

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, No. 19, April 21, 1972

Present: Britton, Camejo, Dobbs, A. Hansen, Horowitz, Jenness,  
Jones, Lovell, Novack, Rose, Sheppard, Stone

Visitors: Hawkins, Kerry, Morrison, Scott, Seigle, Shaw, Thomas

Chairman: Sheppard

AGENDA:                                   1. Antiwar Upsurge  
  2. African Liberation Day Demonstration

1. ANTIWAR UPSURGE

Jones reported.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

2. AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY DEMONSTRATION

Hawkins reported (see letter attached).

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014  
April 21, 1972

TO ALL BRANCH ORGANIZERS

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed is an edited version of a report by John Hawkins to the April 21 meeting of the Political Committee on the African Liberation Day actions slated for May 27.

This report and the proposals for supporting and building this action should be given immediate attention.

Comradely,

*Betsy Stone*  
Betsy Stone

The projected May 27 African Liberation Day march on Washington represents a significant development. The call for this demonstration comes in a context of deepening concern among Blacks in the U.S. over American foreign policy in Africa. Recent decisions and moves on the part of the Nixon administration have fueled this concern, e.g., Nixon's promise of more aid to Portugal through NATO during his visit to the Azores last fall, the tacit support on the part of the Nixon administration for the British proposal on Rhodesia, the extension of South Africa's sugar quota, and most recently the lifting of the United Nations ban on trade with Rhodesia to allow the importation of chrome.

The depth of the concern felt about these recent administration moves is reflected in recent initiatives on the part of the Congressional Black Caucus. In their list of proposals presented to Nixon last year, the CBC took note of the situation in South Africa and urged that all investment by U.S. corporations there be halted. More recently the CBC has sponsored a bill in the House of Representatives that would compel U.S. corporations with investments in South Africa to liquidate their holdings there and pay reparations to the Black Africans. Another indication of the pressure the CBC must feel from the Black communities across the country to act on the situation in Africa is the recent resignation of Rep. Diggs from the U.S. delegation to the U.N.

In addition to these moves on the part of the CBC, recent actions in the Black communities reflect even more clearly the growing concern with American foreign policy in Africa. The best example is the series of actions by Black students and workers protesting the importation of Rhodesian chrome. Black longshoremen refused to unload the ore. In the context of the new administration moves in connection with Africa and in the context of the renewed interest in Africa and Pan Africanism, the May 27 march on Washington has the potential to mobilize a significant number of Afro-Americans and will undoubtedly provide a focus for action on the part of many young Black activists.

The May 27 demonstration is being organized by the African Liberation Day Coordinating Committee (ALDCC). In one fact sheet that the ALDCC has issued it describes itself as "a very broad-based national ad hoc coalition of Black public figures who have come together despite their political and ideological differences, for the sole purpose of mobilizing Blacks in the Americas (U.S., Canada and the Caribbean) to demonstrate their solidarity with the liberation movements on the Continent." The purpose of the demonstration is to: "show the world our support for the struggle they [African liberation fighters] are waging; protest U.S. involvement in Southern Africa; protest European settler colonies' suppression of liberation movements."

To date the May 27 action has received a broad range of endorsements. The more than 3,000 delegates at the National Black Political Convention in Gary, March 12-14, voted to endorse it. The 50-person steering committee of the ALDCC includes such figures as Louis Stokes, John Conyers, Ralph Abernathy, Jesse Jackson, Imamu Baraka, Angela Davis, Nathan Hare, Huey Newton, and representatives of organizations such as CORE, the National Council of Black Churchmen, and the Student Organization for Black Unity.

Organizers of the ALDCC are conscious of the need for broad endorsement of, and participation in building, the action in order to meet their projected goal of 10,000 demonstrators in D.C. (A West Coast action will be held in San Francisco on the same day.)

The steering committee is chaired by Owusu Sadauki (Howard Fuller), President of Malcolm X Liberation University in Greensboro, N.C. Sadauki was instrumental in initiating the ALDCC following a visit to Mozambique last fall. In discussions Sadauki had with leaders of the Mozambique liberation movement they expressed the need for a mass movement to be built in defense of the liberation struggles in Southern Africa. The May 27 demonstrations are being build to coincide with May 25, "World Solidarity Day with the Peoples of Africa," established by the Organization of African Unity. A May 27 demonstration is currently slated for Toronto and Sadauki is at present travelling throughout the Caribbean to organize support for similar actions there. Here in the U.S. one of the most active elements within the ALDCC is the Student Organization for Black Unity (SOBU), of which Sadauki is a member. SOBU is campaigning through its biweekly newspaper, African World, to build the demonstration.

