

**INDEPENDENCE for
PUERTO RICO!**



POLITICAL STATEMENT OF THE PUERTO RICAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE



NATIONAL BOARD

At-Large Members: (Organizations listed for identification purposes only); Ella J. Baker, civil rights activist; Amiri Baraka, Congress of Afrikan People; Frances Beal, Third World Women's Alliance; Clyde Bellecourt, American Indian Movement; Rev. Ben Chavis, National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression; Walter Collins, Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF); Dave Dellinger, anti-war activist; Rev. David García, St. Mark's in the Bowery Episcopal Church, NYC; Corky Gonzalez, Crusade for Justice; Jim Haughton, Fightback!; Phil Hutchings, former chairman of Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC); Arthur Kinoy, Interim Committee for a Mass Party of the People; Yuri Kochiyama, Asian Americans for Action; Beverly Leman, New York Women's Union; Bob Lewis, attorney; Antonio Rodriguez, Centro de Accion Social Autonoma (CASA); Owusu Sadaukai, African Liberation Support Committee; Irwin Silber, *Guardian*; Annie Stein, People Against Racism in Education (PARE); Jose "Che" Velazquez, Puerto Rican Socialist Party **Committee Coordinators:** Ted Glick, Washington, D.C.; Tami Gold, New Jersey; Cathy Graham, Hartford; Fanny Hicks, Chicago; Carolyn Lobban, Rhode Island; Belén Molinari, Buffalo; Julie Nichamin, New York City; Ivelise Padín, Los Angeles; Tony Rostain, New Haven; Anne Sills, Boston **Executive Secretary:** Alfredo Lopez

Front Cover Photo: Rally in Solidarity with Independence for Puerto Rico, October 27, 1974, at Madison Square Garden, New York.

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"Before they can take our country from us, they will have to take our lives." —Pedro Albizu Campos

Today, throughout the world, millions of people are proving the truth of these words. From Vietnam to Mozambique to Chile, people long oppressed by imperialism are rising up to claim their nationhood and their rights as human beings.

The people of Puerto Rico—oppressed first by Spanish colonialists—and, for the past 77 years by U.S. imperialism, are also rising to claim what is theirs.

Denied their national heritage and their political sovereignty, their land robbed and the people exploited for the profit of U.S. corporations, Puerto Ricans today, continuing their history of resistance, are demanding their unquestionable right to self-determination as a people and full independence as a nation.

Today, no national liberation movement struggles alone.

On October 27, 1974, 20,000 people from all over the United States rallied in Madison Square Garden to demand independence for Puerto Rico. This rally of people from different backgrounds, races, and nationalities demonstrated that a movement is growing inside the United States which recognizes that the U.S. government is directly and forcibly maintaining Puerto Rico as a colony. We recognized the important role people in the United States can play to help bring about the victorious outcome of the Puerto

Rican struggle for national liberation. We recognized that the fight for Puerto Rican independence is closely linked to our own struggle against U.S. imperialism and for fundamental change in the United States.

On March 1 and 2, 1975 this solidarity took a new, firm organizational reality. Delegates of the Puerto Rican Solidarity Day Committees from all over the country, people who had worked in organizing the October 27 Rally, gathered in Newark, New Jersey. There, they founded the Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee, a national, anti-imperialist organization dedicated to building a solidarity movement inside the U.S., united in support of the national liberation of Puerto Rico and the self-determination of the Puerto Rican people and committed to continue that struggle until that victory is won.

In keeping with our understanding of the historic role of the PRSC, the Conference approved this political statement as the basis for our work until the next National Conference.

PART I: THE CONTEXT FOR OUR WORK

Before we examine present conditions in Puerto Rico, and the corresponding tasks for a solidarity movement, we should look at the historical context of our work.

THE CRISIS OF IMPERIALISM

The present historical period is one of crisis for imperialism, and in particular, for U.S. imperialism. Contending forces in the world have been brought into sharp focus: on one side, the great majority of people around the world, on the other, the interests of a small minority who seek to rule in order to maximize their profits. The balance of forces in the world is now in favor of the people.

NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

Today, U.S. imperialism is on the defensive. Throughout the Third World, national liberation movements and struggles to bring an end to all forms of colonialism and neo-colonialism are on the rise. This challenge by the national liberation movements is the critical factor in the decline of U.S. imperialism.

