

The AFRICAN WORLD*

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TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

African Liberation Day

Thousands Say No To Imperialism

For the fourth year, thousands of people, in over 20 locations, took to the streets to express solidarity with liberation movements in Africa and around the globe, and they focused on struggles against imperialism at home. The event was African Liberation Day (ALD) - 1975.

The form of the May 24 activities varied widely from city to city, but the theme of solidarity among liberation movements was solidly consistent. Most locations had street demonstrations and park rallies, but some took the form of seminars and workshops.

The crowds also varied widely in size. In Washington, 700 people participated in the march and 1,000 gathered for the park rally. In Durham N.C., 700 people marched through downtown in a rousing demonstration.

Crowds of 150-400 people were reported in Philadelphia, Boston, Newark, Detroit and New York. Crowds of 75 to 150 people gathered in Dayton, Pittsburgh, Kansas City and Houston. In Columbia, S.C., community people went inside prison walls to celebrate ALD with 2,000 inmates in the system. In Oakland, a huge crowd of 15,000 gathered for a day of speakers, music and festivities.

ALD activities were also slated for 10 other cities in the U.S. and Canada, though most reports were not available at this writing.

MULTI-NATIONAL PARTICIPATION

The crowds were predominantly Black, but in most areas, there was significant participation from white, Asian, Latin and Arab people.

Speakers and solidarity statements clearly reflected the fact that the day was in

solidarity with liberation movements throughout the world.

Solidarity messages were heard from people representing progressive groups of Ethiopians, Eritreans, Cambodians, Puerto Ricans, Iranians, Vietnamese, Palestinians and Caribbean peoples. Representatives from Africa liberation movements in Zimbabwe, Azania (South Africa), Namibia, Cape Verde and other parts of Africa, spoke at most demonstrations. Their message was clear, "Imperialism must be defeated at every turn."

DOMESTIC FOCUS SHARP

Most ALD organizers clearly recognized the need to link the worldwide struggles against imperialism with the struggles against oppression in the U.S., and this recognition was reflected in many ways.

In Durham, N.C., there was particular focus on the problems of the city's sanitation and hospital workers and the case of JoAnne Little. In Dayton, participants focused on criminal justice and education problems. In Kansas City, focus was on housing and unemployment. In Boston, a worker from the Converse Rubber Co., gave a message of solidarity. In Columbia, S.C., activities focused on problems of local workers and the prison system. In Newark the struggle of local hospital workers and struggles against educational cutbacks was highlighted. In New York, there was attention to problems of construction workers and women.

In Washington, attention was directed at problems of tenants and power company rate increases. The pattern was the same in other areas.

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AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY 1975. PEOPLE CAME OUT IN CITIES THROUGHOUT THE country to protest imperialist exploitation in all its manifestations, particularly in reference to liberation movements. Crowds at seminars and rallies ranged from 75 to 15,000. There have been rapid changes in the world since the first ALD in 1972. Oppressed people are winning victories against exploitation while U.S. monopoly capitalists attempt to shift the brunt of THEIR crisis upon the backs of working people, and oppressed nationalities. One message was clear throughout this year's ALD activities - the main trend in the world today is revolution.

African Liberation Day Demonstrations

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PRE-ALD ACTIVITIES
In several places, the May 24 effort came after workers and days of related activities. In Washington, organizers held a month-long series of forums, programs, street rallies and information booths at street corners and shopping centers. Organizers estimate that direct contact was made with over 15,000 people who attended programs, stopped at booths or paused for discussion in the community. The thrust of the efforts was information about local, national and international issues.

• In Boston, organizers held a week long series of seminars, forums, films and an international dinner.

CHANTS AND SLOGANS

As demonstrations moved through the business districts or poor communities on ALD, a wide range of chants charged the crowds and attracted onlookers. In Boston, the chant was "Imperialism No! Depression must go!" In Durham, participants marched under the theme of "Spent the money on the needs of the people," while chanting "Victory to the people of Southern Africa," "One, Two, Three JoAnne Little Must Be Free," and "Down with the ruling class! Power to the working class."

