

6th Annual National A.L.S.C. Conference: Single-Minded In Purpose STRENGTHEN A.L.S.C. THROUGH VIGOROUS MASS LINE TO LEAD STRUGGLES AHEAD

ENFIELD, N.C.—“This conference has such a unified singlemindedness. It's so spirited and open in discussion. And the ALSC members are self-critical about how to improve their work.” These were the words of someone invited to the recent African Liberation Support Committee National Conference over the weekend of August 19-20.

Spirited Conference in Black Belt South

The Sixth Annual National ALSC Conference held in the Afro-American Nation in the Black Belt South brought together chapters and fraternal groups from all across the U.S. around the fighting theme: “Preparation for Black Liberation, Self Determination for the Black Belt Nation—Victory to African Liberation Struggles!”

With 350 people attending, the conference took place at the Franklin Community Center (Enfield, North Carolina) in rural eastern North Carolina. During break time, chapter members met old friends and exchanged experiences. Walking from the conference hall, the large green lawns of the community center were filled with activity. Some people sat on the grass at the front steps of the conference. The May Day Singers fired up a rousing chorus of “All Africa is Standing Up!” Brother Duane Shepherd (from the Los Angeles chapter of the National Coalition to Support African Liberation) performed a powerful one-man play of Malcolm X. One person from the audience, spread out on blankets, said, “I could have closed my eyes, and I would've been listening to Malcolm.” Across the big grassy circle which sat in the middle of the old white and brick buildings, other people were playing football in the outdoor swimming pool. Some played volleyball or shot some basketball behind the dormitory building. A delegation of Trade Union Educational League members had just left the dining hall building and caucused on picnic tables. In the center circular lawns, red, yellow, green, blue and brown tents sat like mushrooms in the hot southern sun. Saturday night, the Revolutionary Youth League discoed under the stars till late.

Along the walls in the hallway of the conference building, leaflets and posters from local ALSC chapter struggles from around the country hung in a collage. People crowded the literature tables buying newspapers (“All Africa is Standing Up!”, “Workers Viewpoint”, “Workers Viewpoint Journal Number 5”, “Revolutionary Youth”, “Al Frente De Lucha”—from Colorado, “People's View”—from the New York Socialists for a Mass Party, and the TUEL newspaper). “Stop the Test” buttons (see *Workers Viewpoint*, August 1978 on competency test conference in North Carolina), African Liberation Day buttons and ALSC tee-shirts sold like

hot cakes. In the conference hall itself, huge banners plastered the wall: “Welcome to the Black Belt”, “The Sixth Annual ALSC Conference”, “Preparation for Black Liberation, Self Determination for the Black Belt South—Victory to African Liberation Struggles”, “Enfield, North Carolina.”

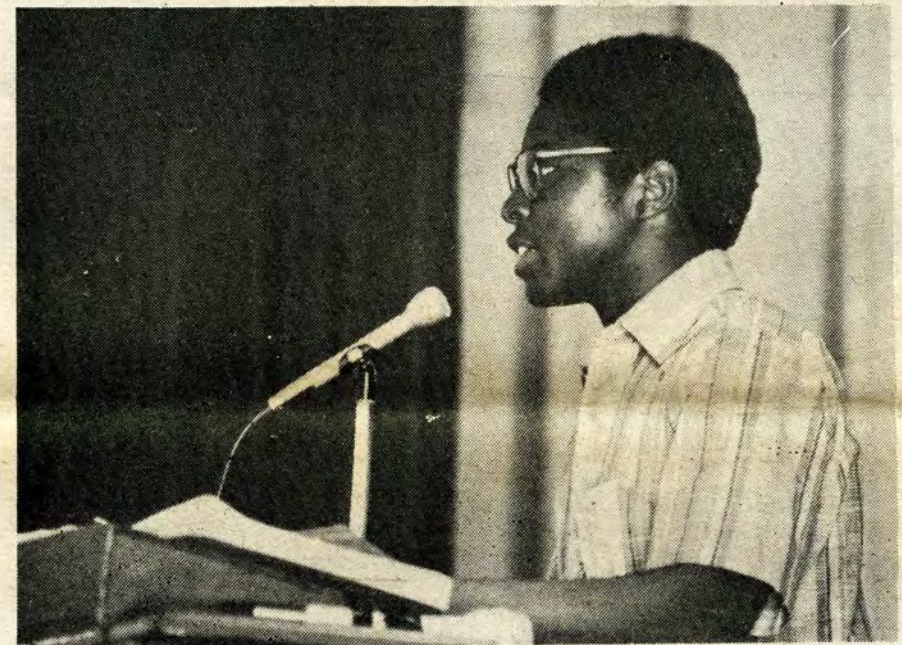
Revolutionary culture built firm ideological unity and a fighting spirit among the conference participants. The black poetess from North Carolina, Connie Lane brought shouts of “right on” from the audience with a dramatic presentation of “Good Morning Revolution” by Langston Hughes. The Boston Voices of Liberation and the New York Malcolm X Singers harmonized militant choruses of “Ban the Krugerrand” and “Zimbabwe”. The North Carolina TUEL chapter sang a labor song. Sister Evanglin Wade recited a poem “Black Woman”. The May Day Singers returned with “Beat Back Bakke” and their latest song “We're Slaves”.

