

ANGOLA - ANOTHER VIEW

The article in last week's Rag "Imperialism: Also a Policy of the Soviet Union" correctly reported the content of Martin Nicolaus' address of Feb. 13. It neglected to point out, however, that Nicolaus' talk was filled with half-truths and distortions. Though he is an intelligent person, Nicolaus has allowed his bete noire of Soviet imperialism to distort his perception of political reality to such an extent that in some ways his views have become indistinguishable from those of the Pentagon and the CIA.

Nicolaus says that all three of the Angolan liberation movements were recognized by the OAU and had the support of the people in their respective regions. This last is true, but only because of the tribal nature of African politics. Only the MPLA was able to transcend the limits of its tribal base and win support from the urban working class. It also gained support even in the tribes supporting FNLA and UNITA. Consequently, its troops have been welcomed by the populace in formerly FNLA and UNITA controlled areas.

Nicolaus called assertions that FNLA and UNITA are supported by the U. S. and South Africa "slanders." Yet this fact has been proven to the satisfaction of anyone who can read newspapers. CIA funds have been pouring into the FNLA for years through Zaire, whose president has been a long time CIA contact. And the spectacle of regular South African Army troops fighting alongside Jonas Savimbi's UNITA forces should leave no doubt in anyone's mind where that "liberation" movement stands.

The UNITA-FNLA alliance has further revealed its true nature by massacring hundreds, probably thousands, of people as it withdrew from areas formerly under its control. At Silva Porto over a hundred MPLA prisoners were bludgeoned to death and buried in mass graves; at another town 36 people, including women and small children, were murdered. Even the western press has reported these massacres, yet not one accusation of this type has been levelled at the MPLA.

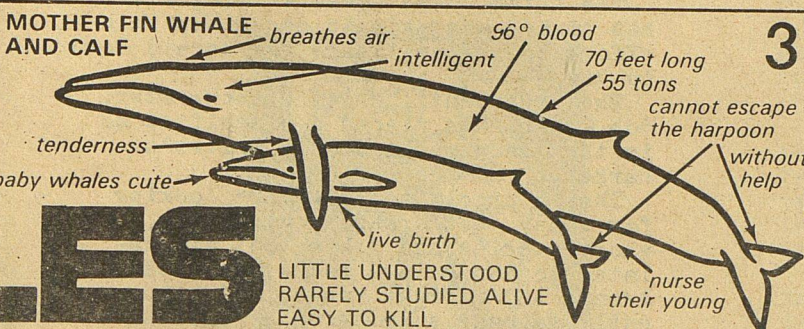
Finally, Nicolaus has accused Cuba

of playing the same puppet role in Angola as the Philippines and Thailand did in South Vietnam. This is an absurd slander. Cuba's action was a splendid example of international revolutionary solidarity, and we should all rejoice that Cuba is playing such a historic role in the liberation of southern Africa. It is seriously questionable whether any person who takes the position, as does Martin Nicolaus and his friends in the October League, that Cuba is merely a "puppet of Soviet imperialism" in Africa is really an ally of the oppressed people of Africa or anywhere else.

I have many other disagreements with Nicolaus, but the point has been made. Nicolaus and his sectarian allies have, through distortion, slander and ideological rigidity, had a distinctly negative influence on the development of revolutionary politics in this country and on the solidarity of Americans with groups such as the MPLA and others who have struggled long and hard to liberate their countries from imperialism and colonialism.

Phil Prim

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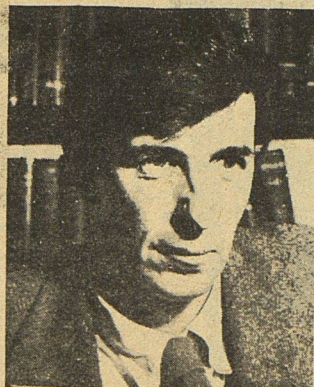
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BRITISH COMPOSER IN AUSTIN

Sir Michael Tippett, widely regarded as one of the greatest of living composers, will present three lectures on campus later this month. They will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, March 23, 24 and 25 at 8 PM in the Joe C. Thompson Conference Center. The first lecture is "Tradition, Originality, Experiment," the second is "Spontaneity and Measurement in Works of Art," and the third is "Art for a World 'Moving into Aquarius.'"

Tippett was born in 1905 and is, as well as being a distinguished composer, a scholar and conductor of the music of Restoration England. In 1940 he succeeded Gustav Holst as Musical Director of



Sir Michael Tippett

Morley College.

His major works include *A Child of Our Time*, the opera *Midsummer Marriage*, and the *Third Symphony*. The last, premiered in March, 1972, has already taken its place as one of the greatest symphonies of modern times.

In conjunction with the lectures, British pianist Paul Crossley will perform all three of Tippett's piano sonatas in two concerts in Music Building Recital Hall. He will play the first two sonatas on Monday, March 22 and the third on Saturday, March 27.