

Black Women To Meet At Rutgers

Nationalism & Socialism On Agenda

BY FRANCES M. BEAL

The Congress of African People (CAP) is sponsoring a Black women's conference at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey on July 5, 6, and 7th to address itself to the growing demands of black women for something more than the feminist movement or women's liberation.

Seeking something that will speak to the needs of black people, CAP has organized this conference to involve all aspects of the community from the housewife, student, workers to welfare recipients. The theme of the conference is "Afrikan Women Unite." The conference is being planned by CAP's Social Organization Council whose chairwoman is Bibi Amina Baraka.

According to CAP, the ultimate goal of the conference is to "create a national organization of Afrikan women that will commit themselves to a National Liberation struggle, to the unity of Africans all over the world and to putting the power and wealth in the hands of the people."

Topics that will be discussed include Nationalism, Pan Africanism, and Socialism with workshop forums touching on the issues of Education, Social organization, Politics, Health, Welfare, Employment, Communica-

tions and Institutional Development.

Representatives from several African nations as well as delegates from African liberation movements have been invited to participate in the workshops as well as a broad spectrum of representatives from black organizations in this country including the Black Panther Party, Black Workers Congress, RNA, Urban Coalition, SWP, as well as the Democratic Party.

This conglomeration of people representing such diverse ideological perspectives may well prevent any coherent program and plan of action from emerging from this conference, but CAP believes that "it will take all elements of the community, all groups and individuals coming together to deal collectively with the problems of the black community."

This gathering is an important departure from previously held views of the CAP leadership concerning women. Up to now, they generally tended to relegate women passive, non-political roles concerning raising children and safeguarding the family and culture and keeping women from involvement in political affairs which was viewed as a male domain.



At this point, however, CAP feels that this conference is essential "because we understand that the all encompassing seriousness of our struggle demands that Afrikan women fulfill a vital and necessary role in the movement toward national liberation and world Afrikan liberation."

They further proclaim that "if Afrikan women do not understand this role and fulfill it, there will be no Afrikan nation." While CAP sees this conference as a means of raising the political consciousness and educational development of Afro-American women, they give no indication in any of the registration materials or propaganda materials exactly how they perceive the role of women or if the political consciousness and educational development is somehow different for men and women.

The conference registration fee is a prohibitive \$12 which includes meals. They have arranged for a special \$6 fee for welfare recipients and will provide day care facilities for conference participants at a cost of \$2 per day per child.

Further information and registration forms are available from CAP, 502 High Street, Newark, N.J. 07102, Telephone (202) 621-2300.