From the liberated capitals of Cambodia and South Vietnam, to independent Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique, to the worldwide recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization as the official representative of the Palestinian people, imperialism suffers one setback after another. Objectively, the strength and power of the national liberation movements is greater than that of imperialism. Nowhere is this more clear than in Vietnam. After decades of struggle, the people of Vietnam have defeated the world's most powerful imperialist nation. That victory is a victory and an advance for all the peoples of the world.

However, to say that U.S. imperialism is on the defensive is not to say that it is totally weakened or defeated. Imperialism still has at its disposal tremen-

dous resources—military, economic and political—which it will use to try to crush the growing people's movements. We are living in a period of great struggle. Threatened by its own contradictions, U.S. imperialism may yet resort to nuclear war to try to save itself. In any case, it will not die of itself.

There are other forms which resistance to imperialist domination takes. For example, the pillage of natural resources, the super-exploitation of labor, and the imposition of unfavorable trade relations are all being countered by the unity of the Non-Aligned Nations. This can be seen in the United Nations, in such organizations as OPEC and the other developing alliances among producers of copper, coffee, bananas, who are acting to guarantee just terms of trade. The deterioration of U.S. imperialist control has intensified the competition for power among the capitalist countries, who are accelerating the fight over markets, raw materials, and sources of cheap labor, weakening the U.S.

GROWING STRENGTH OF SOCIALISM

At the same time, while national liberation struggles move on the offensive, and nations achieve greater independence from imperialism, the strength and influence of socialism in the world has increased enormously. The formation and growth of socialist countries since World War II has greatly reduced the arena of operations for U.S. imperialism as well as given concrete support to national liberation struggles. In addition, as capitalism's long-term failure to meet people's needs becomes more apparent, many people are seeing socialism as an alternative system capable of resolving people's problems. After 58 years of trying to isolate and destroy socialist countries, it

is U.S. imperialism which now faces isolation.

ECONOMIC CRISIS ON THE HOME FRONT

The U.S. economy is now facing the consequences of having to defend its empire. In the present economic crisis, the American people are being forced to pay the price of corporate and military losses. Galloping inflation, growing unemployment, irrationality of production, failure of social services: all of these problems have sharpened. Strikes have multiplied, resistance to cutbacks increases day by day. Spontaneously and in organized ways, people are again fighting back, as they have throughout a long history of militant struggle. Many struggles of working people have been led in recent years by Blacks, Chicanos, Native Americans, Puerto Ricans and other Third World people in this country in their determined fight against national oppression.

All of these struggles have heightened the anti-imperialist aspect of the workers' movement in this country. Imperialist attempts to increase national oppression and foment racial conflicts are meeting growing organization and unity among Third World peoples. There has also been a significant development of unity between white and Third World workers around such questions as the importing of Rhodesian chrome and South African coal.

Another important expression of the crisis of imperialism is the decay of its internal political control. Watergate and its aftermath have begun to expose for millions of Americans the true interests served by their government, as well as its anti-democratic methods and hypocritical rhetoric.

PUERTO RICO: MOST IMPORTANT COLONY OF THE UNITED STATES

U.S. domination of Puerto Rico includes all of the

features of a classical colonial system: the super-exploitation of labor; the plundering of natural resources; military invasion and occupation; the control of trade (with people in the colony being a captive market for the goods of the colonial power); and control over the political system.

Puerto Rico contains more than one-third of all U.S. investment in Latin America. The \$9 billion invested in Puerto Rico represents 4½ times the amount of U.S. investments in Cuba in 1959. In the last six years, U.S. corporations have tripled their profits. In 1974 alone, \$1.3 billion left Puerto Rico in the form of corporate profits. (Planning Board, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico).

Puerto Rico is the most important U.S. military fortress in the western hemisphere, protecting the Panama Canal, threatening Cuba and within striking distance of Latin America. Puerto Rico plays the same role for the Navy and the Air Force that the Panama Canal zone does for the U.S. Armed Forces.

Puerto Rico is the fourth largest consumer of U.S.-produced goods in the world and its second largest market in Latin America. Puerto Rico refines approximately 30% of all the petroleum used in the eastern United States. At the same time, North Americans control 85% of all industry in Puerto Rico.

This economic penetration is buttressed by a classical colonial system in the political sphere. Many vital areas of social and political life including complete military jurisdiction, postal service, communications, migration and immigration, currency, trade relations with other countries, and the very problem of status are under the direct jurisdiction of the United States Congress.

