

BLACK LIBERATION MONTH NEWS

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FOR A NEW AFRICAN LIBERATION SUPPORT COMMITTEE

POST OFFICE BOX 87141 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60680 USA

FEBRUARY 1978



Why Black Liberation Month

Black Liberation Month is our attempt to unite with the sentiment of the founders and supporters of Negro History Week, and join their emphasis on study with our emphasis on struggle. Moreover, the concept of Black Liberation Month more accurately reflects the needs of our movement, particularly the need to build on the massive participation of people in the upsurge of struggle during the 1960's.

Carter G. Woodson, noted Afro-American nationalist historian, founded Negro History Week in 1926. In addition to the newspaper column of J. A. Rodgers, this was the major source of information that Black people had about their history. Every year in schools, churches, civic and political organizations, Negro History Week has been a time for historical reading and discussion.

We believe that Negro History Week has made a great contribution to mass awareness of Black History. Moreover, the recognition of Negro History Week has caught on, and has become an intellectual tradition in the 20th Century Afro-American experience. However, times have changed considerably since 1926. In political and cultural terms, the time has come to transform our orientation: from Negro to Black, from history to liberation, from week to month.

The revolutionary upsurge of the 1960's is our most recent historical experience of massive militant protest. It continues to be a rich source of lessons for current and future struggles. Black liberation month unites with Woodson's effort, but does so by raising it to a higher level based on the lessons of the 1960's.

In sum, our study of history must be linked with the revolutionary history of the Black liberation movement. Our goal is not simply to symbolically institutionalize a change in our yearly calendar of events, but to use this month as one more way to raise the consciousness of the masses of people about the historical nature of exploitation and oppression, to unite people around a correct political line, and to mobilize people to actively take up the struggle for Black liberation.

ANTI-KRUGERRAND CAMPAIGN SCORES VICTORIES

"Gold Coin of Death Forced out of Chicago's Largest Department Store!" "M & I Bank Drops Krugerrand in Milwaukee!" "Milwaukee City Council Condemns Gold Coin Sale!" "National T.V. Networks Drop Krugerrand Ads in Major Cities!"

These are just a few of the headlines reporting the recent victories in the struggle against the sale of the South African gold coin, the Krugerrand. These campaigns indicate that a mass movement among the American people to support the liberation struggle in Southern Africa is gathering steam, especially among Black people.

Several organizations throughout the United States made the struggle against the Krugerrand part of their work. And at the heart of many of the struggles throughout the country that scored victories was the Organizing Committee for a New African Liberation Support Committee, or New ALSC. In several cities across the U.S., New ALSC initiated and built The Ban the Krugerrand Coalition, a broad based coalition of progressive organizations and individuals to fight for the victory of the people of Southern Africa.

Why did New ALSC target the Krugerrand in our struggle to build support for the freedom fighters of Southern Africa? We need only to look at the two sides of the Krugerrand coin — one side of exploitation which enriches the wealthy imperialists and the other side of death and oppression that Krugerrand means for the masses of Black people in South Africa.

Gold is essential to the economy of South Africa because the sale of gold accounts for over 75% of all its foreign sales, money South Africa has to pay for the goods it buys from other countries. Newsweek reported last year that the Krugerrand represented 21% of South Africa's entire gold output and the New York Times reported that the United States got 15% of the 5 million gold coins mined in 1976. Gold sales in the U.S. were so important to South Africa that it mounted a \$4 million dollar advertising campaign in major American cities to promote the coin.

The other side of the Krugerrand is the brutal exploitation and oppression of the masses of South African people. Black people account for more than 90% of those who mine the Krugerrand gold. Yet they earn only 1/15 the wages paid to white miners, less than \$25 per week for working 60-70 hours. So 90% of the miners who are Black earn only 31% of the wages. There are three deaths per shift in the mines of South Africa. Black miners work on 18 month contracts, are forced to live in barracks separated from their families who are not allowed to live with them. "Trade unions and strikes are outlawed," The New York Voice revealed.

The result of and reason for this brutal system of imperialist oppression is PROFITS. In 1973 gold profits rose by 88% to \$1.46 billion. These profits go into the pockets of people like Henry Oppenheimer, the South African "goldfinger" who was Andy Young's host in April of 1976. Oppenheimer's company produced one-third of the world's gold.

