

BUILD THE ALSC!

The sixties showed a sharpening of the contradiction between dying and decaying capitalism, and the revolutionary struggles of the workers, oppressed nations and people of the world. During the sixties, the whole world was in chaos. While the liberation struggles of the African people were growing by leaps and bounds, the Civil Rights movement was taking place within the Black Nation in the U S. Internationally, the struggle long waged by the people of Southeast Asia held center stage, and was reflected in the anti-war movement in this country. There existed an almost complete lack of knowledge on the part of the U S people about the role of U S imperialism in Africa.

The African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC) went a long way in supplying some of that knowledge, and filling in some of the gaps by bringing the general level of understanding of Africa into political struggles. The ALSC gathered information about Africa and brought the voices of the African people themselves to the U S, presenting speeches, slide shows, and forums. They raised money and collected clothing to send to the various liberation movements. The ALSC was large responsible for exposing the nature of Portuguese colonialism in Africa, the role of NATO and the U S corporations. But most importantly the ALSC mobilized and organized people to actively support the African liberation movements. The first African Liberation Day was held on

May 26, 1972 and turned out more than 50,000 people across the country.

Like all things, the ALSC is riddled with contradictions. This is mostly seen in the lack of a clear guiding political line and policy throughout the ALSC chapters, which instead carry out work on the basis of each of their particular local political outlooks. The contradiction which underlined the growing Black liberation movement was in not having Marxist-Leninist leadership, therefore not being able to make a scientific connection between the struggles in Africa and the conditions of the multi-national working class in the United States.

The ALSC has gone through the growing pains of the entire Black liberation movement in the U S, struggling from narrow nationalism to trying to become a multi-national organization, and later toward developing a Marxist-Leninist outlook. 1976 in particular has shown the struggles of the revolutionary movement taking place in miniature inside the ALSC. While the Soviet Union scored its deepest penetration into Africa, most clearly shown in its counter-revolutionary role in inciting a civil war in Angola, establishing its first colony in Africa, the support from the ALSC was led astray. This was primarily due to the presence of a conciliatorist line in the ALSC which sought to support only one of the liberation movements in Angola because it was the "most revolutionary". This tactic contributed to-

ward splitting the liberation movements in Angola and elsewhere, while ignoring the hegemonic drives of Soviet social-imperialism. This conciliation was also manifested in a petty romanticism toward the role of the Cuban mercenary soldiers in Angola.

This was further aggravated by the attempts of some Marxist-Leninist elements to transform the ALSC from a mass organization struggling to have multi-national membership, to a cadre organization with the exclusive aim of party building. This incorrect line resulted in the turning away of many genuine revolutionary organizations and individuals from working with the ALSC, and in the weakest mobilizations around African liberation support that the ALSC has shown in many years.

In the era of imperialism, revolution is the main trend of the world's people. This by no means denies the growing danger of world war. To prepare mentally and materially against the threat of a new imperialist war and to support our brothers and sisters fighting in Africa against our common enemy, means that we must actively take up the education and mobilization of the masses in the U S. Propaganda and agitation linking the national liberation and working class movements internationally must be tied to a fighting organization such as the ALSC which should unite the broad masses of revolutionary and progressive people with the highest form of organization of the masses, the vanguard communist party.

The ALSC must consistently expose the role of the two Superpowers: U S imperialism in the first place, because we are living in its heartland, and also Soviet social-imperialism, because we are part of the international working class. The surest way of waging victorious struggle against the two Superpowers is by uniting the broadest masses of people against them. The ALSC is a powerful means to organize our forces.

The ALSC must actively seek the support of all types of organizations, including trade unions, community organizations, civil rights groups, revolutionary and Marxist-Leninist organizations. In this respect, the building of an organization such as the ALSC is an important training ground for the forming of a united front against the two Superpowers. The ALSC serves as a ground upon which principled unity can be built among all progressive and revolutionary strata of the oppressed classes.

At the same time, progressive and revolutionary organizations must support such organizations as the ALSC which can unite the broad masses of people in the exploitation and oppression that we all face, and who will join hands with all oppressed people of the world in the battle against U S imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism. Our greatest proletarian internationalist contribution to the working class world-wide will be the defeat of U S imperialism here at home, and the establishment of socialism.

