Dear Reader:

The African American Solidarity Committee has been publishing the African Agenda for five years. When the first issue of the AA appeared events in Africa were rarely reported to the American people or the information was difficult to find and often distorted. The AASC spoke out clearly on the issues. We have supported in the AA specific liberation movements based on their history, their ideological position, and most importantly, the seriousness with which they addressed the needs of their people. The validity of our analysis has been proven by recent history. Three of the liberation movements we announced our support for in the First issue of the AA: PAIGC, MPLA, and FRELIMO successfully defeated the forces of Portuguese colonialism and imperialism. We have exposed the Black community to the leaders of the African liberation movement of the different African countries, and the different economic and political trends in Africa.

These few short years have witnessed historic changes on the continent of Africa in the fight against imperialism. They have seen the defeat of white South African troops at the hands of the Angolan people protecting their newly won freedom. The fighting of the liberation movements in Namibia and Zimbabwe have reached new levels and the white South African government is more isolated in the world than ever before. There is little doubt that the central anti-imperialist struggle in the world today is in Southern Africa.

Today Africa is constantly in the headlines of the American press. Everyone has seen the pictures of white South African policemen wantonly murdering the children of Soweto and other townships on the evening news. The Western world, especially the United States, is desparately grasping for some new way to save South Africa. The struggle in Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa will not be easily won. We as Afro-Americans have a special responsibility to support the just causes of our African brothers and sisters. We must join with other progressive Americans to guarantee that there is no second Vietnam on African soil. We must speak out clearly against those officials of our government, both Black and white, who try to distort the truth about Southern Africa. We must demand nothing short of self-determination for the peoples of Southern Africa.

We have always viewed the AA as a key part of the work of the AASC. The AA allows us to speak to people across the nation and around the world. However, in recent years, the cost of publishing the AA has almost quadrupled since our first issue of March 1972. The two dollar subscription does not begin to cover the cost of
printing and mailing. Yet, now more than ever, we feel that there is a need for a publication like the AA, a publication that forcefully and clearly states an anti-imperialist position. In fact, what is needed is a larger, more extensive publication than our present form.

After careful thought and critical appraisal, the AASC has come to the following conclusion. First, we can no longer afford to publish the AA from our present source of funding. Second, it is unfair to our readers to continue to publish late and sporadically (only two issues this year). Third, the AA in its present form has to change in order to meet the needs of the Afro-American community.

Therefore, we have agreed to the following actions:
1. We will suspend the publication of the AA until September 1978.
2. In the interim we will organize the formation of a special "Friends of the AA Committee" to raise a starting fund of $10,000 to guarantee a new and better format for the AA.
3. The AASC will undergo a period of reorganization in order to guarantee the survival of the AA.
4. We will try to publish one or two more issues before September 1978 if we reach part of our fund raising goal.

We have not taken these actions lightly. We deeply feel a responsibility to our readers to publish accurate high quality information. If you wish, we will promptly refund your subscription, otherwise your subscription will continue when we resume publication next year.

If you think the AA is important to save, we welcome your support. Please fill out the form below and help us in our fund raising campaign. The AASC is fully committed to publishing more extensive and regular editions of the AA. We sincerely thank you for your support and look forward to serving you very soon.

In Struggle

Harold Rogers
Editor

FRIENDS OF THE AFRICAN AGENDA COMMITTEE

Here is my contribution of

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New subscription of $2.00

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