

New support for May 26

African liberation day actions set

By BAXTER SMITH

"The May 26 demonstration will be of extreme significance because Black people will be saying in massive numbers that we face a common oppression all over the world and that through our unity and support of the struggles, not just on the African continent but wherever we are, we can find a common solution." This was how Sister Alice Reid of the African Liberation Day Coordinating Committee (ALDCC) told a New York City news conference on May 9 of the importance of African Liberation Day.

The conference was chaired by Roger Newell of the African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC). Other speakers included Percy Sutton, Manhattan borough president; Livingston Wingate, executive director of the Urban League; the Reverend Leon Modeste of the executive council of the Episcopal Church; and others.

The well-attended news conference, covered by most major daily papers, TV and radio stations, was a high point of last week's preparations for May 26 in New York.

A group of Black hospital workers from Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx

offered their support for May 26, as did the New York chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers and the New York Society of Afro-American Transit Employees. Several groups of high school students have taken literature for distribution. Two groups of Black GIs in West Germany and Sweden have requested information and literature on the action.

This week the committee secured a sound truck for use in publicizing the action throughout New York's Black communities. More than 125,000 leaflets have been printed to build the demonstration, as well as 25,000 buttons, 50,000 stickers, and 9,000 posters. Literature tables are up every day in busy areas around the city building the protest.

The May 26 demonstration in Houston has also received wide support within the Black community. The march there will begin at 11 a. m. in Wiley Park (the original slave-trade base in Houston prior to the Civil War) and proceed through the downtown area to a 4 p. m. rally in Emancipation Park.

The protesters will make stops at

the federal building, Gulf Oil Corporation building, the First National City Bank, and the site of the shooting of Carl Hampton, a Black militant murdered during a police attack on the Black community in August 1970.

The main speakers will be Dawolu Gene Locke, local organizer of the ALSC, and Msanasekay Linda Gqobose, of the national executive committee of the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (South Africa). Other speakers will include representatives of the sanitation workers, postal workers, and welfare workers, as well as college and high school students.

The ALSC has supporters in 11 cities across Texas. One of the groups supporting May 26 is the Texas Black Political Caucus. It is introducing legislation this week into the Texas state legislature that would ban importation of South African and Rhodesian products through Texas ports.

Eight Connecticut ALSCs are making final plans for the May 26 protest in New Haven. The protest will consist of a march from the Black community through downtown New Haven with stops at Shell Oil, Gulf Oil, and Holiday Inn. The marchers will also stop at Yale University to protest its complicity with these corporations.

Speakers at the rally will include Andrew Pulley of the Young Socialist Alliance and, tentatively, two Black state legislators. Articles have appeared in various newspapers around the state publicizing the protest.

Several Militant Labor Forums in cities across the country are holding meetings to build support for May 26. On May 11, the West Side Militant Forum in New York sponsored a discussion on apartheid in South Africa. Speakers included B. R. Washington, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Manhattan borough president and activist in the ALDCC, and Gail Morlan and Marie Orth-Pallavicini of the Southern Africa Committee.



Militant/B. R. Washington

New York press conference. Front row from left: Alice Reid, Roger Newell, Percy Sutton, Leon Modeste.