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POLITICAL ORGAN OF THE LEAGUE FOR PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION M-L

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ALD MILITANT TRADITION CONTINUED!

This year, African Liberation Day (ALD) was celebrated in New York by a number of revolutionary and communist forces united in the International Committee for ALD (ICALD). After a period of joint preparatory work these forces held a militant march and rally through the streets of Harlem on May 28. The ICALD was initiated by the National Liberation Struggles Support Committee (NLSSC), and was composed of the Ethiopian Student Union in North America, Eritreans for Liberation in North America (EFLNA), Ethiopian Women's Study Group in North America (EWSGNA), May 18 Revolutionary Organization, Turkish Students Association and the League for Proletarian Revolution (ML), and other MLs and advanced elements.

Some of the slogans that characterized the coalition were: "Foreign intervention and all reaction will be defeated by the African peoples' self-reliant armed struggle", "Workers and oppressed people of the world, unite!", "U.S. and U.S.S.R. out of Africa!", "Long live the struggle of the Azanian, Zimbabwean and Namibian peoples!", "Down with the fascist Ethiopian Junta!"

The march, advancing through the streets of Harlem, and ending in front of the State Office Building, was a militant and disciplined one reflecting the unity of those involved as well as its revolutionary character. The proletarian internationalism of Ethiopian, Eritrean, Turkish, Haitian, Dominican and others, as well as of the U.S. multi-national forces present there was the context in which support for African Liberation struggles was expressed that day. It was the unity of the workers and oppressed people of the world that marched forward in ever increasing strength and scope - towards world proletarian revolution and the defeat of imperialism and all reaction!

This irresistible trend of history being manifested in all corners of the globe is becoming increasingly acute in the countries of the African continent. As part of the multinational U.S. working class, we have the duty to support the struggles of the masses in those countries against all oppression and tyranny - especially against U.S. imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, the main enemies of the world's peoples. The ICALD, an anti-imperialist coalition in character, united on:

- (a) Support all struggles for African liberation.
 - (b) Oppose all foreign intervention in Africa.
- Imperialism in all its forms, feudalism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, zionism, racism (especially



apartheid racism, revisionism, as it is manifested today in the lines of peaceful transition to socialism, detente, non-capitalist road of development, import and export of revolution, in effect all types of reaction are opposed to the interests of the African masses and as such must be staunchly opposed.

(c) Self-reliance and armed struggle are the only means for the African masses to achieve liberation...never from imperialist schemes.... nor....through reliance on outside puppet troops.

(d) Support the struggle of all workers and oppressed people of the world, especially in the hotbed of revolution, the third world-- which includes Latin America, Asia and Africa and the Middle East....As the main force of this revolutionary movement, the third world is attacking and dealing blow upon blow to all imperialisms' and all reaction at their weakest point -- their main sources of raw materials, cheap labor, and foreign markets. All progressive and revolution-

ary-minded people must support this struggle as part of our responsibility to destroy imperialism in this country." (Excerpts from coalition leaflet)

MILITANT TRADITION CONTINUED

African Liberation Day (ALD) has a glorious history of militancy in the U.S. It has provided for the revolutionary spirit of the masses to overflow and express their militant support for African liberation. The ALD tradition, started in 1972 in the U.S. had been interrupted in 1976. The cadrification and liquidation of such mass organizations as the African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC), which in the past had held a key role in the ALD celebrations, led to the temporary liquidation of ALD. The "left" opportunists of PRRWO-RWL attempted to make it a "party building organization" and eventually destroyed this organization which was instrumental in developing the mass

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ALD

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base and revolutionary content of ALD.

But despite this temporary liquidation, the ALD tradition was continued this year. This is in fact the single most outstanding achievement of the ALD celebration in New York by the ICALD.

The multinational character of the celebration was a clear reflection of the proletarian internationalist line that guided the ICALD. There were comrades from different continents of the world, from as far apart as Turkey, Ethiopia, and Haiti, as well as comrades of different nationalities from the U.S., all expressing support for the African peoples' struggles.

PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM VS OPPORTUNISM

Key in this ALD celebration was the line put forward. ICALD was organized on the basis of the slogan "Workers and oppressed people of the world, unite!" Contrary to other ALD coalitions organized on the basis of narrow nationalism and opportunism, the ICALD emphasized breaking this incorrect view that only harms African liberation. Coalitions such as that formed by BISSAL, including El Comite and other revisionists and trotskyites, put forward a bankrupt narrow nationalist line with the vain hope of fooling the masses. They pushed such lines as "The African Liberation is the Black Liberation", appealing to support on the basis of color, rather than raising proletarian internationalism. This said coalition joined the chorus of other narrow nationalists and social chauvinists who waged a slander campaign in Harlem against the ICALD and against "all those counterrevolutionaries who dare bring the line of opposition to both superpowers to Harlem."

Another incorrect line was that of WVO who is leeching on the past glory of the ALSC, and is attempting to revive it only to peddle its own opportunist line. In their attempts to woo RWL away from PRRWO during the "wing" period, WVO had put forward that "Blacks have the strategic leadership, while WVO has the line ." Consistent with this bankrupt line they are still appealing to narrow nationalism, limiting their support to Southern African countries, gearing their propaganda to mobilizing Afro-Americans.

Rather than promoting multinational unity in the support for African liberation on the basis of proletarian internationalism, WVO appeals to a disguised narrow nationalism, in essence no different from that of Stokely Carmichael's, or any of the other opportunists who try to use ALD to try to divide the class and to serve their own opportunist aims.

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ALD

Workers and Oppressed People of the World Unite!

Another manifestation of WVO's opportunism is their claim of "territorial hegemony" over a particular street corner in Harlem. The ICALD set up a number of street corner rallies in working class communities. In Harlem (we only came across WVO in Harlem) they went into a frenzy, as if the street corner objectively belonged to them (just like in their petty-bourgeois delusions they claim that WVO is "objectively the party"). WVO cringes from open ideological struggle and would rather resort to these tactics. In Harlem for example, the ICALD posters appeared covered by those of the ALSC coalition formed by WVO and RCL. WVO would rather cover up others' lines rather than engage in open ideological struggle.

MAY DAY LESSONS LEARNED

There was a notable improvement in our coalition work and new lessons drawn from this experience. (We refer readers back to our May issue vol.8 #5, in which we sum-up our May Day coalition work.) The overall line of the coalition (composed mainly of the same forces that made up the International Committee for May Day), the political content of the event, and the form in which coalition work was carried out, all improved over May Day, showing that lessons were learned and applied. The main features of the coalition work were among others:

(a) Ample participation of individual Marxist-Leninists and advanced elements in the coalition work provided a means of training in the development of line and preparation of propaganda and agitation among the masses. The advanced were able to put into practice their initiative and creativity.

(b) Contrary to previous coalition work the collective planning and work by forces involved helped to deepen the ties between them, strengthen proletarian internationalism and the unity among Marxist-Leninists. There was no bourgeois hegemonism or imposition of line by any organization, but rather struggle to achieve unity in the spirit of unity-struggle-unity for the correct line.

(c) One important aspect which is often belittled-- the financial aspect-- was handled correctly on a collective basis. All forces contributed and, most importantly, the coalition saw the importance of relying on the masses for funding the struggle. So a fundraising event and several street corner mass collections were held, educating the masses as to the need to support the struggles for national liberation. The masses responded favorably and the coalition was able to cover all costs.

In general, the work of the coalition improved as the correct methods of summations and criticism and self-criticism were implemented to rectify past errors and improve work in the future. Overall, the work within the coalition was very positive, contributing to enrich the practical experience of all those involved and to heighten the unity among genuine Marxist-Leninist and revolutionary forces.