Integral Positive Program Serves Building Up ALSC

One highlight of the conference was the sharp and vigorous struggle over how to improve even more the good work of the chapters and build up the ALSC. While summing up the success of African Liberation Day, work around cleaning out the Krugerrand coin from coin shops, campus divestment struggles and fights against police brutality in the black community, the chapter members showed a serious singlemindedness and self-criticalness towards how to push the work forward. In order to strengthen ALSC's ability to deliver more punishing blows against both imperialist superpowers, what are important questions that need to be focused on to even more increase the building up of ALSC (in terms of training and recruitment)? What is the positive program to help build the ALSC leadership in the African liberation support work and in the Black Liberation Movement?

In summing up, it is clear that two lines emerged on how to carry out a correct positive program in order to accumulate to the ALSC. The incorrect view saw a positive program *only* as a calendar of events and *only* as one campaign after another in and of themselves. This view would not lead to accumulation. It sees “numbers as everything,” the masses as a faceless crowd and belittles the fact that people's political level is raised one by one. On the other hand, the National Steering Committee of the ALSC put forth a comprehensive and integral positive program. An integral positive program included various campaigns, events and struggles. But the best way to push this work ahead is to strengthen the ALSC before, during and after campaigns, etc. Campaigns come and go. Skirmishes

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Above: The May Day Singers add to the spirit and determination of the Sixth Annual National African Liberation Support Committee Conference. Below: Dwight Hopkins, Chairman of the National Steering Committee of the ALSC and a member of the Workers Viewpoint Organization chairs discussion at the conference on the importance of the mass line in order to push the work forward.

SOLIDARITY MESSAGES POUR INTO 6TH A.L.S.C. NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The 6th National Conference received solidarity messages from the Pan African Congress of Azania, the North East Coalition in Support of African Liberation, North Carolina Coalition to Free the Wilmington Ten, Socialists for a Mass Party (New York), North Carolina Coalition for Quality Education, black students from University of California at Berkeley and University of California at Fullerton, Black Military Resistance League (Norfolk, Va.), a representative from the organization of Philipino students in the U.S., Coalition for Quality Education (black parents from Los Angeles), Moody Park Barrio Defense Coalition (Houston, Texas), Al Frente De Lucha (Colorado), the National Coalition to Support African Liberation, the Revolutionary Youth League, Wilma Jean Defense Committee (Oakland), the Trade Union Educational League, Progressive Independent Party (a North Carolina poor peoples political

party, independent of Democratic and Republican parties), students from Berkeley High School (California) and Workers Viewpoint Organization. A young black Revolutionary Youth League member from the Durham chapter brought thunderous applause when he shouted, “The RYL is an organization of youth who's gonna help overthrow the government.” A brother from The East (a fighting organization in Brooklyn, New York) summed up by saying he saw the conference as a step toward building unity between his organization and the ALSC in the fight for black liberation. A highlight of the support messages was the militant statement of solidarity by a black sanitation worker from Rocky Mount, North Carolina. Later during the conference, the TUEL led a delegation to Rocky Mount to participate in a demonstration to support the sanitation workers' strike. ■

ALSC

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with the two imperialist superpowers ebb and flow. Throughout all these struggles, the integral positive program brings in to focus how to win over and train more revolutionary forces to the ALSC. It shows the correct relation between fighting, training and accumulation.

