

1800 March, 7000 Rally on Both Coasts

ALD 79: The Party and ALSC Put Bourgeoisie on Notice

On the East Coast 1,500 marched, 4,000 at Malcolm X Park. A busload of vets were blocked by the bourgeoisie on the way to D.C. Two ALSC members on the West Coast arrested and driven around 3 hours by police to intimidate them before they got released. On the West Coast 300 marched, 3,000 at Arroyo Park. It was dedicated to Melvin Black, 15 year old Afro-American youth who was murdered by Oakland police, shot in the head and back several times.

1,500 demonstrators chanted "The only solution is socialist revolution!" in unison as they left Washington, D.C.'s Malcolm X Park on African Liberation Day '79. Communist agitation rippled out of the demonstration as they marched down 16th Street. *Workers Viewpoint* newspapers were sold left and right as people came out of apartments, cars and stores to get a copy.

As the march approached 16th and "K" Street, the pace quickened and the ranks tightened. The permit was supposed to take us down 16th Street all the way to the White House. This year the police were definitely more prepared for the march after we burned an effigy in front of the White House at the November 11th demonstration. The cops reserved Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House, for us "because we might need it." Two years ago, at ALD '77, they offered us walkie-talkies for the march. This year they jammed our walkie-talkies all day long. But in the face of the militant and spirited masses, their preparations didn't matter one bit.

The march changed directions. The cops who tried to direct the march down the approved route faced a steamroller. The Revolutionary Youth League led the way. The line of cops was broken so cleanly that the police didn't know what hit them. Deak's, the biggest dealer of the hated Krugerrand in the country was in sight. Agitators on bullhorns and on trucks began to identify the target. The hatred of the masses just poured out.

There was a big crash as a brick sailed through Deak's window.

After we left Deak's, we were at the White House before we knew it. At the White House, rows of cops with tear gas out, trembled as the march approached thundering. "The only solution is socialist revolution," with so much power that Rosalynn could hear it in the East Room.

ALD '79 Skillfully Combined Legal and Illegal Tactics

The big difference between this year's ALD and last year's ALD was the skillful combination of legal and illegal tactics. This is one of the most important guarantees to maintain the militancy of revolutionary holidays like African Liberation Day.

In a bourgeois democracy like the U.S., talk alone is cheap. If our communist propaganda is not backed up by militant action, the masses and the advanced would not see they have a

fighting chance. All that the misleaders in the trade unions and the communities have got is their mouth. Their job is to yap and to confuse the masses. And they would never take decisive action against the bourgeoisie. That's why the misleaders are indistinguishable from the bourgeoisie. This kind of practice would lead to ALD becoming a routine and eventually reformist day because the bounds of bourgeois reformism have not been broken. This would turn ALD into its opposite and stifle the initiative of the masses. The skillful combination of legal and illegal tactics, taking action that break the bounds of legality will make the Party's and ALSC's line concrete to the masses.

The militant character of ALD was not only in the actions that were taken, but in the brisk pace of the march. This really touched the revolutionary sentiment of the masses who know what this fight is all about and what it takes. This was one of the main differences between ALD '79 and ALD '78. One of the weaknesses was the fact that we did not sufficiently prepare the masses for the militant action before the demonstration and the whole march was not consolidated on the victories right on the spot. Not doing this hampered our ability to use the successes to consolidate the masses on the fighting tradition of the Party.

Preparation for ALD; A Victory for a System of Collective Leadership and Individual Responsibility

To be able to have a major demonstration like ALD with a pre-rally, march, main rally, and a forum that night, take care of children, provide food, coordinate security, and meet the needs of thousands of people in every respect, and to do it all well involves a tremendous number of tasks that have to be carried out. There is no way that all of this can be done without a system that combines collective leadership over major questions of line and the direction of the work, and individual responsibility, strict division of labor.

In the ALD '78 campaign and the November 11th campaign, there was no system of collective leadership and individual responsibility, and as a result no one was in charge of anything, which is an impossible situation for the Party to exercise its leadership.

In this campaign there were some problems in implementing this system. This was why things like the poster came out late, the ALSC paper came out late and the chant sheets were not out until the last minute. Despite these weaknesses, the day as a whole was better organized than ALD last year. There was much less last-minute running around like a headless chicken. In this way, the implementation of a system of collective leadership and individual responsibility directly aids unleashing the masses' enthusiasm and aids accumulation to the Party.



