

African Liberation Day

From a correspondent

Washington - Close to 7,000 people of different nationalities marched in three different demonstrations in support of African Liberation Day (ALD) on May 28. It was a strong show of support for the liberation struggles currently being waged in Southern Africa.

African Liberation Day (ALD) has been celebrated in the US since 1972 when tens of thousands of Afro-Americans marched in support of struggles of the African people. In the last two years the numbers of people at ALD has decreased and it has become more like a festival. This year marked a resurgence in the numbers of people marching as well as the militance of the demonstrations. For the first time large numbers of nationalities other than Afro-Americans participated. This was also the first year in which there were three different demonstrations.

One demonstration was organized by the All African Peoples Revolutionary Party (AAPRP) which is led by Stokely Carmichael. The AAPRP's two slogans were "The core of the Black revolution is in Africa and until Africa is united under a socialist government the Black man all over the world lacks a homeland", and "South Africa, Rhodesia and Israel are the enemies of Africans and all mankind". Besides Carmichael,

there were speakers from the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, CASA and African liberation movements. The demonstration excluded non-Blacks and one principle of unity was upholding the USSR as a socialist country. From 4-5,000 Afro-Americans attended this demonstration. It clearly shows the need for communists and class conscious workers to bring a correct analysis of African liberation and Afro-Americans' struggles to the masses of the American people.

About 1,500 people attended the second demonstration, which was initiated by the Revolutionary Communist Party and the Revolutionary Workers Congress, organized by the African Liberation Day Coalition. It was a broad, multi-national coalition in which communists and progressive forces participated. The two main slogans were "US Out of Southern Africa -- Superpowers--Hands Off" and "Fight Imperialism and National Oppression from the USA to the USA (Union of South Africa)". Contingents from all over the East and Midwest came to participate in the march. The African Liberation Day Caucus, Iranian Students Association and the Ethiopian Students Union of North America participated in a contingent whose purpose was to emphasize the growing influence of the USSR in Southern Africa. The RCP consistently downplays the role of the USSR and, in fact, slandered the contingent for demanding that both the US and USSR get out of Southern



Africa. The contingent distributed thousands of leaflets throughout Washington D C in preparation for ALD.

The outstanding speaker at the Coalition rally was from the Pan African Congress (PAC) of Azania. He denounced the role of the US and USSR in Azania. He received enthusiastic applause when he announced the establishment of a liberation army inside Azania under the guidance of the PAC.

About 500 people attended a demonstration organized by the Workers Viewpoint Organization. Only those forces that united with the WVO political line attended. WVO has tried to make the African Liberation Support Committee into an organization for the "advanced" and has effectively isolated the ALSC from the masses.

ALD 1977 showed once again that the American people can be mobilized in support of African Liberation struggles. It also brought out the divisions that exist within the working class and oppressed nationalities. Each of the major organizers -- AAPRP, RCP, WVO -- held a sectarian approach to ALD, attempting to build their own organizations at the expense of ALD. Genuine support for African Liberation struggles will come about through the principled unity of communists, revolutionary nationalists and other progressive forces in opposition to both superpowers' exploitation of Africa.