Mass Line, Key to Positive Program

The conference focused in on the major point of the weekend and the main point of the integral positive program—the importance of and the implementation of the mass line. Clearly the movement in the U.S. to support African liberation is growing, like the battle against national oppression in the U.S. And the key to tapping the fighting resistance of the masses, drawing them into the work and giving leadership to their struggles is the mass line. In the support work, for instance, friends around the ALSC have many ideas from their own experience on how to deepen campaigns against the Krugerrand gold coin from South Africa or on campus divestment. In all struggles, we have to keep close ties with the masses, consult with them, pull together their best experiences and ideas into a fighting program. As the Communist Party of China says, “Proceeding from the historical materialist viewpoint that the slaves are the makers of history, the proletarian Party firmly believes under all circumstances that the masses are the real heroes and regards the struggles and practice of the millions of masses as the source of revolutionary thinking and revolutionary theory. That is why in all its work our Party resolutely believes in the masses, relies on them and respects their creativity, maintaining the closest ties with the broad masses of the people and never for a moment becoming alienated from them. Another reason that our Party attaches great importance to maintaining close ties with the masses and persists in consulting with them when matters arise is because forging close links with the masses and adhering firmly to the mass line in all our work is the concrete expression of the class nature of the proletarian political Party. . . .” (“Communists Should be the Advanced Elements of the Proletariat”, translation, *Workers Viewpoint*, May 1978).

The conference itself became a school of struggle on how to use the mass line. In one area, a chapter was participating in a united front with a reformist group. This group *only* wanted to do legal tactics and superstructure work. Some chapter members called for a break from the united front and to mobilize the masses in the black community. Two views came out in the conference. The incorrect use of mass line in the conference would have pitted mobilizing the masses against doing united front work. It would tell the chapter members to just mobilize the masses. A National Steering Committee member correctly used the mass line, stating “the chapter should maintain ALSC’s independence and initiative in the united front with the reform-

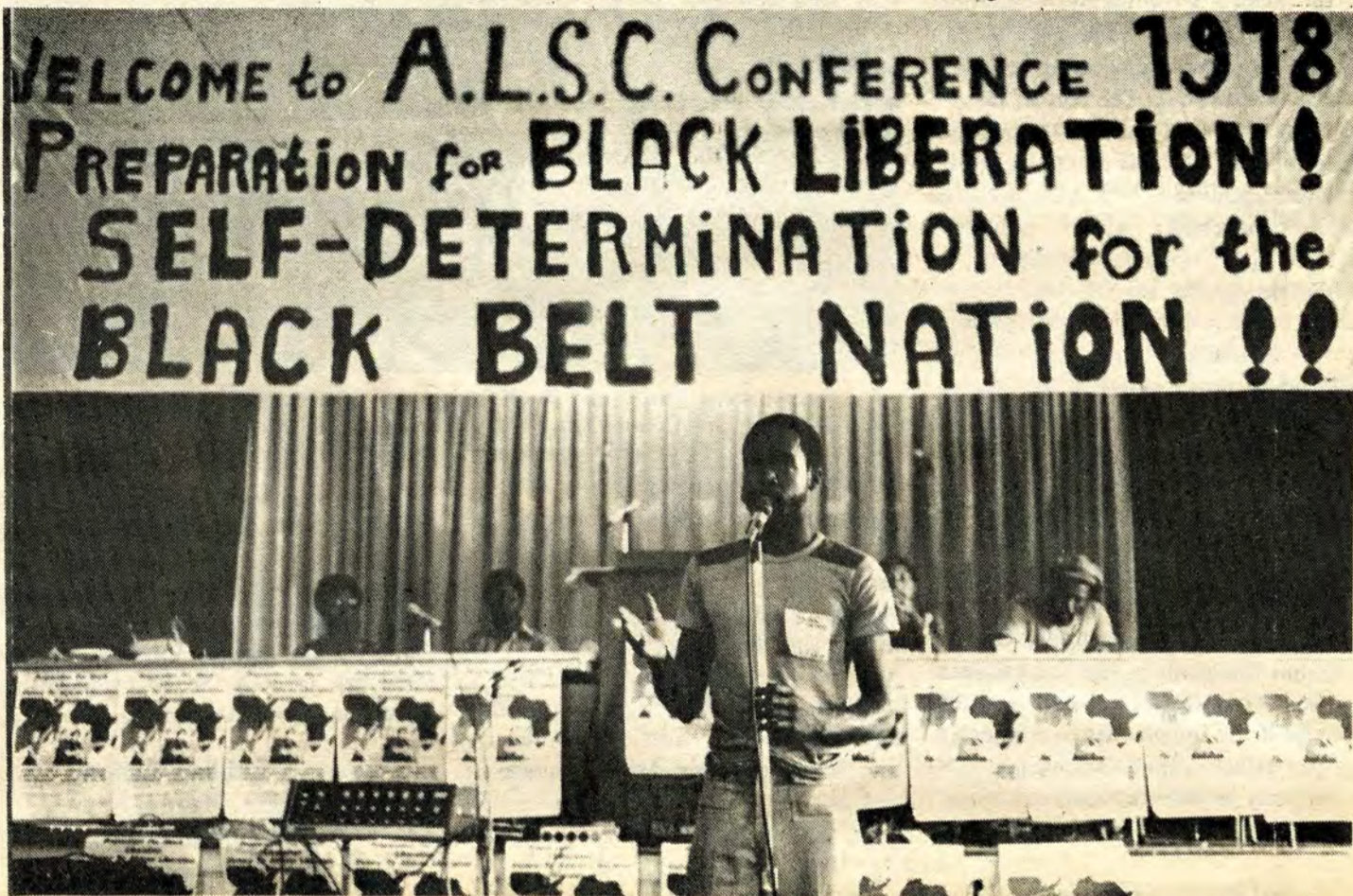
ist groups. The united front should not stifle our ability to do our own independent political work. But at the same time we have to appreciate the need to get trained in doing united front and superstructure work and using legal tactics whenever they serve our struggle.” This is the other aspect of mass line. We have to listen to the revolutionary sentiments of the masses, learn from them, unite with what is correct and we also have to *educate them* with the science of Marxism.