But in the economic sphere, U.S. colonialism takes on several unique aspects, different from the classical

colonial economy. Puerto Rico is an industrialized country, a "capital intensive" colony. After World War II, the U.S. initiated industrial and technological development on the island, serving the needs of U.S. corporate interests for capital investment. The tax-free incentives and cheap labor supply made Puerto Rico appealing to U.S. investors. Even as late as 1972 "... the average profit-to-sales ratio for all manufacturing groups in Puerto Rico was a stunning 23.7%..." (*PUERTO RICO: Profit Island, U.S.A., Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Economic Development Administration report*). This profit-to-sales ratio reached as high as 31.6% in the chemical and allied products and electrical machinery, equipment and supplies industry groups. (*Profit Island, U.S.A.*)

IMPERIALISTS' CURRENT PLANS FOR PUERTO RICO

As the logical extension of this development which began in the late 1940's, the U.S. government now plans to increase the petroleum refining capacity of Puerto Rico tenfold, covering the island's southern area with petroleum and petro-chemical complexes.

It plans to begin intensive exploitation of the mining region in the central mountainous zone, robbing the Puerto Rican people of their natural wealth, ripping the rich deposits of copper, nickel and silver out of Puerto Rican earth with no regard to ecological consequences or the livelihood of people in the mountain region. The imperialists are also investigating the possibility of exploiting off-shore oil deposits on the west coast of the island.

The imperialists' strategy is clear:

1) They must build a massive processing plant where, from their perspective, they can safely (without danger of nationalization or sabotage) refine the

tremendous quantity of petroleum they bring in from other countries.

They seek a country where they believe pressures for environmental protection will not be so great as on the mainland, where oil companies can poison the air and water with impunity. Already, petroleum development in some areas, such as the Ponce region, makes life impossible, forcing people to leave these regions in growing numbers.

2) They seek a resolution of the problem of raw materials. Sources in many Third World countries which are now taking a stand against U.S. exploitation of their resources are becoming less accessible and more costly, making Puerto Rico's valuable nickel reserves (equalling 40% of those existing on the mainland), copper deposits, and oil reserves very attractive.

3) They seek a plant with relative security where they can process raw materials from other countries, and with storage space which can be directly protected by the U.S. military.

4) They seek to continue to hold captive a people who can be forced to work for very low wages.

But with the sharpening of the current economic crisis in Puerto Rico, the corresponding political instability, and the growing strength of pro-independence forces, the U.S. imperialists are less secure in their belief that Puerto Rico can fulfill these roles. They are desperate for a way to restore political stability in Puerto Rico in order to realize these objectives.

POPULATION CONTROL: GENOCIDAL POLICIES

Population control policies mean the conscious, scientific subjugation of the Puerto Rican people to the needs of U.S. imperialism. According to 1968

statistics from Puerto Rican demographer Dr. José Vasquez Calzada, 35.3% of all Puerto Rican women between the ages of 20 and 49 have been sterilized.

The colonial government is now introducing more centers for free, mass sterilization, all in the name of "family planning." These centers do not offer substantial counseling on alternative methods of birth control. Cases of sterilizations taking place without the knowledge or consent of Puerto Rican women have been documented. In the sense that most women are not provided with the information that will enable them to make an informed choice, and that sterilizations on the island take place within the context of a country occupied by a foreign imperialist power, all sterilizations in Puerto Rico can be regarded as "forced."

In a government report on migration to the United States (*Oportunidades de Empleo, Talleres de Puerto Rico*, Office of the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico) it is argued that migration is the only stabilizer of unemployment in Puerto Rico because the number of jobs on the island has not increased for a decade.

This being the case, the only way to lower unemployment and to stabilize the political situation is to force more migration and more sterilization. This ruthless policy which forces people to stop having children and to leave their own country can only be viewed as a form of genocide, threatening the destruction of a nation.

THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

There are problems, however, with the strategy of the imperialists. Because of the introduction of massive U.S. investments in Puerto Rico and the consequent dependence of the Puerto Rican economy

on the U.S. economy, and because of the present U.S. economic crisis, the colony has been plunged into the most profound political and social crisis in the history of the Commonwealth. The high cost of living—with an inflationary rate thirty percent higher than on the mainland—combined with a spiralling unemployment rate (over 35%) and stagnating wages, has led to a wave of strikes. At the same time, the colonial nature of the Puerto Rican government makes it incapable of taking any effective measures to resolve the people's problems. It is constantly on the defensive, and day by day it is losing the confidence of the people.

There is one movement proposing an alternative in Puerto Rico which the imperialists will not and cannot accept, which must be fought for and won: true independence.