Imperialists in the United States also make millions of dollars from the Krugerrand and South African gold. But the sale of the Krugerrand is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to how U.S. imperialism supports South Africa. U.S. corporations have over \$1.6 billion in investments in South Africa and are earning 15c or more on every dollar, as compared to less than 10c in the U.S.

Millions of dollars in loans flow to South Africa from U.S. banks, and the U.S. is now South Africa's number 1 trading partner. In addition, the U.S. government has helped South Africa develop nuclear weapons and an effective military apparatus to further oppress the Black South African masses. And this support hasn't ended with Carter and Andy Young.

But where there is exploitation and oppression there will be struggle and resistance. There is a long history of militant resistance in South Africa, going back to the days when Chaka Zulu fought the invading British in the 19th century. The recent period has seen the upsurge of the Black Consciousness movement after the liberation organizations were banned following the Sharpsville massacre in 1960. The rebellion of Soweto students in 1976 signalled a new awakening of struggle among the South African masses. In response to the escalating brutality of the minority government and such cowardly acts as the murder of Steve Biko, many militant freedom



DECEMBER 1977 DEMONSTRATION IN CHICAGO, U.S.A. (United States of America)



JUNE 1976 DEMONSTRATION IN SOWETO, U.S.A. (Union of South Africa)

NEW ALSC PLANS MILITANT AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY

A massive protest demonstration is again being planned for African Liberation Day, May 27th 1978. The New ALSC will soon be announcing detailed plans and a political statement for building a broad based coalition of forces to take up this campaign of struggle in a militant and revolutionary way. This will be the seventh African Liberation Day protest held in the United States. Everyday there are items in the news which demonstrate that the struggle in Southern Africa and the Horn of Africa are heating up. More and more people are learning about the fight for liberation in Africa and want to do something about it. The New ALSC is an organization rooted in militant struggle, dedicated to building a mass movement of support for freedom fighters in Africa. Toward this end, progressive people of all nationalities are invited to contact the national office of ALSC and get involved.

The general political slogan that guides the work of NEW ALSC is "FIGHT IMPERIALISM AND NATIONAL OPPRESSION FROM THE USA (UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA) TO THE USA (UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)" This slogan points out the major similarities between the situation in Southern Africa and here in North America. Both are ravaged and plundered by the imperialist system, whether it is U.S. imperialism that we know so well, or the more newly arrived Soviet Social imperialists. Additionally, both countries in Africa and here in America are composed of different nationalities with Black people being exploited and oppressed as working people and as nationalities. Therefore it is a correct political slogan; it is being supported by the masses of people because their concern is to help the peoples from southern Africa, and to carry on the fight right here at home.

However, the New ALSC is not saying that the situations are exactly the same. The developments in Africa must be analysed country by country, region by region, and in every case there is a great deal of difference between the particular struggle of Black people in the U.S. with any country or nation in Africa. In sum, the fight to expel an imperialist aggressor from your country is the major aspect of the fight in Africa, while the fight of Black people and all other oppressed

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Bloody Krugerrand Gold

Ever since the slavers came
Africa's heart has been a FLAME.
Since the day they came
on company ships,
Shaking chains and cracking whips,
They have always sought
To shift the blame
To those that fought
and they could not tame. Every
time they chose to speak
They told a lie to oppress the weak.
Now they come with another lie
and smack their lips
as Africans die.
Now they come
with a coin of Gold,
mixed with Blood and imperially sold.
This they call "The Krugerrand" -
Named for a Fool of Racist Bond.
Krugerrand Gold is mined from Earth
By workers Black of African Birth.
Each must toil for the meager pay
Of a worn-out Back
and a dollar a day.
Then they are told,
Though the world is wide,
They must have a pass
To go outside.
Krugerrand Gold is sold in stores
while people die
From torture sores.
Krugerrand Gold is sold in Banks
While African Blood
is shed by Tanks -
Tanks that come from imperialist plants
where workers are bossed
and treated like ants.
Krugerrand Gold is a capital whore
That pays the Rich
to Pimp the Poor.
Capitalists grease
Their murdering palms
and feel at ease
While they sing their Psalms.
Then they say to those they slay
That the struggle for Freedom
is not the way.
Krugerrand Gold is a hard commodity
That thrives on death
Like a fiend on oddity.
Krugerrand Gold is a Racist creation
Designed and minted
To subdue a nation.
But Krugerrand Gold
will never defeat
The fighting force
it is soon to meet.
For oppressors will find
on every level -
Those who mine
can swing a shovel.
and just as sure
as the African way -
We are going to Fight
in the U.S.A.!

