

African Liberation Day Demo Set for Detroit

At a recent meeting of the steering committee of the Organizing Committee for a New African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC), the decision was made to hold the main African Liberation Day (ALD) action in Detroit on Saturday, May 27, and to hold a support action on the same day in Oakland, California. These actions will be held in support of the liberation movements in Africa, focusing particularly on those of southern Africa and the Horn of Africa, and also to draw the links between the struggles against imperialism and national oppression waged by the peoples of Africa and the U.S. Every victory for the people of Africa is a victory for the people of the U.S., and it is in this spirit that the slogan was raised last year and again this year: "Fight imperialism and national oppression from the USA (Union of South Africa) to the USA (United States of America)!"

ALD takes on even greater significance this year as Africa continues to be a focal point of two of the major contradictions in the world: the rivalry between the two superpowers for world domination and the intensifying struggle for national liberation and against imperialism, white minority rule, and neo-colonialism in various parts of Africa. In the last few years the liberation struggles have made important advances against the white minority regimes in southern Africa.

Southern Africa also remains a key area of superpower contention for world domination; the struggle between the U.S. and other Western powers allied with it to protect their long-time investments and militarily strategic positions against the increasing encroachment by the USSR with its "socialist" mask. To support these liberation movements and in opposition to superpower contention, ALSC raises the slogan "U.S. out of southern Africa! Superpowers hands off!" The Horn of Africa, in particular, has developed over the last year into a hotbed of contention between the U.S. and the USSR, as well as mounting liberation struggles by the peoples of the area. (see articles on pages 1 and 5)

From USA to USA

U.S. corporate giants and the whole U.S. monopoly capitalist class have billions of dollars invested in Africa and have a vested interest in propping up reactionary regimes like racist South Africa and Rhodesia. In their struggle for national liberation, Black people in Africa are up against the same big capitalists who run this country, oppress and exploit working people, and are responsible for the vicious national oppression of Blacks and other minorities in the U.S. today.

This year's main ALD will be held in Detroit, the center of the U.S. auto industry, where great numbers

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of workers of all nationalities and particularly Blacks are concentrated in some of the largest plants in the country. In Detroit, the working class and Black people have a history of very sharp struggle, including numerous walkouts and wildcats in the auto plants in recent years and the fierce rebellion in Detroit's Black ghettos in the summer of 1967.

Henry Ford himself is a good example of how the same capitalists who exploit U.S. workers also leech off the labor of black workers in Africa. Ford Motor Co. has had investments in South Africa longer than any other U.S. monopoly—since 1923. Presently it has \$70 million invested there. At a recent meeting with Prime Minister Vorster, Ford declared: "We are not going to move!"—speaking for the rest of U.S. big capitalists as well as for himself. In South Africa because of the repressiveness of the government which he backs up, he can pay black auto workers \$1.00 an hour. No wonder he cannot afford to move! But as the daily mounting struggle shows, the Azanian people have no intention of allowing bloodsuckers like him to make billions off of their oppression, and they are sure to topple the racist Vorster regime.

ALSC Grows

Last year's ALD, along with the work carried on since by the ALSC, have given a great impetus to the growth of this organization. ALSC has established itself more and more as a center of African liberation support work in the U.S. under its main slogan "Fight imperialism and national oppression from the USA to the USA!", pointing out the common enemy and common links between the struggle in Africa and the fight of workers and Black people and other minorities in this country.

During the past year, ALSC has led campaigns around the country in support of African liberation, linking these closely to the struggle in the U.S. against national oppression. ALSC took the lead in taking on the blood-soaked Krugerrand (the South African regime's gold coin it sells worldwide), a battle which has grown in scope, attracted many forces, and won

some significant victories.

It has linked up on the campuses with the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade (RCYB, the youth and student organization of the Revolutionary Communist Party) to mobilize students in demanding an end to university investments in South Africa.

All of this, together with developments in Africa, creates an excellent situation for this year's ALD, and plans are already underway to involve as many people as possible in building for and participating in ALD.

Building for ALD

ALSC has called for a series of regional conferences to mobilize forces for this year's African Liberation Day. On March 11, ALSC is sponsoring a regional conference in Oakland, California which will be built for broadly and will deal primarily with four topics: The U.S. in southern Africa; the USSR in Africa; national liberation struggles in Africa; the situation in the Horn of Africa. Other regional conferences are being planned for the Midwest and the East. There will be no regional conference in the South, as ALSC will be concentrating there on building for a demonstration on May 18 in Nashville, Tennessee against the Davis Cup in which South Africa is scheduled to play.

On March 18, the Detroit ALSC will hold a program to commemorate the Sharpeville Massacre of 1960, when 5000 Blacks gathered outside the police station at Sharpeville, South Africa as part of nationwide demonstrations against the regime's racist pass laws, and were fired on by police, killing 69 and wounding 200. This day has been commemorated ever since as a day of solidarity with the just struggle of the people in South Africa, and will be a step in building for this year's ALD in Detroit.

ALSC takes a clear stand in opposition to the contention for world domination by the two superpowers in Africa; it supports the struggle for liberation of the African people and it unites with the common struggle of minorities and other working people in this country to fight imperialism and national oppression.

Opportunists

In taking out this line, ALSC and others uniting to build African Liberation Day will have to contend with several opportunist forces in the field. The CP (ML), which has previously done little or nothing to build support for African liberation, has decided to

throw its hat in the ring in hopes of capitalizing on the growing support for the struggles in Africa. As usual, the CP(ML) will be promoting their social chauvinist line that, in supporting African liberation, the "main blow" must be aimed at the USSR. By doing this, they minimize the struggle to be waged against the U.S. imperialists in Africa and the special role of the working class and masses in the U.S., to oppose "our own" ruling class. Here in the U.S. the CP(ML) has made numerous overtures to various opportunists (including Ron Karenga, best known for his attack on the Black Panthers in the '60s) to join them in forming an African Liberation Support Group in a crass attempt to build themselves at the expense of the struggle.

Meanwhile, Stokely Carmichael, with his All African People's Revolutionary Party (AAPRP) supports the USSR and Cuba as "socialist" countries, thereby disarming peoples' understanding of their real nature and of their sham "support" for liberation movements in Africa, and directing the struggle only against the U.S. Both of these outfits represent flip sides of the same coin and don't get down to a materialist assessment of the international situation. A further example of Carmichael's line can be found here in the U.S. Carmichael has worked actively for years to steer Black peoples' militant struggle against oppression and for revolution away from attacking the big capitalists and their system and away from uniting with the multinational working class of the U.S.; he has advocated instead pipe dreams about all Blacks belonging and returning to Africa and that the only real liberation for U.S. Blacks is through a socialist Africa!

And finally, the NAACP with its well known record of trying to co-opt and misdirect genuine peoples struggle, is now talking about building against the Davis Cup in hopes of keeping the whole thing under their control and as non-revolutionary, reformist and impotent as possible.

These various forces and lines will undoubtedly cause some confusion around the political significance of support for African liberation, and around ALD in particular. However, the overall situation is excellent for ALSC to unite a great many forces around the correct line of building a powerful African Liberation Day action, which will strike a real blow against the U.S. bourgeoisie, stand with the struggle in Africa against white minority rule, the superpowers and all reaction, and play a significant role in advancing the struggle of the masses in this country. ■