nesses in outlook—whether a few people make history or the masses. To step up ALSC’s hardhitting blows against both imperialist superpowers and invigorate its internal life and influence among the masses even more, the conference resolved to begin a campaign around mass line.

Independence and Initiative In the United Front

In addition to mass line (the main point of the integral positive program), the conference discussed the importance

the character of the movement. Black politicians, ministers or whoever in the united front that supports Young will push these views to the masses of people. They create an environment which sometimes sees the Soviet Union as a progressive force in Africa or “Andy Young is our black man inside the Carter administration, fighting for our ‘interests’”. To guard against being swallowed up by this environment which has clear petty bourgeois or bourgeois class content, the confer-



A worker from the Rocky Mount sanitation workers' strike gives solidarity message at the conference. ALSC, along with a group of community organizations and churches organized a demonstration to support the strike on the following day at Rocky Mount.

There are two aspects to mass line, listening to the masses in a deep and serious way and at the same time, raising their political level. As the Communist Party of China teaches:

“While we must respectfully and earnestly learn from the masses and become their willing pupils, we must also be bold in educating them in Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought and lead them to advance triumphantly along Chairman Mao’s revolutionary line” (*Ibid.*)

This discussion around mass line represented the proletarian characteristics of the ALSC, the ability to listen to the masses, draw on their strength and raise their overall political level.

In another chapter, the local steering committee had a tendency to bypass the chapter membership in decision-making. This is a gross violation of mass line. The class effects are clear. Not consulting with chapter members over plans and decisions meant that all members were not unleashed to their fullest potential. Because the steering committee made the decisions (without always consulting), the steering committee members became practical workers, doing all the tasks. Their role of giving ideological, theoretical and political leadership was objectively downplayed. The Krugerrand work or campus divestment work could not vigorously move forward if the entire chapter is not consulted and mobilized in planning and decision making. This was not only weakness in not listening to other chapter members but also objective weak-

of maintaining ALSC’s independence and initiative in the united front. One of the most important ways to do this is to raise the theoretical and political level of ALSC and its friends. To strengthen the ALSC theoretically and politically, a member of the *All Africa is Standing Up!* newspaper staff gave a presentation on Zaire and Andrew Young. One chapter member viewed Young as serving Soviet social-imperialism when Young made his bogus “political prisoners” statement (see August, 1978 *Workers Viewpoint* article on Young) and when he said “Cuban troops are a stabilizing force in Angola,” ALSC members carried out comradely struggle and the *Workers Viewpoint* Organization pointed out that Young was one of the “best” United Nations ambassadors U.S. imperialism ever had. His statement on Angola showed the sinister, long-term interests of U.S. imperialism. In the immediate sense, the less armed struggle and “disruption”, in Young’s view, the better the conditions for Gulf Oil to continue to operate in Angola. In the long term U.S. interests, Young was saying, “hopefully the people in Angola will eventually resist the exploitation of their country by the Soviet social-imperialists. If a national bourgeoisie leads this resistance then there will be better chances that it will vacillate towards U.S. imperialism.”