REVISIONISTS' DAILY WORLD PICKETED

Besides its independent propaganda and agitation for the event, LPR (ML) sponsored a picket against the Daily World which contributed to deepen proletarian internationalism and exposed the treacherous support of the "C" PUSA for the fascist Ethiopian Junta. Its organ, the Daily World, slandered the Ethiopian peoples' struggle against the Junta and slandered the EPRP supporting the Junta's repression against their just struggle. This event (see Resistance vol.8 #6) helped raise the issue of supporting national liberation struggles, and the need to oppose the two superpowers in order to advance the cause of African liberation.

 COMMEMORATE AUGUST 29



on SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

at GUADALUPE CHURCH HALL
 36th and Lipan
 Denver, Colorado

12 to 4 p.m.

SPEAKERS FILM SHOWING TEATROS DINNER

SUPERPOWERS OUT OF AFRICA

The contention and collusion of both superpowers in the African continent cause great harm to the cause of African liberation. LPR (ML) holds that the main enemies of the peoples of the world are the two superpowers: U.S. imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, and accordingly put forward this line in its independent work towards ALD and in the event itself. This was not however a principle of unity of the coalition. Why?

Although a great majority of the forces in the ICALD uphold this position, others have not yet summed-up the USSR as a social imperialist superpower (ESUNA and EFLNA). At the initial stages of formation of the coalition, a decision had to be made: Must we necessarily adopt a principle of unity that specifically states opposition to the two superpowers, or can we unite with ESUNA and EFLNA on the basis of concrete opposition to both superpowers without the specific formulation as a principle of unity? In struggling this question out, various factors had to be taken into account in order not to make this an abstract intellectual discussion. These were:

(a) The fascist Ethiopian Junta poses as a socialist ML government, and it is openly backed, politically and militarily, by the Soviet Union. The Junta openly brags about its ties with the Soviet Union. Soviet social-imperialism is meddling and intervening in Ethiopia through its lackey Junta and its lackey Cuban troops who are training government troops to repress the revolutionary struggle. U.S. imperialism has historically intervened by its arming of the Junta, and now through its lackey Ethiopian Democratic Union (EDU), a declared enemy of the people in Ethiopia. The struggle of the Ethiopian and Eritrean peoples is thus, concretely, a struggle against the fascist Junta, as well as a struggle against both U.S. imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism. It is a struggle against both superpowers.

(b) In the case of ESUNA there is a clear motion towards this summation. The comrades recognize and are studying this important question and are systematically and increasingly denouncing the Soviet Union's role in their country. An example is their latest March COMBAT in which they call to "Oppose the counter-revolutionary meddling of the Soviet revisionist and renegade clique in the Ethiopian revolution". And they are staunchly doing just this.

In considering all these facts we concluded that there was basis for unity of these forces for the purpose of celebrating ALD and putting out jointly a correct line on national liberation struggles. With these facts in mind, we proceeded to struggle for principled unity in the ICALD and a correct line on national liberation struggles. We were able to achieve unity as concretized in the principles of unity stated above. Although EFLNA disagreed on a number of points, such as in referring to Cuban troops in Africa as puppet troops, to the Soviet Union as imperialist and to the concept of three worlds, we consider it overall positive that they did unite to work jointly under the principles of unity cited.

In particular the second principle of unity which includes opposition to revisionism and all the lines in which it manifests itself is nothing but opposition to the line of Soviet social-imperialism concretely spelled out. The fact that EFLNA did agree to participate with these principles of unity is a positive achievement. Errors made within the coalition of wavering on the one hand, and conciliation on the other, were pointed out and criticized.

"LEFT" AND RIGHT ERRORS IN COALITION WORK

In coalition work we must guard against both right and "left" errors. We must guard against the "left" tendency of making principles of unity so high that we can only unite with ourselves and thus negate the whole purpose of the united front. This is the error which is most dangerous when we have not yet formed the united front or coalition, one which prevents us from forming this necessary weapon of struggle. On the other hand, we must also guard against the right tendency of all unity no struggle, which arises, and is most dangerous, in the course of working within the united front once it has been formed. It is the tendency of submerging our line by giving up criticism and independent work, in the interest of preserving a false unity.

