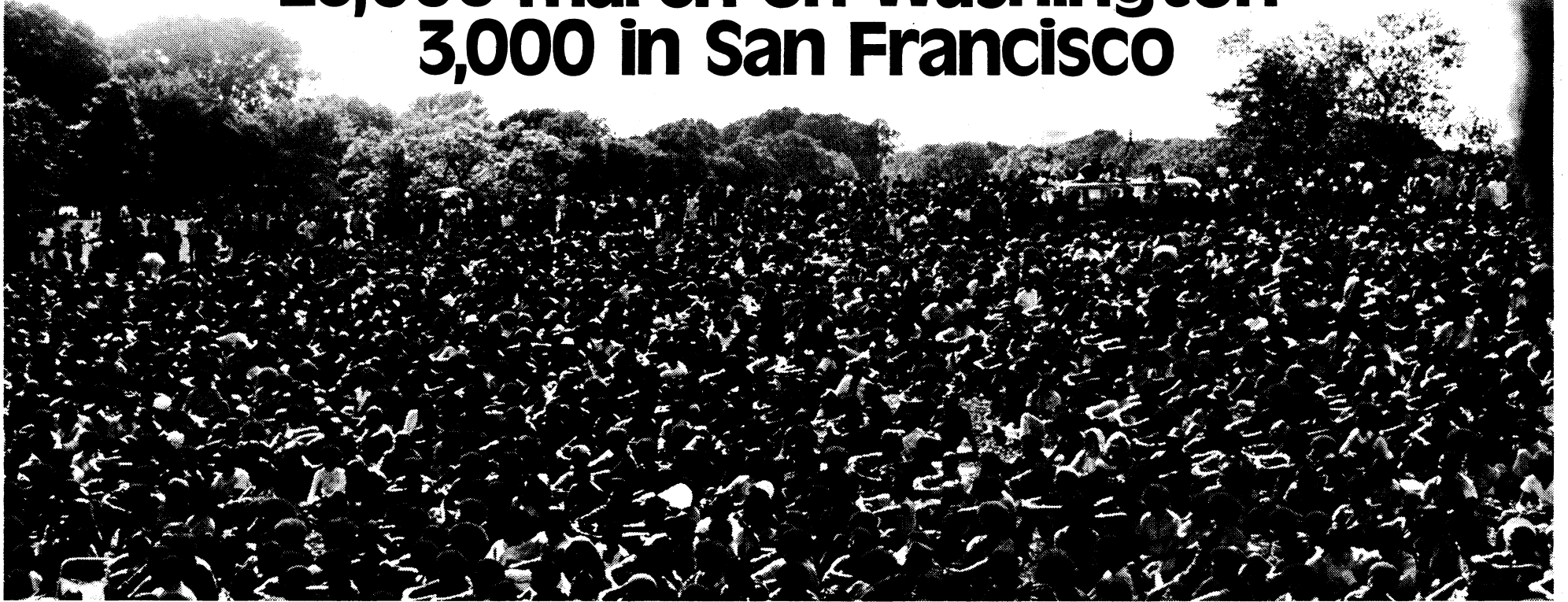


African Liberation Day actions

25,000 march on Washington 3,000 in San Francisco



Part of the massive crowd at D. C. rally

Photo by B. R. Washington

Washington, D. C.

By DERRICK MORRISON

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 27 — As the crowd at the foot of the Washington Monument, renamed Lumumba Square for the day, chanted "We are an African people," African Liberation Day came to a close. The inspiring demonstration and rally were acts of solidarity with the African liberation struggles going on in South Africa, Rhodesia, and the Portuguese colonies of Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau.

Owusu Sadaukai, national chairman of the African Liberation Day Coordinating Committee (ALDCC), estimated that 25,000 to 30,000 people participated in the march and rally. Most of the demonstrators were young, primarily students. Although many were from D. C., the majority came from outside the capital. They came in buses and cars from the South, the Midwest, and the New England area. Forty buses came from the city of New York alone, with transportation on all but one of these buses free, provided by Black students from campus resources.