In doing large campaigns around support work and day to day united front work, each class puts forth their political views and tries to determine

ence resolved to step up the ideological, theoretical and political work in the chapters. In particular, this meant fighting to use the *All Africa is Standing Up!* all roundedly and push it out more broadly. Once the political line of ALSC is fuzzy, various united front campaigns begin to slow down. The character of the campaign begins to change. And people will begin to gravitate to the political views of other classes. That’s why stepped up study and the increased use of the *All Africa is Standing Up!* is part of the integral positive program.

Because national oppression hits all classes in the Afro-American movement, all classes come together and resist national oppression, chauvinism and racism in one movement. As communists, we must build the national movement against imperialism. This blow against the bourgeoisie is in the direct interests of the U.S. working class. While building the movement (the united front) we must at the same time ensure the independence and initiative of proletarian leadership of the united front, and pay particular attention to working among the proletarian elements. The Party develops this leadership by fusing class consciousness and communism within this struggle and by linking this fight against national oppression with the long term goal of the U.S. multinational working class—the dictatorship of the proletariat.

To strengthen the ALSC’s political and theoretical level on the Black Liberation Movement, the *Workers Viewpoint* Organization gave a presentation

on the Afro-American National Question. This was the first time since the 1930's that a genuine Marxist-Leninist organization has advanced the correct analysis of the Afro-American nation in the Black Belt South. The Party analyzed the historical formation of the nation, how to hook the revolutionary fight for the right of self-determination with partial demands such as "to save and change black colleges", the fight for the right of self-determination and the affects on white workers, the difference between racism and national oppression, and strategy and tactics and the liberation of the nation. Part two of the Party's presentation covered the development of the Afro-American people's struggle since the early 1950's to the present. It drew lessons on how the masses of Afro-American people pushed the Black Liberation Movement forward, a class analysis of different organizations (such as the NAACP, SNCC, etc.) that have come together in united fronts in the Black Liberation Movement, and lessons on independence and initiative, and summed up the U.S. bourgeoisie's dual tactics of reform and repression in derailing the revolutionary movement of the Afro-American people.

The Party's presentation drew out that the most important development within the last decade has been the emergence of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought within the Afro-American national movement. The Party drew out the historical role of such groups as the League of Revolutionary Black Workers, the Black Workers Congress and the Revolutionary Workers League in spreading Marxism in the Black Liberation Movement. And today, having united a solid core of communist leadership from these past spontaneous struggles, the Workers Viewpoint Organization is systematically providing class conscious and communist leadership to this movement.

Another important part of independence and initiative is strengthening ALSC organizationally. Those chapters that had held regular steering committee and general body ALSC meetings, with clear membership, dues policies, and regular study gave better leadership to campaigns and had tight, well-run ALSC chapters with clear policies. A National Steering Committee member discussed two views on dues and finances. An incorrect view is to see dues as just collecting money. But collecting dues shows the tight proletarian character of the chapters. When members pay dues, it shows their commitment to the organization. It is the membership and friends that sustain and keep ALSC going. Again, the example of dues showed the correct outlook on mass line.

Ensuring Quality Leadership: Correct Orientation to Leading Immediate Struggles and Accumulation

From the conference discussion on how to take up international support work and domestic issues, the National Steering Committee drew out the correct orientation to providing leadership, which was the last part of the positive program.

One ALSC chapter was mainly focusing on Krugerrand work. Some members wanted ALSC to lead a police

