

Thousands join African Liberation Day events

This year's African Liberation Day celebrations in Oakland, Cal., brought together 2,500 people in a May 24 program sponsored by the Black United Front. For the first time in several years the groups involved, including the Black Panther Party, Pan African Student Union, African Peoples Alliance and others participated in a joint program, instead of holding separate events.

A key theme at the program was the recent Zimbabwe independence victory. This theme was expressed in a banner which read: "Zimbabwe, New Africa, we are our own liberators."

Azili Hotari of the Oakland Black United Front related this slogan to the need for greater activism in this country, especially in community struggles. "It is up to everyone to get involved and become active," he said. A speaker from the Black Panther Party, Jonina Abrom, pointed out the need for ongoing Africa support work as well: "Namibia, South Africa and Eritrea are still not free, and we

must continue our support for these struggles."

In Washington, D.C., an ALD march called by the All African Peoples Revolutionary Party headed by Stokely Carmichael, drew up to 2,000 participants. Demonstrators let their opposition to the South African apartheid regime and Israel's repression against the Palestinians be known by marching past the South African and Israeli embassies.

Another event held in Washington, D.C., to mark ALD was an educational conference that brought together 300 people. There workshops dealt with a broad variety of subjects relating to the fight against imperialism in Africa—from the role of students in the African revolution to political parties in Africa. Conference participants included representatives from organizations such as the Zimbabwe African National Union, Zimbabwe Peoples Union, the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Pan Africanist Congress, the African National Congress and others.