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BLACK LIBERATION

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

FIGHT IMPERIALISM AND NATIONAL OPPRESSION FROM THE USA (Union of South Africa) TO THE USA (United States of America)

IN THE USA (Union of South Africa)

Thousands of students, teachers, and workers are rebelling in Soweto, South Africa, striking blows against the racist "apartheid" system by boycotting schools! The armed liberation struggle in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) is succeeding and has rejected the imperialist plan of Carter and Young for "a peaceful solution" which really means "no solution" and continued exploitation and oppression! They will fight on to victory! The Ethiopian and Eritrean people are making significant gains, striking blows against the brutal military regime in Ethiopia, a fascist regime that was once the tool of the U.S. imperialists and is now the tool of the imperialist of the Soviet Union! The two superpowers — the U.S. and the Soviet Union — are competing with each other to get control over Africa.

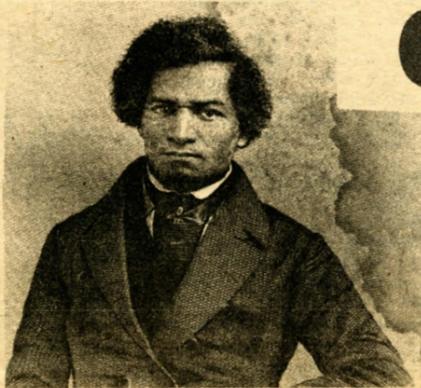
IN THE USA (United States of America)

Ku Klux Klan rallies and Nazi marches have been busted up in Chicago, Ohio, and Plains, GA. as the struggle to smash this racist trash heats up! Defense committees are organizing to protect the rights of Black children to quality education! The battle against the Bakke decision and all attacks on affirmative action is building! Unemployment is hitting everybody hard! U.S. Steel has laid off hundreds and has threatened to close South Works! So the struggle against Carter's cutbacks in unemployment benefits and other social programs like welfare has escalated! And the fight for jobs is spreading, especially after recent government figures showed Black people with the highest unemployment rate since World War II — 14.5%, with Black Youth over 40% unemployed.



In 1960, four black students led a massive sit-in movement in Greensboro, N.C. This sparked a militant black protest that exposed the national oppression of the U.S.A.

5



DOUGLASS

6

1926: Negro History Week initiated by Carter G. Woodson

7

State police brutally murdered and wounded 50 people in South Carolina.

12



1793: The Fugitive Slave law passed by Congress making it illegal to protect an escaped slave.
1909: The founding meeting of the NAACP in New York City

13

Patrice Lumumba, leader of the national democratic revolution of the Congo, was assassinated in 1960. His assassination was planned and funded by the C.I.A.

14

Richard Allen, founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (1790 in Philadelphia), born. The development of the independent Black church made a major contribution to the formation and development of the Afro-American nation.

1851: Black Abolitionist room in Boston to free the slave.
1962: Black Nationalist protest murder of Lumumba.

19

1909: The first Pan African Congress under the leadership of W.E.B. DuBois began in Paris, France. There were a total of 5 Congresses that contributed to the anti colonial post World War II period.

20

Frederick Douglass, great Black leader in the fight against slavery, died 1895. He said "Without struggle there is no progress."

21



1965 Malcolm X assassinated

"Of all our studies, history is the most important. It is the only one that rewards our research. You see that you've got to have to do is examine the method used all over the world by those who have problems since the beginning of time. Once you see how the world is straight, then you know how to get yours straight."

