

AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY 1977:
FIGHT IMPERIALISM AND NATIONAL OPPRESSION
FROM USA TO USA!

.Peoples College
for
African Liberation Day Coalition
Washington, D. C.
May 28, 1977

Brothers and Sisters
Comrades in Struggle

Many people said we shouldn't march because there wasn't time to organize.

Many people said that narrow nationalism and "Back to Africa" idealism had a monopoly on ALD.

Many said that ALSC and ALD belonged to a self righteous, self annointed dogmatic sect.

And the cowardly Ku Klux Klan, sneaking in the night, attacked us trying to prevent this militant demonstration.

But look around you.

- a. We are Black people uniting to fight against imperialism and national oppression.
- b. We are youth and progressive anti-imperialist fighters from all nationalities.
- c. We are workers, the vanguard fighters against all oppression.
- d. We are militant, we are united, we are one!

Our main basis of unity, the key slogan of our militant battle and our unity with the heroic struggles being waged by African freedom fighters, is to "Fight Imperialism and National Oppression from USA to USA."

What does this mean? Why are we marching on the White House? Why are we concerned with Africa? What are we gonna do for Black people right here in the USA?

Our fight is for freedom, our fight is for liberation. And, yes, we recognize that our main task is to fight right here in this country; we know that US imperialism is everywhere trying to stir up trouble and we're gonna make part of our fight to force this octopus to pull back its arms--we know we're in unity with the freedom fighters because they're cutting these arms of the US octopus off right in the war zones of their countries.

And yeah, the US is not a lone ranger. There^e is a dirty, rotten thief with the face of a friend: the Soviet Union is a false-faced imperialist country, hiding behind a mask of socialism and aid, contending with US imperialism, fighting to sneak into control of Africa--it is a dangerous enemy of mankind and in struggling with the US is creating havoc, disruption, and the possibility of World War III. We must expose this trojan horse in the camp of revolutionary Africa, as will all the peoples of the world, including^{IN} Africa. We must oppose every trick at every turn and expose its image as the imperialist predator that it is.

They have an embassy right over there and they know we know who they are, so we must be consistent in this aspect of our work as well--we say, SUPERPOWERS HANDS OFF! We oppose superpower contention and will continue our fight to expose the rotten role of Soviet Social Imperialism!

There has been a lot of confusion here in D.C. and around the country over the three demonstrations going on today. We are the voice of the American people, we are the future for Black liberation, we are the real friends of African freedom fighters. So who are these other people? What do they say?

The All African Peoples Revolutionary Party is two things. On the one hand it has seized the temporary leadership for a lot of Black people. What has happened? An example of **MIS-** leadership is Andy Young. Young is a pitiful lackey sniffing the rear end of US imperialism, spewing words of confusion; and the militant fighting forces for Black liberation have been left without revolutionary anti-imperialist leadership. But Black people know the value of unity, will fight for it, and will fight against all enemies.

The AAPRP is another thing. While it has appealed to a lot of Black people in the short run, it is based on the great man theory of history. It is guided by an escapist theory that the main fight of Black people in the USA is in Africa--they say Black people shouldn't fight here but should fight in Africa. They say the Soviet Union is a friend, they say the freedom fighters have incorrect goals (to fight for their own particular country is incorrect, one should fight for all of Africa

simultaneously) and so on. But after all, a lot of Black people today are misled into temporary support for all sorts of false leaders--Reverend Ike, and Rev. Andy/ Young, for example.

But this will not last long. The AAPRP has no future because it has no program for struggle here in the USA. Their speakers have been repudiated in every forum they have held--Santa Barbara, Milwaukee, Kent State, Chicago, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Detroit--all over this country. As the struggle develops so will this popular fad of AAPRP and its misleaders fall by the wayside, yapping like 19th century relics of history, screaming loud but producing little.

However, we have attempted to apply the mass line --we have listened to what Black people want--UNITY! Our open letter to the AAPRP proves our position is what we really believe. They refused! They don't want unity! They are having a demonstration that tricks people who want unity of all people against imperialism and national oppression. They are trying to build their own little organization. They are opportunists who are pimping the legitimate, just, and revolutionary aspiration of Black people to unite the many, the masses, to defeat the few imperialists.

Our march has people united, people from all nationalities! Our approach will defeat the enemy! Our will is mighty,

and our political program correct--so we can have revolutionary optimism that the masses of people will be here with us one day soon.