brutality issue in the black community. Different chapter members at the conference vigorously put forth their views on what should be done. A young Afro-American sister shouted, "What's the use of having an organization if you can't take up different struggles?" The sister's views showed her deep hatred against national oppression and the police. It showed her strong stand with and sentiment for oppressed people. While uniting with her fighting spirit and the need to take up the police brutality case, however, there was also comradely discussion on what was the main question. There was no question that we should have an organization to fight for the masses' interests. But the main point was the need to ensure quality leadership in whatever front of class struggle we bite into. This will lead to accumulation. Many issues come up around national oppression and chauvinism and in African liberation support work. This is a good thing. It shows that the masses are fighting and demanding revolutionary leadership. The National Steering Committee summed up that for either international support or domestic work, the chapters should bite into class struggle and develop a hard-hitting campaign with a clear rhythm, combining skillfully mobilizing the base, using superstructure, culture, etc. With the guidance of the National Steering Committee, chapters should pick up issues that they will provide quality leadership to from beginning to the end in the struggle. Through the course of the struggle, we must raise the political level of the masses and train them in all aspects of the work and we will be providing quality leadership. By leading one struggle through to the end, we will accumulate forces to not only take up one issue but also give quality leadership to many struggles simultaneously. Leading the masses in their fight against oppression is the best way to train and accumulate more leadership for other struggles.

Integral Positive Program Summed Up

On the last day of the conference, the National Steering Committee concisely summed up the integral positive program and its correct relation to fighting, training and accumulation. 1) In the course of fighting imperialism, especially U.S. imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, and all reaction in various united front campaigns (i.e., African Liberation Day, October 28th "Cut Diplomatic Ties" demonstration, as well as in day to day work), the ALSC must continue to invigorate its



internal life and extend its influence among the masses through mass line. 2) It must expand the united front work of the ALSC and fight for its independence and initiative. Independence and initiative is first of all a political question and the role of *All Africa is Standing Up!* is crucial in raising the ideological and political level of members and friends of ALSC and the movement overall. 3) To increase the fighting ability of ALSC and its independence and initiative organizationally, the ALSC must have clear organizational policies (i.e., on dues, membership, etc.). 4) Whether in international or domestic national oppression struggles, chapters should bite into a particular front of class struggle and ensure the quality of leadership and training through to the end. Pushing out an integral positive program will weaken imperialism, improve the quality of the work, train and recruit more revolutionary forces to the ALSC, extend its influence among African liberation support groups and

groups in the Black Liberation Movement and rally more people in the fight against imperialism.

With Clearer Orientation Set, Chapters Prepare for Battles Ahead

As the Sixth Annual National ALSC Conference drew to an end, chapters began the process of voting on a new, expanded National Steering Committee which would represent every chapter. The new structure helps ensure that the concrete state of each chapter is represented at each National Steering

Committee meeting and helps ripple down all National Steering Committee decisions quicker. This represents a positive step in the campaign to study and implement the mass line. Chapters left the conference geared up for the battles ahead. Concretely, chapters are in the process of finalizing the elections of the new National Steering Committee, discussing resolutions that will focus the integral positive program and deepen preparations for the October 28th demonstration to "Cut U.S. Diplomatic Ties with South Africa".

The conference showed how in a year, the work was developing and on a higher political level. In the fighting spirit of past ALSC national conferences, this year's gathering again summed up the work to two lines. And again with an even sharper focus the African Liberation Support Committee is unfurling its banner deep among the masses in African liberation support work and the Black Liberation Movement. ■

BAY AREA DEFENSE COMMITTEE CALLS FOR FREEDOM FOR CHOL SOO LEE



Of the Asian-American communities in the United States, the Korean-American communities are the fastest growing, with the 2nd largest number of immigrants each year.

For many years, the Korean communities have not received our rights under the law. One of these violations is the court trial and conviction of Chol Soo Lee, a 25 year old immigrant, for a 1973 San Francisco Chinatown gangland murder he did not commit. That June 1973 murder was the 13th unsolved Chinatown gang murder in a row and we believe Chol Soo, as a member of a small minority, was framed for this murder because he was a convenient victim.

Korean communities all over the country from Hawaii to New York, Sacramento, Stockton, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Chicago have been coming and rallying around this injustice. All generations of Koreans from newly arrived immigrants to 4th generation Koreans have joined in the Defense Committee.

Stockton Public Defender Leonard K. Tauman will file a writ of habeas corpus for Chol Soo Lee in Stockton, on Monday July 17, 1978 during the morning session. Through examination of the court records and new evidence unearthed, it is clear that Chol Soo Lee was not the killer, and he has spent the last 5 years in Tracy Prison for nothing.

During this filing, the various Chol Soo Lee Defense Committees will be sending representatives to the court hearing as well as holding a rally in front of the court house. This will be one of the first rallies in Korean-American history on a social issue that will affect Koreans in the United States. Koreans of all ages and of all generations will be participating.

Bay Area Chol Soo Lee Defense Committee
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San Francisco, CA 94108