Heroic Tradition of Resistance

Following the example of Ramón Emeterio Betances, leader of the armed rebellion against Spanish rule—El Grito de Lares, 1868—the Puerto Rican people have a heroic tradition of resistance against Spanish, and later U.S., colonialism.

From 1922 until 1954, the Nationalist Party channelled the national aspirations of the Puerto Rican people and brought the question of Puerto Rican independence before the eyes of the world. The leader of the Nationalist Party was Don Pedro Albizu Campos, who has become the greatest example of uncompromising resistance against U.S. colonial power and a symbol for the Puerto Rican people of the sacrifice required for national liberation.

Because of its growing strength and popular support, the movement led by the Nationalist Party became a target for all-out repression by the U.S. government.

② In 1950, the Nationalist Party planned an armed uprising throughout the island to bring the issue of Puerto Rican colonialism before the world and in anticipation of the large-scale attacks they expected from the U.S. government. This uprising, known as the Jayuya Revolution, was followed by a wave of repressive violence aimed at crushing the independence movement by jailing or killing the leadership of the Nationalist Party and much of its membership.

However, the independence movement was not crushed. Instead it has grown, not only in the numbers of its activists and the degree of its influence, but in its experience and ability to analyze the current situation and design a strategy aimed at contending for power.

There is a popular respect for the independence movement, for its ability to analyze and expose the colonial government's activities and the new plans of the imperialists, to answer colonialist ideological attacks against it, and to propose ways for the people to begin resolving their own problems.

Forces in the Independence Movement

In the workers' movement, many *independentistas* have gained the recognition of their co-workers for their firm defense of workers' interests. Many of them have been elected to leadership positions in the labor unions, and are playing important roles in the growing number of strikes which have erupted in response to the crisis in the colony.

At this time, as the *New York Times* reports, "Puerto Rico is paying heavily for a recession imported from the mainland," (March 22, 1975). The colonial government is attempting to force Puerto Rican workers to bear the burden of the Common-

wealth's critical situation through increased taxation, cutbacks in health and education services, firing of government employees, and the freezing of wages for public employees, who constitute 28% of the workforce.

In addition to economic demands, many of the strikes in Puerto Rico, to one degree or another, have taken on an anti-imperialist character. This merger of the class and national liberation struggle has meant that workers are playing a leading role in the independence movement.

At the same time, the pro-independence student movement has reached private as well as public universities, and has spread to high schools across the island, now more closely linked to workers' struggles than in the past.

Many intellectuals, artists, professionals and other sectors of the population have joined the independence struggle, contributing to the patriotic resistance against U.S. cultural aggression, and to the preservation of the national culture and identity.

The presence of pro-independence figures like Rubén Berríos, Carlos Gallisá and Luis Angel Torres in the Legislature allows the independence movement to expose the impotence of the colonial government and to do battle with it right on the floor of its own political arena.

The existence of a daily *independentista* newspaper, *Claridad*, as well as *independentista* radio programs, has meant that each day the most pressing events in Puerto Rico and in the world are interpreted from the point of view of the Puerto Rican national liberation movement.

Over the past few years, a mass movement against the exploitation of the copper and nickel deposits by the imperialists has deepened and consolidated. In

1973 a massive protest movement was built against the construction of a superport on the island.

Armed Struggle

As the struggle of the Puerto Rican people in their workplaces, schools, and communities has intensified, there has been an escalation in the level of armed struggle. Armed struggle has always played a critical role in the history of the Puerto Rican resistance to colonial rule: from the beginning of the resistance to the Spanish colonialists by the Taino Indians, slave rebellions, the Lares uprising against Spanish colonialism in the late 19th century, through the battles of sugarcane workers and the militant Nationalist Party in the 1930s, the 1950 Jayuya Revolution, to the fight of university students against ROTC in the 1960s, and the formation of armed groups such as the CAL (*Commandos Armados de Liberacion*). In recent years, the forms of armed struggle have ranged from street battles between students and the tactical police, to spontaneous sabotage of U.S. enterprises by workers on strike, to armed confrontations with members of the National Guard, to more organized offensive assaults on imperialist targets such as the bombing of giant U.S. corporations during the 1974 Waterworks Authority strike, after the National Guard was mobilized; or the bombing of branches of Chase Manhattan Bank during the winter, 1974 visit of Rockefeller and Kissinger.