Thousands assembled in the morning in Meridian Hill Park, renamed Malcolm X Park four years ago, to begin the five-mile trek to Lumumba Square. The first stop was the Portuguese Embassy, where a brief rally was held. The march then went on to the Rhodesian Information Center.

A mock South African Embassy stood at the juncture of Rock Creek Drive and Massachusetts Avenue. Reverend Doug Moore of the D. C. Black United Front and the Reverend Lucius Walker of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization spoke.

Moore condemned the U. S., West German, and Israeli governments for their complicity with the apartheid regime in South Africa. Because of the recent criticisms of the Black Agenda's call for the dismantling of Israel, Moore, to cheers from the crowd, repeated his condemnation of the Zionist government. (The Black Agenda originated from the National Black Political Convention held in Gary, Ind., last March.)

Even while this brief rally was going on, thousands of marchers had passed on down Massachusetts Avenue because the intersection could not contain the huge throng. Thousands more stood behind the rally, jammed on Rock Creek Drive.

At the State Department building, the main speaker was Kasisi Weusi (Les Campbell) of The East in Brooklyn. As employees in the building peered

out through plate-glass windows, the throng chanted "Free Africa Now!" and "Nation Time!"

The signs displayed by the demonstrators denounced the Portuguese and U. S. governments and the white racist regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia.

The marchers finally arrived at the Sylvan Theater, near Lumumba Square. After some brief entertainment, the rally opened. A huge Black nationalist flag of red, black, and green was draped across the speaker's stand. Right in front of the flag there was a large photo of Marcus Garvey, the most prominent nationalist in the early twentieth century. The photo was cut to the profile of the African continent.

The Reverend Walter Fauntroy, D. C. Delegate to Congress and a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, chaired the rally. The speakers included Cecil Elombe Brath of the New York African Nationalist Pioneer Movement; Representative Charles Diggs (D-Mich.), member and former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus; Elaine Brown of the Black Panther Party; Dr. George Wiley, executive director of the National Welfare Rights Organization; Imamu Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones) of the Congress of African People; Roy Innis, national director of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE); and Sadaukai.

Messages were read from Brother Imari, president of the Republic of New Africa, who is now in jail awaiting trial on frame-up charges in Jackson, Miss.; and from Stokely Carmichael, the former chairman of SNCC



Photo by B. R. Washington

Owusu Sadaukai addressing D. C. rally.

who presently resides in Conakry, Guinea. There was also a speaker from the Front for the Liberation of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).

Through all of the speeches ran the theme of Pan-Africanism—the idea that the struggle of Black people in the Americas is linked with that on the African continent.

Diggs commented, "No longer will the movement for justice in America stop at the water's edge." He attacked the U. S. government's support of

South Africa and Nixon's recent deal to pay Portugal close to a half billion dollars for U. S. use of the Azores.

In his message to the rally, read by Cleveland Sellers, field coordinator for the ALDCC, Stokely Carmichael said he was an "Nkrumahist." He also denounced Israel, hailed the offensive of the Vietnamese revolutionaries against U. S. imperialism, and called for an "independent Black political party" in opposition to the Democrats and Republicans.

Baraka reviewed the history of the struggle beginning with the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott in 1955 through the civil rights movement and into the nationalist phase of the struggle. He said that a "tremendous leadership" had been thrown up in the 1960s but that the task of the 1970s was organization. "We now must organize a political structure or party that can transform our reality . . . that can run people for office. . . . We must have a Pan-Africanist party," Baraka exhorted.

He cited Malcolm X on the need for "community control" and "unity of groups." Although he said the Black convention in Gary was the beginning of the process of building a political structure, he made no mention of the National Black Political Assembly and its pro-Democratic Party orientation.

