

Black congress calls Africa liberation day

By MALIK MIAH

MONTCLAIR, N.J.—May 27 should be marked on every African-American calendar in the country. This is the date of the first national African Liberation Day demonstration in Washington, D. C., to protest the repression in Zimbabwe. The action was announced and endorsed at a statewide conference of the Congress of African Youth (CAY), held at Montclair State College on Feb. 11-13.

Owusu Sadaukai, Mwalimu (head teacher) of Malcolm X Liberation University in Greensboro, N. C., stated that the purpose of the action is "to let white people in the United States, Portugal, Zimbabwe, France, West Germany, wherever they are, to let them know in no uncertain terms that there are some people of African descent inside this country, inside Canada, and in the Caribbean, that are demanding that they cease and desist the killing of our people throughout Southern Africa."

The successful organization of a national Black demonstration in solidarity with Africans struggling for national liberation would have international as well as national significance. It would be the first national demonstration organized by Black Americans in support of Africans on the continent since the re-emergence of the Pan-African movement in the U. S.

The conference did not mention where the organizing center for this action will be or what materials will be available for building it. However, Sadaukai discussed the perspective of saturating the Black community with hundreds of thousands of leaflets, buttons, and other materials.

More than 200 high school and college-age youth attended the CAY conference. There were four workshops. The most important, the community organizing workshop, discussed the May 27 demonstration.

Imamu Amiri Baraka (Leroi Jones) spoke at the closing session. Baraka, a leader of the Committee For a Unified Newark, is one of the three temporary chairmen for the national Black political convention called for Gary, Ind., on March 10-12.

He discussed the Gary convention, sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus, and its possible benefits for Black people. "We hope out of this

convention will come a national Black political caucus that might be the seed of a national Black political institution, a political party."

While this is how Baraka may see developments after Gary, that is not how the CBC looks at it. They have no intention of splitting from the Democratic Party. The name of their game is bolstering the image of the Democratic Party, making any post-Gary political caucus an obstacle and a brake on motion toward a Black party.

Baraka himself has admitted in the past that a national Black political caucus would be just a pressuring device on both the Democratic and Republican parties and their national conventions. So either he is deluding himself with talk of a Black party, or he is consciously deluding others. Either way, the effect is the same—cultivating the political dependence of Black people upon the Democratic Party.

Besides discussing the Gary convention, Baraka blasted the tactics of ultraleftism. He also attacked some of the more virulent anti-nationalist Black Democrats in Newark who have not gone along with his concept of 'operational unity.'

Sadaukai took up efforts by the capitalist class to co-opt the Black nationalist movement and direct it toward reformist channels. His main line of fire was directed at the advocates of Black capitalism. He made no mention of or reference to the moves of the Black Democrats.

Sadaukai also discussed his recent trip to Tanzania and to the liberated areas of Portuguese-held Mozambique.

Other speakers at the conference included Les Campbell (Big Black) of The East, an African-American cultural and educational center in Brooklyn; David Barrett of the Newark African Education Alliance; and Larry Hamm, the 18-year-old member of the Newark board of education who introduced the resolution to place the Black liberation flag in Newark schools.

A Northeastern regional CAY conference is slated for late March, and a New York conference will be held in April. A national conference of the Congress of African People, to which the CAY is affiliated, is scheduled for Labor Day weekend in San Diego.