26

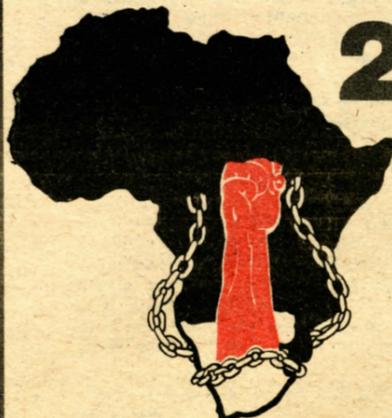


1884: European colonial powers and U.S.A. end Berlin Conference which carves up Africa

27

"While it was true a thousand years ago, that human toil and energy was unable to feed, clothe and shelter all mankind, this has not been the case since the beginning of the nineteenth century; and today, with what we know of natural forces; with the land and labor at our disposal, with the known technique of processing materials and transport of goods, there is no adequate reason why a single human being on earth should not have sufficient food, clothing and shelter for healthy life."
W.E.B. DuBois

28



WHAT

1. ALSC is a fighting organization against the exploitation and the oppression of the United States, imperialism, and the few rich capitalists can control.
ALSC will point the finger at the resources of Africa and the Soviet Union (imperialist ruling class, U.S. imperialism and class exploitative forces of all nations) to smash the Klan and Nazi the battle against police brutality. Black people in Africa are fighting against IMPERIALISM AND NATIONAL OPPRESSION (United States of America)

MONTH CALENDAR

RY 1978

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1



Students began the... in Greens... a new phase of... that exposed the black people in

2

Eduardo Mondlane, first president of Frelimo was assassinated in 1969 by a mail bomb. Frelimo led the victorious national liberation struggle of the people of Mozambique.

3

VICTORY TO THE PEOPLES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA!

4

Armed struggle began in Angola in 1961. In all, three organizations contributed to the successful victory of the Angolan masses in overthrowing Portuguese colonialism. However, today Angola is dominated by superpower rivalry, especially now by the Soviet Union and Cuba.

8

...dered students in Orangeburg,

9

Paul Lawrence Dunbar, renown writer of rural Afro-American dialect poetry, died in 1906. He wrote "I know why the caged bird sings!"

10

11

The first Black library was founded in Philadelphia in 1833. This is one of many examples of Black peoples struggle to build institutions and develop culturally.

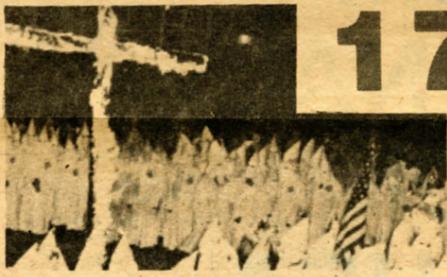
15

...crashed court to rescue a fugi-... disrupt UN to of Patrice Lu-

16

1936: National Negro Congress founded in Chicago. Organized Black workers into the C.I.O.

17



1865: The Klu Klux Klan, fascist organization that promotes white supremacy, organized in Pulaski, Tenn.

18

1965: Gambia becomes the 36th independent African country.

22

...ry is best qual-... arch. And when... problems all you... e historic meth-... world by others... nilar to yours... ey got theirs... how you can... Malcolm X

23

1886: W.E.B. DuBois born.

24

"Modern imperialism and modern industrialism are one in the same system; root and branch of the same tree. The race problem is the other side of the labor problem; and the Black man's burden is the white man's burden."
W.E.B. Dubois - 1925

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DUBOIS

IS THE NEW ALSC

(AFRICAN LIBERATION SUPPORT COMMITTEE)?

Organization trying to unite the masses of people of all nationalities against oppression of Black people caused by imperialism. Both in Africa and in the USA is a system which rips off and oppresses the masses of people so that a tiny minority enjoy most of the wealth while the masses suffer. We must enter and build the fight against all imperialists who want to rip off the people of Africa — especially the U.S. imperialists and the "social imperialists" of the USSR who call themselves "socialists." But our main target will be our own imperialists who help maintain the vicious apartheid system of national oppression in South Africa. ALSC will also be involved in the struggles by progressives against the oppression of Black people in the USA, like the fight to end the struggle for quality education and to defend affirmative action, and to end brutality. Thus, ALSC will focus on the exploitation and oppression facing Black people in the United States, as presented in its main slogan: FIGHT IMPERIALIST OPPRESSION FROM THE USA (Union of South Africa) TO THE USA (Africa)!

3. The New ALSC is building on its history of struggle. It successfully spear-headed the broad-based coalition which organized 1500 people to march and protest at the White House on African Liberation Day — 1977 and is already building for a bigger march and protest on African Liberation Day — 1978, May 27, 1978.

