

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

May 14, 1973

TO BRANCH ORGANIZERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

The following deals with the African Liberation Day building activities, the headway being made, and some of the problems being confronted.

Although uneven, building activities for the May 26 African Liberation Day demonstrations go forward around the country. The April 28 African World lists 28 U.S. cities in which demonstrations will take place. In addition there will be actions in a couple of Canadian cities, the Caribbean, London, and Accra, Ghana.

It is impossible at this point to give an overall view as to what is happening in every area. In some areas the first posters and leaflets are just now coming off the press. New York City is probably the furthest along in actually organizing an action. In New York the core of the activists are student and community youth organized into the African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC). The ALSC has in turn organized a much broader formation called the African Liberation Day Coordinating Committee (ALDCC). It is through the ALDCC that these activists have reached out to gather support from Black liberals, Democratic Party politicians, elected officials, and other community figures that do not consciously identify themselves as Black nationalists or Pan-Africanists.

The Urban League has donated rent-free headquarters to the ALDCC; leading Democratic Party politicians have participated in ALDCC news conferences; and growing numbers of campus youth and high school students have been attracted to the ALDCC.

The ALSC and ALDCC are non-exclusive, welcoming the participation of revolutionary socialists.

New York closely parallels the non-exclusive united front built nationally last year for the national African Liberation Day actions in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco. New York has gotten out a considerable number of posters, buttons, and leaflets. The route of the march and rally site have already been secured.

While in some cities the ALSCs have reflected one or another positive feature of the New York development, in other cities the sectarianism of some of the Pan-Africanists has impeded the development of a broad-based action coalition.

There have also been problems arising even within the healthy ALSCs due to unclarity of slogans and unilateral decisions made by the national office of ALSC -- located in Greensboro, N.C. -- on the question of which liberation organization in Africa to support.

On slogans, the national office of ALSC has generally pro-

jected the slogan "There is no peace for African people -- Africa is at war." This statement expresses an important reality about the struggles in certain areas of Africa, but it is not a sentiment which makes clear what the focus of the demonstration is nor does it put any demands on the U.S. government.

In many cities the ALSC militants are open to discussion on the formulation of slogans. For this reason we should get out the May Young Socialist on as wide a scale as possible. Where comrades are activists in the ALSC they should use Comrade Malik Miah's article as a source for pertinent facts and information on the U.S. role in Southern Africa and to help ALSC militants formulate slogans that clearly put the U.S. government on the spot.

To what extent we can do this will depend upon our forces involved and the influence we wield. But in any event, given the growing interest in Africa on the part of students and young people in general, the May YS can be used very broadly.

On the liberation organizations. There is more than one liberation organization in each country and the ALSC national office has decided to support some over others. (For instance, in Angola there is MPLA, Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola; GRAE, Revolutionary Government of Angola in Exile; and UNITA, National Unity for the Total Independence of Angola. The ALSC national office has decided to support UNITA.)

We don't want to get involved in the arguments within ALSC over which organization to support. We are for defending all of them against imperialism, and we don't think preferences for one or another liberation organization should be allowed to divide the effort to mobilize Black people here against the U.S. government's role in Africa.

We think that efforts to raise support for specific liberation organizations should be carried on by committees outside the ALSC, and that the ALSC should function as an action front aiming its fire at U.S. complicity with Portuguese colonialism and the white settler regimes. Our thinking on the character of the ALSC should be raised in an educational way in discussions that we have or get into with ALSC militants. The lessons of our anti-imperialist work in behalf of Vietnam, the Middle East, and Latin America are applicable to these discussions.

We should try to establish as much contact as possible with the builders of the actions through forums, campus meetings, socialist educational conferences, and the showing of films on the liberation struggles in Africa. We have done quite a bit of this already. We should continue it.

Moreover, we should plan as big a literature intervention as possible on the day of the actions, May 26. In addition to Black YSAers and SWPers, contacts and sympathizers should be approached to help us get out our press and literature.

Comradely,

Derrick Morrison (R7)

Derrick Morrison
SWP Black Work Director

P.S. A monthly publication that might be of interest to the bookstores is Southern Africa, A Monthly Survey of News and Opinion. It is published by the Southern Africa Committee, a group of predominately white youth. They began as a sub-committee of a national Christian youth organization in 1964. They started putting out Southern Africa as a mimeographed sheet in 1965. The sub-committee eventually developed a life of its own, continuing to function even after the parent organization withered away. Southern Africa focuses on the role of the U.S. government and big business in Southern Africa. The magazine is professionally done. For bundle information write to: Southern Africa Committee, 244 West 27th Street, Fifth Floor, New York, New York 10001.