

# Negro Nation Day Festival Big Success

On Sat., June 17, 1972, the Chicago Area of the Communist League held the second annual Negro Nation Day Festival. The event was supported by a delegation of the Detroit CL and a CL cadre from the Negro Nation. Negro Nation Day was widely supported by the masses from the local community and factories and many other elements interested in justice and democracy. The slogans of the day were, Free the Negro Nation, Free Puerto Rico and Read the People's Tribune! These were readily accepted by the broad masses of workers and their families in attendance. Over 250 People's Tribunes were sold, 22 Negro National Colonial Question documents and almost 100 copies of the various works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Tsetung. Over 200 dinners were served with the food being prepared and donated by the honest and dedicated elements in the community and local factories.

The high point of the day was five speeches given by comrades from Ethiopia, Chicago, the Negro Nation and Detroit. The Ethiopian comrade expressed the need and desire for solidarity between the workers and oppressed nations and peoples of Africa and the

workers of the USNA. The Chicago comrades, speaking in Spanish and English, gave a concrete and detailed explanation of what the Negro Nation was and where it was located and its strategic position in regard to the revolutionary movement in the Anglo-American nation. They showed how the oppression of the Negro Nation and Puerto Rico act as reserves of U.S. imperialism and that the first step forward for the revolutionary proletariat in the oppressor nation is to demand the independence of the oppressed peoples and nation. The comrade from the Negro Nation gave a stirring account of the local conditions, pointing out that the Nazis and Ku Klux Klan are attempting to use terror to curtail the just demands of the Negro people. She pointed out that the petty bourgeois elements were attempting to pacify the outrage of the working class, instead of arming the class with the fighting science of Marxism-Leninism. Acting in their traditional role of capitulation to fascism she compared them to a moron who standing in the eye of a hurricane assures everyone that there is no danger; everything is calm.

A brilliant analysis of

the class struggle in Detroit was delivered by a Detroit comrade. One of the highlights of the speech was the merciless exposure of the rotten CPUSA. Quickly dispelling the myth that the CPUSA is tactically weak, the worker clearly showed how these rats buy off the compromised petty bourgeoisie with money in order to use them to divide the working class. This stirring exposure of the white chauvinism of the CPUSA greatly angered the workers present. Further it was pointed out that the opposition to the CPUSA's policy of chauvinism and disunity could be found in the line of Lenin and that the stirring of the Negro people will be recorded as the first step in the socialist revolution in the USNA.

Many steadfast democratic elements participated in the mass demand for independence of the Negro Nation and Puerto Rico. These included some of the best known blues musicians in the country and local soul bands. In order of appearance were the Deadly Poison, a fine soul band from the neighborhood, Kansas City Red, Lee Jackson, Sunnyland Slim, Carey Bell, Bob Reidy, Jimmy Rogers, and Homesick James.

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# NEGRO NATION DAY

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The Neighborhood Commons Corp., a local housing co-operative, donated their office space, equipment and organizational know how and talent to make the festival the political success that it was.

Many elements of the community, especially the solid proletarian women prepared and donated delicious food. Other elements, mainly the revolutionary youth drew up many posters concerning the struggles for justice, democracy and socialism. Hundreds of balloons reading, "Free the Negro Nation, Free Puerto Ri-

co" were released to the children of the neighborhood.

The occurrence of this festival and the widespread support and participation of the masses is a serious heightening of the struggle to link the theory of Marxism-Leninism with the objective class struggle. It clearly showed that the masses of workers are willing to struggle for their political and social rights today. For the masses to move, the Communists and progressives must go amongst the people, patiently explaining issues to them, give them responsibilities in the movement and give them political leadership.