The national headquarters for the May 27 demonstrations has put out two posters as well as leaflets and an extensive fact sheet on the situation in Southern Africa. More posters and leaflets along with buttons and brochures on the action are planned. Several local committees have been established and have begun to function. Meetings have been held on a borough and citywide basis in New York to organize for the May 27 action with representatives from a broad spectrum of organizations present, including SWP and YSA members. The general atmosphere has been one of cooperation and readiness to welcome participation from all who support the action. In addition local committees in the Boston and New York areas have begun putting out literature on the action and in Louisiana local ALDCC forces were responsible for the demonstrations protesting the importation of Rhodesian chrome.

In locals and branches where there are Black comrades every effort should be made to become involved in the planning and building activities for the demonstration. In many areas building actions for the May 27 mass mobilization are also being planned. In addition to other building activities, forums with local organizers of the May 27 action as featured speakers can be arranged to help get out the word of the demonstration to as many people as possible. Militant articles on the progress of demonstration building activities will also help build support for the action. Local campaign committees should contact the Afro-American endorsers of the campaign about building the demonstrations. A letter from Andrew Pulley to Afro-American endorsers urging them to participate in local ALDCCs and help build the May 27 actions will be going out soon. Local candidates should use their speaking engagements to urge people to become involved in building the demonstrations.

A list of coordinators for the local ALDCCs is enclosed. Initial reports on activities already underway for May 27 should be sent to the party and YSA national offices as soon as possible and regular reports on the progress of building the demonstration thereafter. In addition, in order to follow events across the country surrounding the May 27 demonstrations more closely comrades may find African World very helpful. Single issues should be available from local SOBU chapters. Subscription rates are \$3.00 for one year; the address is African World, Box 20826, Greensboro, N.C. 27420.

National Headquarters

African Liberation Day Coordinating Comm.  
2207 14th Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20009  
(202) 462-3411

CITY

ADDRESS/PHONE

Chairman/  
Coordinator

Boston

c/o Harriet Tubman House  
27 Holyoke St.  
Boston, Mass.  
(617)266-2265

Otu Mintz

New Haven

NHUO  
98 Lylvan St.  
New Haven, Conn. 06519

Rodney Oliver

Wilmington, Del.

Black Family  
P.O. Box 2856  
Wilmington, Del.

Lew Gothard

St. Petersburg

JOMO  
Box 12792  
St. Petersburg, Fla.  
(813) 895-9739

Joe Waller

Atlanta

Pan-African Work Center  
759 Primrose St. SE  
Atlanta, Ga.  
(404) 622-2592

Mary Ethel  
Jones

Chicago

Box 165  
1414 E. 59th St.  
Chicago, Ill.  
(312)663-2490

Ruwa Chiri

Baton Rouge

Dept. of Pol. Science  
Southern University  
Baton Rouge, La.  
(504)771-3797

Alex Willingham

Louisville

Spirit of Blackness  
4522 Varble Ave.  
Louisville, Ky.

Henry  
Williams, Jr.

Jackson

P.O. Box 11235  
Jackson, Miss.  
(601) 362-1129

Howard Spencer  
Mark Williams  
355-5064

Baltimore

433 E. 25th St.  
Baltimore, Md.  
(301) 467-3086/448-2821/664-7884

Owusu Bandele  
Jay Fassett

Detroit

PAC  
12117 Dexter Blvd  
Detroit, Mich.

Kwadwo Olu  
Akpan

Newark	CFUN 502 High St. Newark, N.J. (201) 621-2300	Imamu Baraka
Ithaca	The Graduate School Sage Hall, Cornell Univ. Ithaca, N.Y. (607) 256-4884	William B. Osby
Greensboro	SOBU P.O. Box 20826 Greensboro, N.C. (919) 273-1797	Nelson Johnson
New York	East 10 Clayer Pl. Brooklyn, N.Y. (212) 636-9400	Bobby Johnson Les Campbell
Philadelphia	Congress of African People 18 W. Chelon St. Phila., Pa.	Richard Traylor
Providence	18 Transit St. Providence, R.I.	Michael Beanbien
Houston	P.O. Box 14093 Houston, Texas (713)649-4274/528-1635	Gene Locke
Berkeley	1740 A Derby St. Berkeley, Ca.	Tanya Russell
Cleveland	African Peoples Party 12370 Superior Ave. Cleveland, Ohio (216) 268-4682	Ray Henry
Columbus	1220 Fair Ave. Columbus, Ohio (614)258-3798/258-4640	Ed Boston
Gary	Black Peoples Congress P.O. Box 295 Gary, Ind.	Dan Brown
San Diego	N.I.A. 4183 Market St. San Diego, Ca.	Imamu Sukumu
Milwaukee	3529 N. 4th St. Milwaukee, Wisc.	Sister Tisho Barnett

Pittsburgh

N.I.A.  
2510 Center Ave.  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
(412) 681-1600

Mwanafunzi  
Sababa Akili

Dayton

1506 Catalpa Dr.  
Dayton, Ohio

Floyd & Minnie  
Johnson