African Liberation Day 1978 (ALD)—momentum is gathering more steam as May 20th rapidly approaches. All across the United States battle plans are being carried out and new groups and individuals are joining the National Coalition to Support African Liberation (NCSAL).

After completing a successful demonstration of over 3,500 people in Raleigh, North Carolina on April 1st, hundreds of groups and individuals in the North Carolina Coalition to Free the Wilmington Ten are mobilizing for Washington, D.C. May 20th.

On the weekend of March 31st through April 2nd, the Northeast Conference on the Liberation Struggles of Southern Africa was held at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. Over 500 students and youth attended, representing more than 45 different colleges in the U.S. The Conference endorsed African Liberation Day May 20th and voted to carry out full mobilization for Washington, D.C. Through participation in the anti-apartheid demonstration in Nashville, Tennessee against South Africa's participation in the David Cup tennis match, fresh new troops are deepening the struggle in Nashville on campuses and in the community and mobilizing for ALD.

In addition to fifteen local coalitions building full steam for ALD, the NCSAL has established contacts in various cities in upstate New York, Virginia, Colorado, Missouri and other cities. Speaking engagements have taken place or are scheduled on college campuses and in the community from Williams College (Massachusetts) to Howard University (Washington, D.C.), from Rutgers University (New Jersey) to Wayne State (Detroit) from University of Wisconsin and Malcolm X College (Chicago) to universities and communities in northern California. The Fourtiers union in New York, Local 457 AFS-CME in Detroit and AFGE Local 41 in Washington, D.C. have endorsed the Coalition. The United Church of Christ and the National Council of Black Churches have endorsed the NCSAL and have activated their locals to bring out their congregation and communities. Black sportsman and political activist Harry Edwards has endorsed the Coalition. The Oakland NCSAL chapter is participating in a speaking tour for representatives from the Black Consciousness Movement of Azania (South Africa) to help build for the West Coast ALD (which is also being held on Saturday May 20 in Oakland). Local black elected officials in Oakland, North Carolina and Massachusetts are participating in the ALD mobilization. The NCSAL has forced coin dealers in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Chicago and Oakland to stop selling the Krugerrand blood coin. Press conferences are scheduled in the Northeast, Midwest, and the South and the West Coast to help give the all out final push toward ALD. Local chapters of the Coalition are still collecting clothes and medical supplies for the Southern African liberation forces. Throughout the country, national and local groups are uniting and will deal one solid blow to imperialism and express firm support for the fighting people of southern Africa on May 20th in Oakland and Washington, D.C.

Significance of ALD 1978

This year's ALD has taken on more and more significance as the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe has intensified their armed struggle against the fascist, racist Ian Smith regime of Rhodesia. The Patriotic Front has liberated two-thirds of their country and are carrying out armed attacks one mile outside the Rhodesian capital (Salisbury).

Zimbabwe is where the armed struggle in southern Africa is most developed. Just as the armed struggle is most developed in Zimbabwe, the maneuvering by the imperialists is also most frantic here. Of the proposed internal settlement schemes for this region, Rhodesia is the first to implement this desperate tactic on the part of the local apartheid cliques (Vorster of South Africa is currently negotiating with some local black stooges of South West Africa on an "internal settlement").

Recently the U.S. Imperialists have attempted to increase its muscle in this region. Making an historic trip for the monopoly capitalists, Carter was the first U.S. president to visit Africa. Around the same time, the shrewd Andrew Young was in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania trying to split the firm unity of the front line states away from the Patriotic Front by calling the Front to cease their just armed struggle against

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apartheid and imperialism. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance joined Young in Tanzania to push this impossible mission. Having split the coalition of liberation groups in Angola in 1975, the imperialists of the Soviet Union are abetting the Patriotic Front to see which angle it can use to weasel in its wedge. Zimbabwe has become a pacemaker for what is to come in South Africa and South West Africa. This is why we must continue to unite the broadest sectors of the U.S. people to show our support for the Patriotic Front on ALD.

This year's ALD has its primary focus on southern Africa and secondarily the Wilmington Ten. The struggle in southern Africa is linked very closely to the Wilmington Ten issue. Both represent clear cases of imperialist domination of oppressed nationalities. With Vorster and Smith doing the dirty work, the apartheid southern African region has become an outpost of U.S. and British reaction. The Wilmington Ten case and the rebellion in which they fought for quality education shows the developing fight for the right of self-determination of the Afro-American nation in the Black Belt South against U.S. monopoly capitalist oppression. Within the past couple of months, Governor Jim Hunt of North Carolina refused to pardon the Ten after all evidence showed that they were innocent and framed. Since that time, the NCSAL, following the lead of the North Carolina Coalition to Free the Wilmington Ten, has developed national support to "Free the Wilmington Ten". And in North Carolina, the Ten has become the number one issue on the hearts and minds of the people. Thousands of North Carolinians have been organized at support rallies and meetings since Hunt's infamous decision. The recent fervor of the Afro-American national movement in the Black Belt South represents political offensive against U.S. monopoly capitalists. All across the U.S. groups and individuals are increasingly taking up the southern Africa issue. A groundswell of activity has begun. Churches and trade unions have withdrawn their funds from businesses having investments in South Africa. Students are carrying out divestiture campaigns and taking over campus buildings. Different classes and groups in the Afro-American national movement have stepped up activity in support of southern Africa. Likewise the national movement in the Black Belt South is welding together a whole people in the struggle to free the Ten. The U.S. imperialists recognize these developments. They are trying to mislead the people by pushing one of the slighest talking points since John F. Kennedy. This is the line Andrew Young is playing. He uses his "credential" of having worked in the Civil Rights Movement with Martin Luther King. He uses the fact that he is black to try to put the new people to the Party, as well as to the African Liberation Support Committee will be the long-term significance past May 20th.

Following in the glorious tradition of African Liberation Days of past years, like these in 1972 and 1977, this year's event will include a broad range of forces. But the accumulation of new people to the Party, as well as the black African Liberation Support Committee will be the long-term significance past May 20th.

We must step up the campaign toward ALD and the NCSAL as a broad coalition to unite many forces. The masses of U.S. people, particularly Afro-Americans are daily demonstrating strong spontaneous sentiment for the liberation of southern Africa. During the course of this mobilization many active and advanced people are coming forth seeking a higher level of understanding of the political situation in southern Africa and in the United States. Many advanced forces are coming forth open to the Party's line and leadership. The accumulation of the new people to the Party's leadership will be the fundamental long-term significance past May 20th. ALD comes and goes but the need to raise the political level of the masses and recruit new forces is in the future interest of the African people and the working class and oppressed people in the United States. Building up the Party of the U.S. working class—Workers Viewpoint Organization—through the course of the southern Africa campaign, is a concrete step in preparing for the day when U.S. imperialism will no longer ravage the world. That day will be a socialist United States run by the workers and oppressed.