The speaker from the Front for the Liberation of Zimbabwe described the regimes in Rhodesia and South Africa as trusteeships over property held by the U. S., West Germany, Japan, and Canada. He said that just as Black people in the U. S. are moving in behalf of their brothers and sisters on the continent, he wanted to see Africans in Africa moving in solidarity with the struggle in the U. S. He said the struggle in Southern Africa was not just for civil rights but for land.

Sadaukai urged the crowd to keep the local ALDCCs together. He said that there would be a boycott of Gulf Oil, which operates in Angola, and of other American corporations operating in Southern Africa. He then went into some of the trials and tribulations of organizing the demonstration. Afterwards he led the crowd in the chant, "We are an African people."

The demonstration was a graphic display of the power of Black people and a testimony to the depth of Pan-Africanist and nationalist sentiments.

More than 1,000 Blacks marched and rallied on May 27 in Toronto, reports *Militant* correspondent Norman Faria. Support actions were held by Blacks in other Canadian cities.

According to the national office of the African Liberation Day Coordinating Committee in Washington,

D. C., thousands of Blacks demonstrated in the Caribbean.

The police estimates for demonstrations in Dominica and Antigua were 5,000 and 8,000. Several thousand were reported to have marched in Grenada.

San Francisco

By KEN MILINER

SAN FRANCISCO, May 27 — "Africa for the Africans!" and "Free Africa!" were some of the chants of 1,500 to 2,000 militant Black demonstrators who marched here through the Filmore District, a Black community, on African Liberation Day.

The demonstrators, some with posters reading "Colgate fights cavities and freedom" and "IBM computes racism," were greeted along the way with the clenched fist salute by people on the street and leaning out their windows.

After a five-mile march, the demonstrators returned to a rally in Kimbell Park, renamed DuBois Savannah Park. The San Francisco African Liberation Committee, the coalition that organized the action, estimates between 3,000 and 4,000 participated in the march and rally.

Black supporters of the Socialist Workers Party presidential and vice-presidential candidates, Linda Jenness and Andrew Pulley, distributed thousands of pieces of campaign literature at the May 27 actions in Washington, D. C., and San Francisco.

In D. C., supporters sold 300 copies of *The Militant*, 205 copies of the *May International Socialist Review*, \$200 worth of revolutionary books and pamphlets, and signed up 64 new campaign supporters.

In San Francisco, supporters sold 100 copies of *The Militant* and \$250 worth of literature.

The speakers at the rally ranged from African freedom fighters and revolutionary nationalists to Black Democratic politicians. Shirley Graham DuBois, wife of the late Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, and Brother Imari, president of the Republic of New Africa, sent statements to the demonstration.

David Sibeko of the South African Pan-Africanist Congress denounced colonialism, neocolonialism, and imperialism. He also paid tribute to the late Kwame Nkrumah.

A tape recording by another South African freedom fighter was both inspiring and educational. He pointed out that Vietnam was the focal point of the world revolution and that to defend Southern Africa it was necessary to defend the revolution in Vietnam.

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Other speakers were the reverends Charles Koen of Cairo, Ill., and Cecil Williams of San Francisco; Willie Brown, state assemblyman; D'Army Bailey, Berkeley city councilman; Bobby Seale, chairman of the Black Panther Party; and Mayor Richard Hatcher of Gary, Ind. Tanya Russell, a member of the national steering committee of the African Liberation Day Coordinating Committee, chaired the rally.

Hatcher, the main speaker of the day, explained how the struggle of African people around the world is one and the same. He denounced those Black leaders who had refused to participate in the May 27 action.

According to Larry Jones, chairman of the Black Youth for Progress (BYP), about 400 Blacks in New Orleans, La., marched and rallied on African Liberation Day. The coalition that built the action consisted of the BYP, Congress of African People, Black Panther Party, Republic of New Africa, Black Workers Congress, and the NAACP.