There is another demonstration--an isolated group of self-defined super revolutionaries who are diverting people from the main task of fighting against US imperialism. These dogmatists are more interested in squabbling, they put forward the line that SSI is the main enemy, the object of our "main blow." We think this is silly. Our main enemy is US imperialism. Our main task is to fight it, cast away all illusions about it, unite the mass forces of the American people and have the will to fight it tit for tat until we win.

These two groups represent dead ends. One is a hold over from the Black power period, and says Black people should go it alone fighting in and for Africa, not for the liberation and freedom of Black people in the USA. The other is a pretentious small group of self defined super revolutionaries, fighting in the sky with abstract ideas refusing to see our revolutionary task is to unite with the masses of people and while heightening our awareness of contention between the superpowers, / US imperialism and Soviet Social imperialism, we must fight our ruling class, our main enemy, US imperialism. That's why we are here at the White House, we hate it and we will defeat it.

Let me speak more concretely about our fight, our fight against imperialism and national oppression from USA to USA.

The barbaric African slave trade ended over 150 years ago, and for hundreds of years Black people were tortured and literally consumed in a society dominated by capitalism as slaves. In fact, up to this time the oppression and exploitation hasn't ended, it has only changed its form.

Check out these giant US corporations: Polaroid, IBM and auto manufacturers: General Motors, Ford, Chrysler, American Motors--they rip us off every day; they are the cause of this depression we're in, widespread unemployment, runaway inflation, speed ups and layoffs. They make us live in slave-like slums--Roxbury, Harlem, South side of Chicago, here in D. C., Anacostia and Cordoza. You know what I mean--the Black ghetto. These big banks like Riggs National here in D. C., Chase Manhattan and Bank of America are imperialist partners in this. They use "red lining policies" to deny loans to Black people, push housing costs up, driving Black people and all working people out of their neighborhoods.

In addition to these corporations and banks the government obviously plays a key role in the national

oppression of Black people. Check out the Bakke decision, an attack on Affirmative Action, an attack on the rights of national minorities to their democratic rights to a quality education. It threatens all of us.

We must make this attack on one of us an attack on all of us. We must make a fighter for one a fighter for all. We must fight against this Bakke decision.

In response to this terrible condition we are forced to live with, US imperialism shoves smiling faces in high places expecting us to fall for the con. Their con is best revealed if we ask ourselves what Andy Young is all about, especially the trip to South Africa just last week!

Andy Young says: "My argument boils down to my conviction that the free market system can be the greatest force for constructive change now operating anywhere in the world." He is so bold he says this sloppy mess put forward by his bosses, the captains of US imperialism, is the best for us and people all over the world.

We stand with what Malcolm said--"Show me a capitalist and I'll show you a blood sucker!" We think Andy Young has betrayed the legacy of Black leaders who have spoken out clearly against all forms of exploitation and oppression.

The key to seeing this is what we call imperialism and the GOLD FINGER CONNECTION.

Andy Young was invited to South Africa by Henry Oppenheimer, a major monster of capitalist exploitation in Azania (South Africa). Oppenheimer's corporation produced 1/3 of the world's gold. Over 70% of South Africa's sales abroad come from gold. And these blood suckers will stop at nothing to get profits from this gold. In 1973 Black miners in South Africa were paid slave wages. They got only \$403 per year while white miners in South Africa got \$6800.

So we must continue to fight the policies of imperialism and national oppression in South Africa.

We see the campaign against the Kruggerand as a major way to do this. The imperialists are pushing the sale of this coin. This coin of death accounts for 20% of the South African sale of gold. We must

Smash the Campaign to Sell the Kruggerand in the US!

Kick the Kruggerand out of the USA!

We also know Oppenheimer was hooked up with criminal capitalists like a dude named Englehart in Newark, New Jersey, a ranking advisor to presidents, a big official in the Democratic Party.

Andy Young is real tight with these imperialists. When the imperialists want to get advice on how to defeat the freedom fighters he helps them--he tells them "don't get mad, get smart." Imagine him saying

this to the hundreds of US corporations that have billions invested in Southern Africa.

The same corporations I just mentioned are ripping off the people of South Africa.

- Polaroid provides the equipment that produces the vicious pass book.
- G.M., Ford, and Chrysler don't recognize unions and pay workers less, especially Blacks who make less than a \$1 to make the same product made in Detroit.
- IBM helps the racists with their sinister surveillance system.
- Major banks like Riggs, Chase, and Bank of America are selling the Krugrand coin, investing in South Africa and lending hundreds of millions of dollars to the South African government.
- They keep Black people in horrible housing-- in Soweto where over 1 million people live, there are only 100,000 houses!

