

Report on Spring Angola Tours
By Michael Maggi, April 24, 1976

At the January 1976 party plenum and at the YSA convention, a major campaign was launched to expose U.S. intervention in Angola demanding "U.S. hands off Angola!" National leaders of the party and YSA were sent on national speaking engagements to supplement local work. We also decided to distribute widely and solicit media coverage of Angola: The Hidden History of Washington's War.

In 14 weeks Tony Thomas, Malik Miah, and Nan Bailey spoke in every part of the country where branches are established with only one exception. Only partial statistics are available, but they indicate the tour was very successful.

At least 60 meetings were held at community centers, on campuses, or in forum halls. With only two-thirds of these meetings accounted for, over 2,500 people attended.

Attendance by Blacks was higher than previous tours; speakers reported that often 50% of those attending were Black.

Most of the independents who came to the meetings were not decidedly pro-MPLA, but simply interested in getting more information about the situation in Angola and southern Africa and opposed to any U.S. intervention there.

This points up one weakness in the tour. Sometimes panels were organized with speakers very hostile to our movement or with so many speakers that each received only minimum time. This sometimes changed the focus of the meeting away from exposing U.S. intervention and supplying factual information on the situation to a debate among radicals which only the most political people were really interested in hearing.

Another weakness of the tour was that only a couple of branches organized evening meetings in the Black community centers in addition to campus oriented events. One branch which did was San Francisco where over 60 people attended. Tony felt that such meetings gave community people which we would not otherwise reach an opportunity to come to hear our ideas.

Tony Thomas spoke to four classes at Cass Tech High School, Detroit, to a total of 300 or 400 students. Although the impact of high school meetings is limited when they aren't optional meetings which interested students can attend if it is their class or not, Tony felt that the meetings were very worthwhile.

Where media work was done as an integral part of the tour, the press gave comrades a friendly reception.

Chicago Weekend (circulation: 60,000) ran a major article on the book concluding it is "a work of immense importance for anyone wishing to obtain more than an evening news flash of information about the turbulent politics of southern Africa." The Buffalo Challenger (circulation: 35,000) called the book "must reading." The Chicago Courier (circulation: 27,000) ran the Pathfinder Press release as an editorial.

under the head, "U.S. Hands Off Angola." This friendly coverage in these papers is significant because it was given in spite of important differences over analysis of the African groups, especially the MPLA.

Tony appeared on several radio programs and two TV interview programs.

Total income from honoraria and quotas will be \$4,257.06 when fully collected. Total expenses paid are \$3,600.86 leaving a net income of \$656.20. Of the income \$2,220 is from tour quotas; \$2,037.06 is from honoraria. (Expenses are more than 50% higher than for most national tours mainly because Tony made two complete trips around the country. This was necessary to fulfill international commitments and to accommodate the schedule requests of as many branches as possible.)

The book, Angola: The Hidden History of Washington's War, was published by Pathfinder Press midway in the tour. Even so, literature sales went well at forums, campuses, and street tables. Attached is a report on book distribution.

The tours this spring indicated that interest in southern Africa remains high. Viewpoint will have new materials available on speakers on southern Africa available later this spring for fall engagements.

Angola: The Hidden History of Washington's War

Total sales from February 29 to April 23, 1976, paperback edition:

55 Individual "cash" customers
779 SWP branch bookstores
158 YSA chapters and spring YS teams
611 Retail bookstores (on and off campus)
335 Wholesalers to retail bookstores
863 Foreign (360 to Pathfinder, Canada, and 500 to Pathfinder, England)
2,801 Total

Breakdown of Angola book sales to SWP branches and locals:

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|------------------------|------------|
| Atlanta | 40 | Pittsburgh | 26 |
| Baltimore | 15 | Portland | 30 |
| Berkeley | 15 | St. Louis | 28 |
| Boston | 15 | St. Paul | * |
| Chicago | 20 | San Antonio | 5 |
| Cleveland | 30 | San Diego | 15 |
| Dallas | 10 | San Francisco | 40 |
| Denver | 20 | San Jose | 30 |
| Detroit | 15 | Seattle | 38 |
| Houston | 11 | Washington, DC | 10 |
| Los Angeles | 75 | | |
| Milwaukee | 35 | Total | <u>779</u> |
| Minneapolis | 62* | | |
| Newark | 15 | *Books divided between | |
| New Orleans | 30 | the two locals upon | |
| New York | 109 | division. Quantity to | |
| Oakland | 5 | each unknown. | |
| Philadelphia | 35 | | |

DEBTS TO VIEWPOINT

(Jan. 1, 1976--April 24, 1976)

| <u>Local</u> | <u>Angola Tour Quota</u> | <u>Other Quota</u> | <u>Paid</u> | <u>Due</u> |
|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Atlanta | \$90 | - | - | \$90 |
| Berkeley & Oakland | 65 | - | 50 | 15 |
| Chicago | 125 | - | - | 125 |
| Denver | 65 | - | - | 65 |
| Detroit | 85 | - | - | 85 |
| Los Angeles | 175 | - | 75 | 100 |
| Milwaukee | 60 | - | - | 60 |
| Montreal | 45 | - | - | 45 |
| New Orleans | 40 | - | - | 40 |
| New York City | 290 | 83.73 ¹ | - | 373.73 |
| Newark | 55 | - | - | 55 |
| Pittsburgh | 50 | - | - | 50 |
| St. Louis | 50 | - | - | 50 |
| San Jose | 40 | - | - | 40 |
| San Francisco | 150 | - | 99.99 | 50.01 |
| Washington, D.C. | 85 | 51 ² | - | 136 |
| TOTAL: | | | | 1,379.74 |

¹YSA City Office/Regional Committee expense for regional educational conference.

²Forum Committee expense for out-of-town speaker.