’s means of production and defence so as to tie him down to the urban areas where more is at stake for him than in the rural areas.

Evidently, workers’ organisations and underground machinery to sabotage the enemy’s power in the towns will thus depend upon the worker. Without his violent actions and participation, the enemy in the urban areas would be utterly safe. This would be bad for the struggle.

When this worker goes to the rural areas, he needs must become the armed guerrilla fighter whose violent actions against the enemy at night must be worse than those of a lion while his actions during the day must be as unsuspicuous as a humble dove.

The most successful worker-peasant revolutionary struggle depends solely on how well organised the worker operates in the urban areas and how