Forms of self-defense to protect the lives, offices and equipment of *independentistas* and members of the workers' movement from attacks by CIA and government-sponsored right-wing groups have also been developed. Some examples of these right-wing, government-backed attacks are the January 1975 bombing of the Boilermakers' Union office, the shoot-out at *Claridad* in 1974 and the murder of two

workers in Mayagüez, also in January, 1975 when a bomb exploded inside a restaurant.

Repression

The rapid growth of independence forces and the increased combativeness of the Puerto Rican people in their daily struggles, combined with the crisis of colonialism on the island, has forced the U.S. government and the colonial government to sponsor even more deadly right-wing terrorist attacks on the *independentista* and workers' movements. This is accompanied by the ever-present threat of intervention by Federal forces, such as the FBI raids following the 40-day waterworks strike and the 1974 mobilization of the National Guard—essentially a branch of the U.S. army in Puerto Rico.

The repressive offensive against the Puerto Rican independence movement during the 1950 Jayuya uprising was an example of how far the U.S. imperialists will go to defend their interests, just as we have seen more recently in Vietnam and all of Indochina. There is every indication that the level of repression will increase rapidly in the next period of time, corresponding to the consolidation of the independence forces. Ultimately, we must be prepared for the possibility of direct invasion by U.S. troops from the military bases on the island or from the mainland itself.

International Recognition

Internationally, the issue of Puerto Rican independence is receiving more attention. In August of 1972, the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization released a report containing a resolution on the colonial status of Puerto Rico and the right to independence of the Puerto Rican people. For the first time, spokespeople for the independence

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movement were granted the opportunity to formally make a presentation on Puerto Rico inside the United Nations when they spoke before the U.N. Special Committee. On December 14, 1973 the General Assembly overwhelmingly approved a resolution recognizing Puerto Rico's right to independence and self-determination.

In September 1973, at the Conference of Non-Aligned Nations held in Algiers as well as in the March, 1975 meeting of Ministers of the Bureau of Coordination of the Non-Aligned Nations in Havana, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party was granted observer status as representatives of the national liberation movement of Puerto Rico. The independence movement now maintains relationships on many different levels with national liberation movements, governments and non-governmental organizations. In this context, the October 27 rally of 20,000 people in Madison Square Garden takes on even more significance. The rally clearly marks the beginning of the first nationally organized movement of solidarity with the independence of Puerto Rico inside the United States.

Thus, the growing awareness of world anti-imperialist forces of the strategic role the Puerto Rican national liberation movement plays in the struggle of all nations against U.S. imperialism because of Puerto Rico's colonial status, economic and military importance for the U.S. has now begun to spread to the people of the United States itself.

Puerto Ricans in the United States

Perhaps one of the most powerful factors involved in this new development is the presence in the U.S. of over 2 million Puerto Ricans (there are 3 million Puerto Ricans on the island). Those who were forced

to migrate face brutal racist oppression on the mainland, live in the worst slums or migrant camps, find only the lowest paying jobs available, and are actively denied their national and cultural identity.

The presence of so many Puerto Ricans in this country led to the opening of a second front of struggle for independence in the very heart of imperialism. The repercussions of this broadening of the struggle for the liberation of Puerto Rico are already being felt.

THE QUESTION OF POLITICAL STATUS

In view of this situation, there are three possibilities in terms of the political status of Puerto Rico: statehood, some form of colonialism, or independence.

Statehood is not a likely alternative for the imperialists. It will not satisfy the national aspirations of the Puerto Rican people. The level of exploitation possible in a colonial situation would be nearly impossible to achieve if Puerto Rico were incorporated as a state. For example, minimum wage laws might be applied to all industries. Also, popular support for the idea of statehood is so low (less than 15%) that even the PNP, the statehood party, does not push the issue much at this time. But one of the most important considerations is the fact that the imperialists need internal stability in the U.S. To attempt to integrate a country with such volatile conditions as Puerto Rico would unduly magnify the internal problems of U.S. society.

The conditions of deep political instability make the continuation of the Free Associated State or Commonwealth increasingly untenable. The Commonwealth has reached the point where its structure tends to restrict capitalist growth, rather than boost

it. Pressures to increase environmental and minimum wage laws from the federal level and the prohibition of autonomous trade relations are beginning to create difficulties for the operation of industries at a high profit level and the development of current imperialist plans.

This is one of the reasons behind the formation of the Ad-Hoc Committee, composed of seven North Americans and seven Puerto Ricans, whose function is to explore the problems of the Commonwealth status. The alternatives devised by this committee, or any other group dominated by the U.S. imperialists, would include only those changes that would not threaten the essence of U.S. colonialism.

