

MPLA SPOKESMAN PRAISES MAO

On May 16, Hsinhua, the Chinese News Agency, carried a dispatch from Algiers quoting Luis Almeida, "permanent representative in Algiers of the Angola People's Liberation Movement" [MPLA] on China's second nuclear test.

"I extend my congratulations to Chairman Mao, leader of the Chinese people, and all the Chinese scientists for their exploits in this field," he was quoted as saying.

"The Chinese people who have gone through sufferings will

never be bellicose," Almeida continued. "I am convinced that the means of defence which China has obtained by relying on its own efforts is also a means of defence for the oppressed peoples."

"We consider this bomb as ours," he said. "The Afro-Asian countries are a community with common destiny and China is our guarantee."

On May 17, Hsinhua carried another dispatch from Algiers quoting Almeida as praising a declaration by Mao Tse-tung denouncing U.S. aggression against the Dominican Republic and supporting the Dominican people.

"I fully agree with Chairman Mao's statement," Almeida was quoted as saying. "It is necessary for the masses of people to establish a front to make the imperialist gunboat policy impossible to revive."

"It is necessary to show our position against the U.S. imperialist aggressions against Vietnam, the Congo and now against Santo Domingo."

"To arrogate the right of 'international gendarme' to themselves, the U.S. imperialists exercise interventions everywhere. For them, order means the defence of their interests. Whenever their interests are in danger, they resort to intervention."

Hsinhua ended by stating that "Luis Almeida accused U.S. imperialism of trying to split the Angolan liberation movement."

Almeida's statements voice widespread sentiments in the colonial world. However, what is most interesting about these two dispatches is that they quote an official spokesman of the wing of the Angolan liberation movement which has been favored by Moscow up to this point. The Kremlin committed itself so heavily, in fact, as to have Pravda denounce the Holden Roberto wing as linked with Tshombe, a charge hotly denied as slanderous by the movement that has been doing most of the fighting in Angola.

Certain partisans of the MPLA, who have echoed Pravda's charges in their own way, considered the Kremlin's factionalism in this field to be an indication that Moscow was taking a "more revolutionary" line and stepping up material aid to the colonial revolution.

It would be interesting to know what the experience of Luis Almeida has been in this respect and whether or not the quantity of help forthcoming from Moscow has not induced the MPLA to try knocking at a different door.