

AFRICAN LIBERATION MONTH LINKED TO STRUGGLE HERE

This May's annual demonstrations sponsored by the African Liberation Support Committee have undergone a qualitative change from last year.

Instead of organizing one-day marches, the ALSC has declared the entire month "Africa Liberation Month," and will mobilize the Afro-American people not only in support of the struggles of their African brothers and sisters, but also against their own oppression here in this country.

This development from the original African Liberation Day in 1972 is a concrete expression of the challenge the ALSC took upon itself, namely: "showing the interrelationship of the oppression of the people of Southern Africa and the exploitation of the Black people in the Western Hemisphere."

ENERGY CRISIS

Along with the central issue of African Liberation, African Liberation Month (ALM) will focus on the so-called "energy crisis," police repression and the prisons, and getting rid of Nixon. ALSC chapters throughout the country will hold educational forums about the growing crisis of U.S. imperialism the first three weeks in May. On May 18 or 19, there will be demonstrations aimed at uniting all Black people around these issues and to commemorate the birthday of Malcolm X.

From May 22 to May 24 a National Conference on Racism and Imperialism will take place in Washington, D.C., to be followed the next day by a massive, national demonstration in the streets of the capital.

The ALSC—the main force behind ALM— sets as its main task the building of a United Front of Afro-Americans from all classes and strata opposed to racism and imperialism.

African Liberation Day, May 1972, marked its' first political activity, when over 60,000 Black people marched in six cities of the Western Hemisphere and in Africa. Over the following two years, the ALSC has played a major role in organizing the boycotts of Portuguese imports and products from the Gulf Oil Corporation; protests of the assassination of Guinea-Bissau patriot, Amilcar Cabral; support of Black longshoremen who refused to unload illegal chrome shipments from Rhodesia; a massive campaign to repeal the Byrd Amendment; the International Weeks of Solidarity Against Portuguese Imperialism and, most recently, anti-repression coalitions in several Black communities. In May 1973 local demonstrations sponsored by the ALSC brought out over 80,000 Afro-Americans in over 30 cities.

The changing character of the ALSC's program is rooted in the development of its political principles. Ignoring neither the class nor the national oppression which Black people face, ALSC's statement of principles puts forth that, "Black people throughout the world have finally got the news—the news that racism and imperialism, the two-head monster—are our enemies. . . . We here have the same duty as all progressive Black people—to fight imperialism in all its manifestations."

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"The principal task of our movement," according to the statement, "has two aspects. We must merge the Black liberation struggles in the U.S. with the National liberation struggles in Africa, because a victory anywhere in the fight against U.S. imperialism is a victory everywhere. We must coordinate the Black Liberation struggles in the Western Hemisphere with the overall struggle of people of

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 18)

AFRICA MONTH ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

color to change the fundamental nature of this society, because we have a responsibility to the world to fight exploitation and oppression in this very stronghold."

Key to the work of building the Black anti-racist, anti-imperialist united front, is the role of the Black worker. The organization states: "We must give the highest priority to mobilizing Black workers. . . It is this section of the Black community that has the most to gain by the victory of our struggles and yet they have been ignored by the movement. . . they have demonstrated the power to do many things, such as stopping illegal chrome shipments from Rhodesia, expose repressive use of Polaroid identification systems and stop production of cars, not only in solidarity with the liberation movements, but also as part of the fight against their own oppression. Therefore, we encourage Black workers to take the lead."