ALSC's program for 1977-78 will focus on

(a) EDUCATING the American people about the just struggles in Africa and why it is in our own interest to support these struggles.

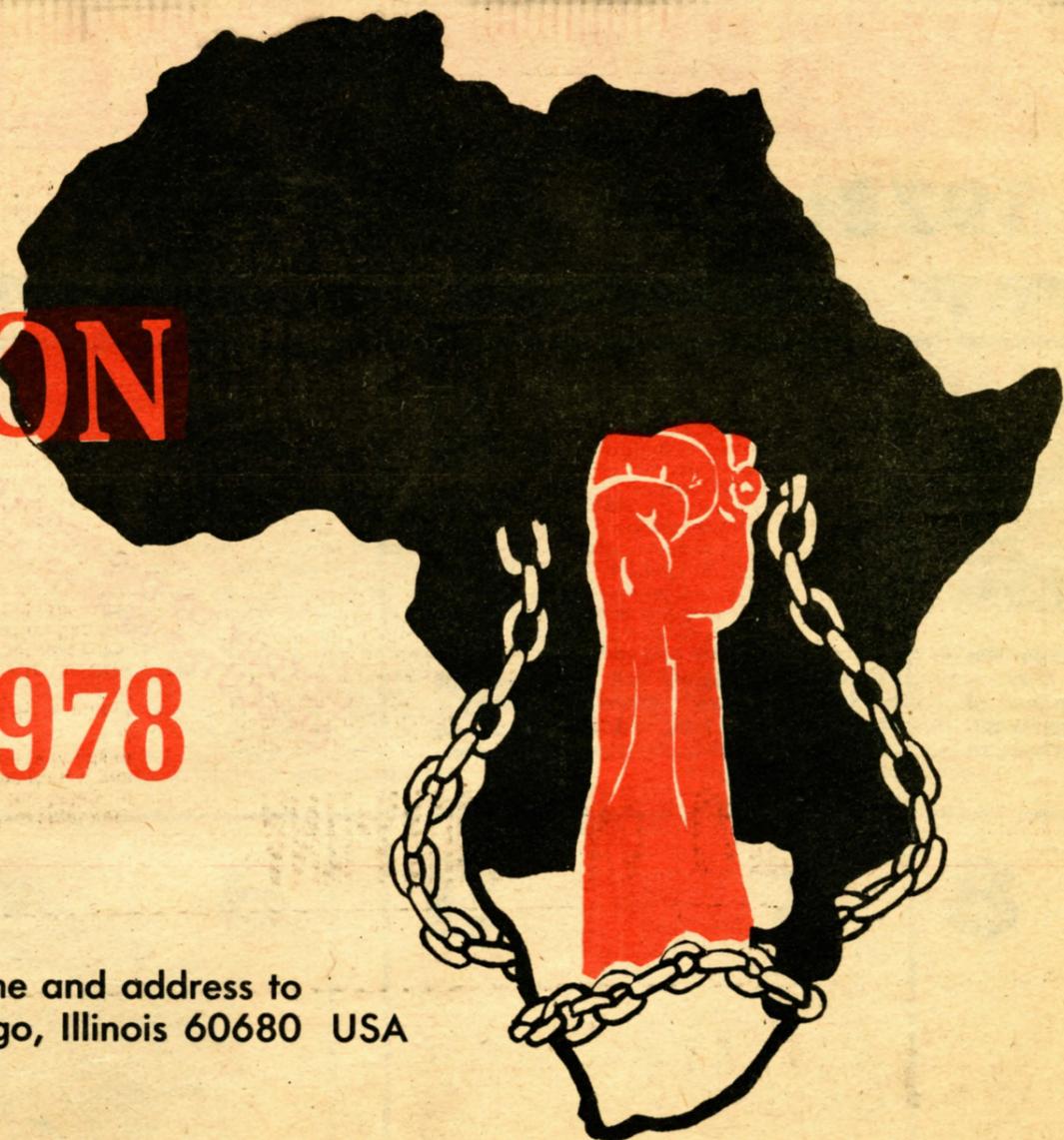
(b) COLLECTING MATERIAL AID, clothes, blankets, medicines and supplies for the African liberation fighters;

(c) STRUGGLING to strike blows against imperialism just like the liberation fighters are doing. ALSC will focus on national campaigns of demonstrations, boycotts, and petitions.