We see hundreds of US corporations oppressing and exploiting the Black people of South Africa in a wild search for profits.

So we see that when we look at our suffering and exploitation in this country, when we look at the oppression in Southern Africa, when we sum up our problems--we

have the same enemy, we fight the same dangerous dogs of imperialism. That's why we raise up the slogan, Fight Imperialism and National Oppression from USA to USA!

Further, that's why we march on the White House.

We march on the White House because it is the seat of the US government, a government that betrays its people--Black and white--that serves the fat, greedy, carnivorous corporations!

We march on the White House because US imperialism is a danger to the world's people, and today we especially fight its destructive role in Southern Africa: Namibia, Zimbabwe, Azania!

We march on the White House because in it smiling faces tell lies, and smiling Jimmy "jaws" Carter has to answer for the terror and exploitation he represents.

We march on the White House to expose the shuttle diplomacy of Kissinger and the shuffle diplomacy of Andy Young.

We march on the White House because it is our duty and responsibility to smash the ass of our own ruling class.

We march on the White House because we're not afraid of our enemies, we're not confused about who they are, and we're not going to spend our time talking about them, but fighting them.

We march on the White House not to dream, not to have a festival, not to shout theories of confusion, but to aim the force of our struggle in a concrete way at our major enemy.

We march on the White House because we see clearly the war preparations being made by US imperialism and Jimmy Carter as they get ready to protect their interests from the challenge of Soviet Social Imperialism. We march to say, Hell No! US Imperialism out of Southern Africa! Superpowers hands off!

Many of us have asked and are asking where do we go from here? What happens after our march?

Let me sum up what we think needs to be done regarding Africa.

1. Educate the American people with the truth about Africa, Superpower contention and the threat it represents to African peoples and the peoples, countries, and nations of the world, especially the role of US imperialism. We need to educate the masses of people about the freedom fighters of Namibia, Zimbabwe, and Azania and their just struggles against Apartheid Racist Rule in Southern Africa.
2. We need mass campaigns to provide material aid to the forces fighting in Southern Africa.

We must reach in our pockets, our homes, and the treasuries of our organizations to assist them with food, clothing, blankets, medicine and medical equipment. We must give concrete support to these necessary, just and righteous wars of national liberation.

But our third and most important objective must be to struggle.

3. We must concretely wage campaigns that strike blows against imperialism. We must find ways to wage struggle right here in order that our efforts express the militant solidarity that must develop between the American people and the peoples of Southern Africa. Our work after this march must go out broadly in our communities, in the places where we work and go to school. We must intensify our struggle!

There are some real lessons we can learn from the freedom fighters in Southern Africa. After they tried every means of negotiation, discussion, and moral arguments they failed. But they didn't stop. They took control of the situation and began fighting back. They based their struggles on self reliance and the will of the masses to resist and fight back.

And here we are today---standing up to our enemy US imperialism. Yeah, right up in their faces across from their White House. We have a fighting spirit, we are standing tall. We know it's right to rebel against exploitation and oppression.

The African Liberation Day Coalition was initiated by several local chapters of ALSC, former members of ALSC and revolutionary fighters for liberation and freedom for Africa and the United States. You are among the many who responded to the call for this militant demonstration.

Shortly we will sum up our victory today, examine our strengths and weaknesses, try to learn from you and those throughout the country who could not be here. ALSC does not belong to a little dogmatic sectarian group, it is an expression of the militant anti-imperialist fighting force of Black people in unity with people of all nationalities. We must rebuild our organization, we must build the struggle, we must return to Washington, D.C. in May 1978 and have an ALD demonstration that shakes the very foundation of US imperialism.

We have already made a major step forward. Go home and tell your friends what you did here today. Fire their spirit with the image of our militant unity. Tell them we shamed the Klan, blamed Jimmy Carter,

and aimed our fight at US imperialism and superpower contention.

The ALD Coalition charges you to go out and spread this word. We are a wave coming to the shores of Washington, when the tide comes in again, after we go out and militantly pursue our 3 objectives, we will come back as a tidal wave. Nothing can stop us, united we will be victorious.

Victory to the Peoples of Southern Africa!

Down with White Minority Rule!

US out of Southern Africa, Superpowers Hands Off!

Fight Imperialism and National Oppression from USA to USA!