

# Masses Support African Struggles

Thousands demonstrated on African Liberation Day in support of the people of Africa. Compared to the small turnouts of 1975 and 1976, this year marked a strong resurgence. But the division of the people into three marches in Washington D.C. shows that we have a long way to go.

The largest of the D.C. marches, that of the All African Peoples Revolutionary Party, drew about 5000. As in past years, Stokely Carmichael used the traditional Malcolm X park gathering to push the dangerous line that only the U.S. imperialists and the settler regimes, and not the U.S.S.R. exploit and oppress the African people. Denying that the Afro-American struggle must be linked with that of the U.S. multi-national working class, Carmichael would weaken the ability of the multi-national peoples of the U.S. to support the struggles of the African people.

One very notable change from last year was that thousands chose to march in multi-national demonstrations. But these, too, were divided by incorrect lines on how to give support for the people of Africa.

One march sponsored by the remnants of the African Liberation Support Committee drew about 1000 people. Respecting the ALSC for its past work, many honest forces who had come by buses from New York and North Carolina found themselves subjected to the long and dishonest harangues of the Workers Viewpoint Organization that is currently calling

the shots in ALSC. For this march the one truly bright spot, was the participation of a speaker from Zimbabwean African National Union (ZANU).

The most militant and largest demonstration that opposed both U.S. imperialism and U.S.S.R. social-imperialism was that of the African Liberation Day Coalition. 2000 people marched on the White House. Speakers such as David Sibeko of the Pan-Africanist Congress, and Fred Walters of the Gulf Coast Pulpworkers Union linked up the struggles of Africa and the multi-national peoples of the U.S. Speakers, chants and banners condemned the superpowers and called for the unity of the people.

In a futile attempt to disrupt this unity, a Nazi contingent ran through the edge of the staging area for the demonstration in Kalorama Park. Followed closely by the police, the Nazis obviously hoped to provoke a police assault on the demonstrators, so as to mar the march.

Regrettably, it was the tactical leadership of the ALD coalition that contributed most to marring the unity of a generally correct demonstration. Faced with two groups of Iranian Students, the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) decided to support the incorrect demands of one group (with which they have traditionally worked) that the other group be excluded. Since both groups said that they supported the demands of the demonstration, this exclusion was totally sectarian and weakened the march both in numbers and in its

has been greatly reduced because of its actions and defeat in Vietnam, its oppression of the Afro-American people here, and its support of apartheid in Africa. Young has quickly moved to equalize the U.S.S.R.'s advantage in Africa, by claiming that U.S. presidents, Russian premiers, and

imperialists, it does not mean that he is doing it the way that they would best prefer. Because of their needs, he is given some leeway. Young is using that to advance Social-Democratic, and ultimately social-fascist positions that will stand him in good stead in future adventures of U.S. imperialism.

## Victory to the Ethiopian People!

Since the February 3rd coup, the regime of Mengistu Marium in Ethiopia, has desperately increased the fascist terror against the Ethiopian and Eritrean people. Thousands have been murdered. Thousands have been tortured. Hundreds of thousands have become refugees in the Sudan.

Helping in this destruction has been not only the U.S. but the U.S.S.R. Cuban military advisors have moved into Ethiopia, just as they did earlier in Angola. But, unlike in Angola, they could not even start with the excuse that they were there to help free the country of foreign troops. They are the foreign troops, and the Ethiopian and Eritrean peoples have

roundly condemned them. Here in the U.S., Ethiopian and Eritrean students have denounced the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. collusion and contention that seeks to oppress their peoples.

The Ethiopian and Eritrean peoples have won great victories against feudalism and imperialism. In 1974, they toppled the feudal regime of Haile Selassie, which had been more heavily armed by the U.S. than any other African nation. Today, the Eritrean people, after a 15 year armed struggle, have freed almost all of the territory of Eritrea. The fascist terror and the outrageous presence of Cuban advisors are desperate attempts that will surely fail. ★

principles. The exclusion represented an unprincipled interference by the RCP in the national liberation struggles of another country.

African Liberation Day is an important focus of our support for the peoples of Africa. But true support must obviously be year-round and take many forms. These include direct material support, work in trade unions to

link the revolutionary struggles here and there. The MLOC, like other organizations, is in the process of extending guidelines for its work for the coming period. Plans for that work, and plans to overcome the opportunism that held back this year's mobilization for ALD and split the working class into three contingents will be set out in future issues of UNITE! ★