Even in its most limited form, independence will certainly not come from the colonialists' hands. Protection of their investments and their military bases are far too important for them to give up.

It is important to have some understanding of these alternatives which are being considered by the imperialists for the political status of Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rican people reject classical colonialism. They will also reject all kinds of neo-colonialist "solutions": statehood, a phony "republic" controlled by the U.S. or anything else the imperialists devise that is intended to disguise—while strengthening—their hold over Puerto Rico. The PRSC supports the Puerto Rican people's unequivocal right to self determination and national independence.

PART II: THE CHALLENGE TO ANTI-IMPERIALISTS

As the balance of forces continues to change in the world, the anti-imperialist forces will take on a broader character. They will become capable of deeper analysis. They will be able to reach more

people and build greater unity, they will become more specific and forceful in their demands, and they will develop closer ties with anti-imperialist forces throughout the world. Our task is to build an anti-imperialist movement in support of the demand for Puerto Rican independence.

BUILD A MILITANT MASS ANTI-IMPERIALIST MOVEMENT IN SOLIDARITY WITH PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE

This movement must attract people from all sectors of the population. It must be multi-national, multi-racial and it must encourage the fullest participation of women.

This movement must be a militant movement, firm and resolute in its commitment, as stated by the National Board of the PRSC, to "give consistent and active aid—material as well as moral—to the national aspirations of the Puerto Rican people," maintaining this solidarity until Puerto Rico is truly free.

The movement in support of Puerto Rican independence must be integrally tied to the day-to-day reality of people in this country. At every opportunity we must expose the U.S. government's rhetoric about Puerto Rico and show how the government's strategy in Puerto Rico affects North Americans, constantly demonstrating that both people have the same enemy: U.S. imperialism. People can and will understand that the liberation of Puerto Rico will signify a tremendous step on the road to basic social and economic change in this country.

PART III: FOUNDING A PERMANENT SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION

In order to build a larger and broader solidarity movement we propose

1. That we found today an anti-imperialist organization to build a solidarity movement in support of the full independence of Puerto Rico and the struggle for national liberation of the Puerto Rican people.

2. That this organization must be based on the understanding that the imperialists' strategy in Puerto Rico is not a "policy error," or an "oversight," but an inherent function of the system of imperialism. This means that we will not be satisfied with Congressional reforms, politicians' promises, or imperialist "solutions!"

3. That this organization will maintain unequivocal support for the principle of self-determination. Each struggle will develop its own ideology, tactics and strategy, and we must respect that fundamental right. We support the independence of Puerto Rico, not any particular group, organization or force.

4. That we accept the understanding that we must constantly adjust our work to the realities of the period, and the needs of the Puerto Rican national liberation struggle.

5. That the principle which unites the Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee is support for the national liberation of Puerto Rico and the self-determination of the Puerto Rican people. Using this principle as a guide and framework for our work, we must set certain goals which will aid us in carrying out our strategy for the coming period:

a) Concrete support for the Puerto Rican movement's demand for independence.

b) Support for workers' struggles in Puerto Rico, which are rapidly emerging as leading struggles in the independence movement. Because it is one of the main concerns of colonialism there, the repression of the workers' movement will become very fierce. Support in this area is essential.

c) Struggle against repression. The past months have shown what colonialism is capable of doing in Puerto Rico, and there is no doubt that federal intervention and repression will increase. It is the responsibility of the Committee to fight against this repression.

d) The Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee opposes all forms of national and racial oppression of the Puerto Rican people in the U.S. Many of the struggles of Puerto Ricans in this country clearly expose the strategy of imperialism in Puerto Rico and help to combat its many manifestations. It is essential to involve ourselves in concrete support for struggles of Puerto Ricans in the United States around issues which are clearly and directly linked to the strategy of U.S. imperialism in Puerto Rico.

e) Genocidal policies. The Committee must oppose U.S. population control policies in Puerto Rico whose two chief forms are forced emigration and sterilization.

From these five programmatic points, the local committees can develop work plans. As well, the National Board can design campaigns on a national level which address themselves to these needs.

6. That this organization not exclude any political tendencies, so long as their members are in agreement with the basic principle of unity and the politics of the committee and reflect its decisions. The only other criteria for membership will be practical work—a willingness to raise the issue of Puerto Rican independence among all sectors of the population.

7. That we build a permanent organization with ongoing activities, actions, educational programs and campaigns, and that we use all available resources to make it a truly national organization.

— March 1, 1975