Opportunists Get Crushed At the Pre-Rally

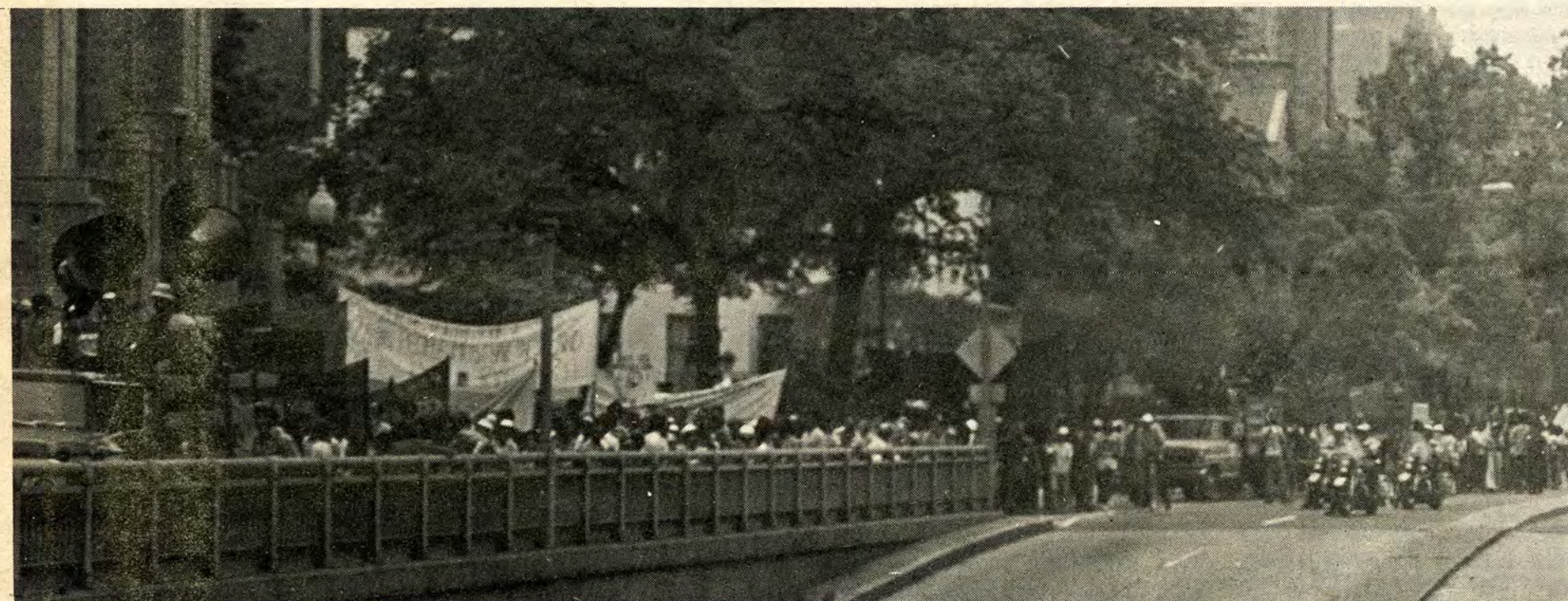
As the day began, buses and car caravans from all across the country streamed towards Malcolm X Park. Banners were unfurled everywhere while a band played African music. As the speeches began, scum belonging to the "Revolutionary Communist" Party, the League of "Revolutionary" Struggle, both petty bourgeois nuisances, and the Progressive Labor Party, a trotskyite sect, began to peddle their trash in the park, trying to pimp off the months of hard work that had been done by the WVO, ALSC and the National Coalition to Support African Liberation. The masses whipped them

but good. The opportunist scum were

run out of the park with roaring approval. One brother said, "It serves them right, they cause trouble wherever they go." These opportunists were so isolated that the only friends they had that day were the police.

Party Sets the Pace At the Rally

At the rally after the militant march, the high point was unquestionably the Party speech delivered by comrade Phillip Thompson. His powerful speech ripped the covers off the capitalist parties in their dash for the 1980 elections, when the crooked political swindlers will try to dupe the people and sidetrack the anger rising all over the country into the elections.



Dealers of the Krugerrand beware! (Left); Above, 1500 marching on the most militant African Liberation Day ever!; Comrade Phillip Thompson delivering a thundering Party speech. (Below Right); The Party's banner stands out for all to see at African Liberation Day. (Below Left)



The speaker from the African Liberation Support Committee denounced both superpowers for the maneuvers on the African continent. The Revolutionary Youth League exposed misleaders like Jesse Jackson, who is blaming black youth for "lack of discipline and motivation" to cover up for the attacks in education like the competency tests that are coming down.

The comrade from the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) tore apart the bogus elections in Rhodesia, and asked the support of the American people to stop the lifting of economic sanctions and the opening of diplomatic relations with the illegal government. David Sibeko of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania stressed the need to use the 1980 elections to force the U.S. government to break diplomatic and economic relations with South Africa. Representing the Group of Kampuchean Residents in the U.S., comrade Phobo pointed out that the struggles of the Afro-American people and the working class and the Kampu-

chean people serve each other. She denounced the aggression of the superpowers, especially the Soviet/Vietnamese revisionists against Kampuchea. Nelson Johnson of the National Coalition to Support African Liberation summed up the day and brought the rally to a close.

The day was brought to a fitting conclusion with a forum by the Workers Viewpoint Organization on the theme of Black Liberation and Communism. Comrade Dwight Hopkins of the WVO, and the National Chairman of the African Liberation Support Committee, gave a comprehensive presentation on the origin, current state and the future direction of the Black Liberation Movement. He stressed that the origin of the oppression of the Afro-American people, can only be understood in the context of the development of the capitalist mode of production taken as a whole. This is the historical materialist basis for the common origin and destiny that the Afro-American people share with white workers. This historical



perspective is especially important in a period when the bourgeoisie is stepping up its splitting tactics to divide the working class and the Black Liberation Movement. He drew the conclusion that the movement of Afro-American people is bound to merge with the working class movement to overthrow the U.S. bourgeoisie.

Conclusion

African Liberation Day was a tremendous success! Without a doubt this was the most militant and politically conscious ALD ever. The leadership of the Party stood out from beginning to end. More advanced and active

elements came forward through this campaign than any other ALD before it precisely because of the militant character and the uncompromising communist propaganda carried out through the whole campaign. And this work of training the advanced workers must continue. As we have stressed many times before, ALD comes and goes, but our ability to win and train workers out of every campaign and skirmish we pick up is an irreversible step toward our final victory. ■