Dimitrov on the United Front says: "In the present situation sectarianism, self-satisfied sectarianism,.... more than anything else impedes our struggle for the realization of the united front". And also: "...communists must increase their vigilance in guarding against the danger of right opportunism and must carry a determined struggle against all its concrete manifestations bearing in mind that the right danger will grow as the tactics of the united front are widely applied." (G. Dimitrov, On the United Front)

One right error that constituted the main deviation of the coalition was the weakness of the independent work done by the various forces par-



Marchers during ALD demonstration.

ticipating in it. Apart from propaganda and agitation work done by LPR(ML), there was no other propaganda and agitation forthcoming that we know of, other than coalition work. The weakness of independent work was thus reflected in the weakness of the correct lines held by coalition forces. Specifically the opposition to the two superpowers could have been raised more forcefully and effectively through such independent work which we failed to promote.

CONCRETE LINK TO THE STRUGGLE OF THE MASSES

Proletarian internationalism was correctly raised and the struggle of the African masses was correctly linked to our own struggle here, being a struggle against the same enemy, struggles that support each other. However this was not done concretely enough. A secondary but important point was thus the form in which the event was carried out -- militant and disciplined, but lacking to a certain degree the lively spirit of the masses. This could have been provided with presentations of skits along the way of the march and other forms of cultural presentations. The very wording of the chants could have been worked out in a more understandable and lively manner so as to fully incorporate the masses in them.

CONCLUSIONS

Despite the errors committed, we consider the events of ALD as positive overall. Its achievements far outweigh the errors, which can be rectified in the course of practice. Various conclusions can be drawn from the ALD experiences this year. Among the most important is the need to deepen our understanding on the question of United Front work. Such questions as: what level of unity should we strive for?, who should we unite with?, for what purpose?, what are tactical compromises?, etc., are all theoretical and practical questions that must be deepened so as to improve our coalition work and grasp well one of the essential tools in revolutionary struggle: the United Front.

Another important conclusion is the need to follow-up on the ALD tradition both in terms of the unities achieved with revolutionary organizations, as well as with other Marxist-Leninists and the masses. The support for African national liberation struggles must be maintained and raised to higher levels, not restricted to a yearly event in May, and we must make the masses conscious of the need to understand and support those struggles through concrete actions, and to link them with other national liberation and proletarian revolutionary struggles, including our own. Further, in the course of the struggle to support national liberation, in giving it a conscious and planned character, we must deepen the unities with other Marxist-Leninists and the masses, as one of the ways in which we struggle to build the new, genuine communist party of the U.S. proletariat.

To conclude, in order to give a planned and conscious character to this struggle we must provide communist leadership by actively participating in such struggles, fighting for the correct line on the basis of proletarian internationalism, and correct methods of organization and struggle. In line with this, we consider the National Liberation Struggles Support Committee (NLSSC) has served as a mass anti-imperialist revolutionary organization that can adequately channel the struggle for supporting national liberation. We supported its efforts in organizing ALD and other events regarding third world countries, and will continue to help build it and struggle for the correct line and its application. The NLSSC, in carrying out proletarian internationalism, provides an organizational tool for mass work through which Marxist-Leninists can unite and win the advanced to communism, thus concretely contributing to the fulfillment of our central task by facilitating the carrying out of those tasks essential to party building.

On the ability of communists to prove in practice that they can correctly lead the struggle in support of national liberation and win over the multinational working class and oppressed masses in the U.S. to proletarian internationalism, on this will depend to a great extent the correct resolution of the national question in the U.S., a key question in the U.S. proletarian revolution.

LONG LIVE AFRICAN LIBERATION STRUGGLES!
 VICTORY TO THE STRUGGLES OF THE THIRD WORLD AGAINST IMPERIALISM, ESPECIALLY THE TWO SUPERPOWERS, AND AGAINST ALL REACTION!!!