In Washington, the main slogan was "People United Can Never Be Defeated!" Other D.C. chants included "Tenants Fight Rent Hikes," "Let's say no to Pepco," and "Let the rats and the roaches pay the rent!"

SOLID LOCAL WORK

Most ALD activities around the country were led by local chapters of the African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC). And in most cases, significant support came from a wide range of progressive groups and organizations who carried the ALD message to broad sectors of the community and working class.

Primary attention was focused on reaching working people with informational and educational material. ALD organizers in general did not mount extensive campaigns aimed at students although large numbers of students turned out. Clearly, the crux of the ALD message - solidarity against imperialism - was aimed at the working class.

RAPID CHANGES SINCE FIRST ALD

"The world is in great disorder - but revolution is the main trend today." This fact was clearly impressed on the minds of people who have supported ALD through the years.

Since the first ALD in 1972 there have been rapid strides of progress among struggling oppressed people. In 1972 the Portuguese were confident that FRELIMO could be contained in small areas of the countryside. Today FRELIMO



THIS YEAR'S ALD DEMONSTRATION COVERED A NUMBER OF ISSUES RANGING FROM high food prices and unemployment at home, to U.S. intervention in the internal affairs of other nations abroad.

leads the second phase of revolutionary struggle as independence becomes a reality.

In 1972 the Portuguese claimed PAIGC was mainly a creation of the press, today the people of Guinea-Bissau vote in their own national assembly, guided by the militancy of PAIGC.

In 1972 the U.S. was darting through Cambodia and conducting raids from bases in Laos against the people of Vietnam. Today the U.S. angrily launches massive attacks on Cambodian patrol boats out of frustrations at having been routed out of one South East Asian country after another.

Ian Smith of Rhodesian runs around frantically trying to buy time from the Zimbabwe liberation forces and imperialists are pulling out all stops trying to prop up friendly forces in Angola.

In other developments Portuguese fascists have been booted out of power and zionists in Israel suffer a morale depression as the Palestinian people remain firm in their commitment to be free in their homeland.

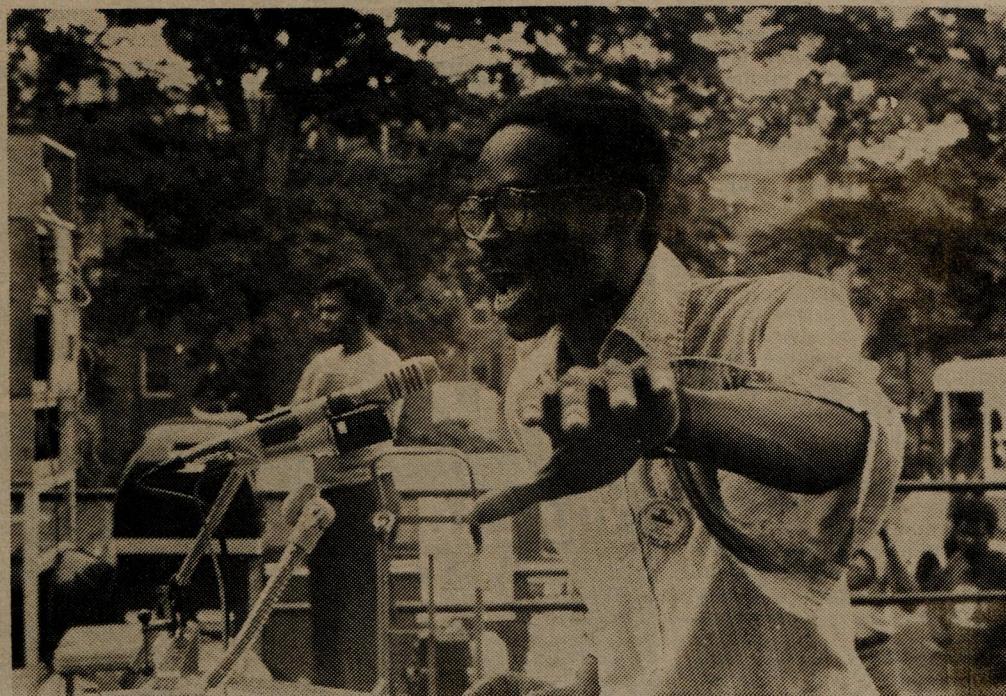
In the U.S. Nixon has been forced to give up the throne, Kissinger is getting embarrassed at every turn, and dumb, clumsy Gerald Ford falls on his face all over Europe.