4. ALSC NEEDS YOU! What can you do? Join us! Invite an ALSC speaker to your next meeting to show slides or a film, and attend ALSC's educational forums. GET READY FOR AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY — 1978 AND COME TO WASHINGTON, D.C. There's a lot to do. GET ON UP AND GET INVOLVED WITH OUR RIGHTEOUS STRUGGLE! JOIN US!

March with us on

AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY — MAY 27, 1978



For further information send your name and address to
NEW ALSC, P.O. Box 87141, Chicago, Illinois 60680 USA

**FIGHT
IMPERIALISM
AND NATIONAL
OPPRESSION
FROM THE USA
(Union of South Africa)
TO THE USA
(United States of America)**

**VICTORY
TO THE
PEOPLE OF
SOUTHERN
AFRICA**

continued from front page

AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY

and exploited people in the U.S. is to fight U.S. imperialism right here at home. In a word, Black people in the U.S. are in the belly of the beast and you fight differently under these conditions than if you had been snatched up and are being strangled in the bloody hands of imperialism.

In addition to the main political slogan, the New ALSC is united around three others: Down with White Minority Rule! U.S. Out of Southern Africa! Superpowers Hands off Africa! Victory to the Peoples of Southern Africa! These slogans represent a correct and revolutionary orientation for a mass anti-imperialist organization like the New ALSC. Last May, these four slogans were used to guide the African Liberation Day campaign. Over 1,600 people came to Washington D.C. for a march and rally on the White House.

The historical development of ALSC is rich with lessons about the development of the Black liberation movement, and the general aspects of building anti-imperialist mass struggle. In 1972, the first African Liberation Day was held with 25,000 people in Washington D.C., 10,000 people in San Francisco, and several more thousands in Canada and the Caribbean. By 1974 ALSC had developed from a progressive Pan Africanist position to an anti-imperialist position, and the issues being taken up and debated involved thousands of activists all over the country.

However, after the 1974 high point of ALSC development, 1975 and 1976 were years of organizational degeneration as a result of new leadership that led ALSC down the path of dogmatic political squabbling and no mass political struggle. A split occurred at the beginning of 1977 over these very questions because a few forces in the leadership holding this sectarian backward stand refused to change. The forces who wanted to build ALSC back into a fighting mass organization, while simultaneously doing political discussion and debate formed the African Liberation Day Coalition for 1977. This coalition then restated the correct line on building ALSC, so a transitional name was adopted while doing the rebuilding: The Organizing Committee for a New African Liberation Support Committee, known as the New ALSC.

ANTI-KRUGERRAND CAMPAIGN

fighters are stepping onto the stage of history, daring to struggle, daring to win.

It is this growing struggle that the New ALSC is building a mass movement to support. "STOP THE SALE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD COIN! BAN THE KRUGERRAND!" was the short term slogan that New ALSC put forward to the Coalition. But imperialism and minority rule will not fall with the Krugerrand's defeat. "VICTORY TO THE PEOPLES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA" is the second part of the slogan, setting the basis for long term work and continuing struggle.

New ALSC's future work will be based on its general theme: FIGHT IMPERIALISM AND NATIONAL OPPRESSION FROM THE UNION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (USA) TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA)!" For example, major banks in the U.S. continue to sell the Krugerrand and make loans to South Africa. At the same time, these banks are "red-lining" Black communities in the

U.S.A. denying residents loans to rehabilitate homes and forcing people out of their homes. It is the same system that is ripping off the masses of people in South Africa and in the United States, for a few people to get richer. It is this enemy — the imperialist system — that New ALSC has targeted for struggle.

The masses of people throughout the United States are more and more talking about Southern Africa and are more and more willing to do something about it. As the struggle builds there and in this country, the ground is being prepared for a mass upsurge of sentiment and struggle. By hard work and bold action, the work of New ALSC can be the spark which contributes to touching off a prairie fire of mass struggle which will sweep across the United States, striking a mighty blow in the overall struggle to build the fight against imperialism and national oppression from the Union of South Africa (USA) to the United States of America (USA)!