

An Open Letter To SCLC Leaders

The Atlanta African Liberation Support Committee has taken the categorical position that the National SCLC, under the leadership of the Rev. David Abernathy, and its Board of Directors, should not have taken the \$50,000 gift from the Gulf Oil Company.

The Freedom Fighters of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau have identified Gulf Oil and the racist Portuguese government, which is directly responsible for the killings and maiming of countless African men, women and children, as their enemies. Their enemies are out enemies. Gulf Oil pays the Portuguese Government \$30 million per year. Without this financial support the Portuguese could not wage its criminal war. This money has been stolen by the exploitation and maiming of African workers and the rape of African land. This blood money that you have accepted is as unprincipled action and puts you in league with thieves of African resources and the killers of African babies.

How can you, the leadership of SCLC, an organization with a history of just struggles against wrong, reconcile this unrighteous act? You are wrong; and it is our duty to our people to say so. We feel also that we must condemn any others among us who would attempt to undermine our unity in this way.

The Founder and President of SCLC, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, "that if a man has not found anything to die for, then he is not fit to live." This holds true for organizations that profess to have the interest of oppressed people at heart.

The civil rights period of our movement is over that is why we support the revolutionary struggles of the armed liberation groups in Angola and the other Portuguese colonies. Their struggles lives because it has the support of the people.

You have admitted that your organization does not have the financial support of Black people, so do not allow it, by taking this blood money, to become a stumbling block in the way of our people's progress.

We realize that most human rights organizations are in a financial crisis, at this point in history. We do not attempt to deny you financial survival. We know you need money. But should the principles of freedom from oppression be bartered for \$50,000? Our people have initiated a national boycott effort, aimed at the Gulf Oil Corporation and your organization has said that you support this effort. We are asking for you total support, by severing all relations with the Gulf Corporation.

We are therefore appealing to your conscience, something you have often done, to give this \$50,000 back to the Freedom Fighters, since it is from them that is has come. Knowing that you are honorable men of conscience, we feel that this will be done, since it is just. Do you think that our great leader, teacher, and the founder of your organization, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would be pleased, knowing the organization that has led out people through the trying days of the civil rights movement, has degenerated to the point of accepting money stained with the blood of Angolan babies?

THE ATLANTA ALSC