Working people in the U.S., increasingly suffering under this economic crisis, are rising up angry each day. But despite all their ills, U.S. monopoly capitalists are dangerous. Police powers are being rapidly expanded, the flames of racism are being fanned vigorously and the pretense of justice and democracy are being abandoned with few excuses.

Such are but a few of the changes noted during ALD-1975, and they were noted seriously. Increasingly people who come out to show solidarity with struggles in other places are getting down and struggling where they are. In 1972 huge ALD demonstrations were held in Caribbean islands like Antigua and St. Vincent. In 1972 the leaders of those demonstrations suffer severe repression because they have joined with the masses in struggles among workers and rural peasants.... "Revolution is the main trend today."

QUOTES

Speaking in Durham, Larry Little of the Black Panther Party and Coordinator of the JoAnne Little Movement noted, "The U.S. government is the most barbarous repressive government in the world." He also noted, "JoAnne Little will



D.C. ALSC CHAIRPERSON CARL TURPIN, ADDRESSES THE CROWD ASSEMBLED AT THE local ALD rally, held in Malcolm X Park. Turpin spoke of the importance of building the anti-imperialist movement in this country as one part of the means of correcting problems such as bad housing, poor schools, unemployment and imperialism worldwide.

be free by the power of the people."

"It's a very cruel way some of the workers in this city are being treated!" thundered Durham sanitation worker, John Morris, "I'd like to give the City Manager an invitation to come down to the sanitation department and let him tote those barrels around and make four or five thousand dollars a year!"

"Look at all the money the city is spending on the bicentennial celebration," said Paul Bermanzohn of the Durham New American Movement. "If the government doesn't serve the needs of the people they'll have another revolution on their hands!"

A representative of the Cambodian Khmer Rouge expressed solidarity in a New York speech, "There is a strong bond of solidarity between the Afro-American and Cambodian peoples."

Carl Turpin of Washington ALSC, in giving a sharply political speech, noted, "We must tell the domestic worker, the worker who digs ditches, the grades 1-4 government workers, the entire multi-national working class that they must organize and fight the main enemy, the enemy that is connected to and determines all forms of oppression in this society—this is the ruling class perpetuators of imperialism and national oppression."

Turpin concluded, "we will take lessons from Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos--and apply what we can to the U.S. But we will always use the basic principle that People United Can Never Be Defeated!"

Zimbabwe Forces

Seek Unity

After Unrest

(AN) — Following violent faction fighting last weekend, African Nationalist leaders in Rhodesia, are trying to reconcile their differences in preparation for renewed constitutional talks with the white government.

Among the problems to be resolved are a threatened walk-out by the militant wing of Rhodesia's African National Council, and the resignation of the ANC's chief negotiator.

The militant Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), last week accused a rival group, the Zimbabwe African People's Union, of trying to take over leadership of the ANC. ZANU officials also said they would boycott an upcoming ANC conference - an important strategy session concerning talks with the Smith government.

Struggle between ZANU and the People's Union stems partly from long-time rivalries between executives of both groups. But ZANU has also taken a harder line on the need for an effective guerrilla army, and a ZANU breakaway may mean a stepped-up guerrilla war—in spite of negotiation efforts by other groups.