NORTH AMERICAN ANTI-IMPERIALIST COALITION FORMED

Should MACSA Join?

"We, the North American Anti-Imperialist Coalition, agree to work together in the international struggle against imperialism, which we view as a class struggle.

"We agree to work through:
1. Material and propaganda support for liberation movements among oppressed peoples in the imperialist system;
2. Campaigns against corporate, government, and militaristic oppressors within the imperialist system; and
3. Research, study, political education and dissemination of information,

in order to further the socialist revolution.

"In joining this coalition, member groups agree to work in one or more of these areas. Recognizing that there are other areas of work in the anti-imperialist struggle, we agree that these areas form the basis of the North American Anti-Imperialist Coalition."

The above statement was unanimously accepted on August 30, 1971, by participants in a conference held in the mountains of Colorado. Organized by the Committee of Returned Volunteers, the conference focused on the theme "Beyond Vietnam" - how do we develop anti-imperialist strategy and action, now that overt United States participation in Vietnam is decreasing? There were over
125 participants at the conference, representing about 30 different groups and organizations.

Eqbal Ahmad of the "Harrisburg 8" opened the three-day meeting with a speech which raised some of the main issues to be discussed. The major themes dealt with were as follows:
1. The need for the struggle against imperialism to be integrated on an international level.
2. The need for a fresh analysis of our own situation.
3. The task of building a constituency.
4. The coordination of research and action.
5. The need to think in terms of a long range struggle.

As people grappled with these issues, certain tensions and disagreements arose, of which two dominated the conference: (1) analysis and theory versus personal life-styles, and (2) the question of where we should concentrate our efforts. The conflicts were deep, but the participants were so determined to create a united base that they always search for the ideas and beliefs held in common, rather than to be forever fragmented by ideological differences.

By the end of the conference, enough unanimity had been achieved to allow agreement on a statement of common purpose and a structure for a coalition.

Most of the participants represented groups focusing their activities on issues related to specific regions of the third world. Among those representing African concerns were the Liberation Support Movement, the Southern Africa Committee, the American Committee on Africa, and MACSA. In the Africa caucus meeting, the primary theoretical issue arising was the necessity of maintaining a critical stance towards the various liberation movements fighting in Africa. Most of these groups committed to supporting liberation movements had not dealt seriously with the very real political differences between some of the movements. It was felt by most that until we make some clear political decisions, even though there are obvious limitations to the amount of reliable information we can obtain, the support we give to the liberation movements may well be serving a negative function.

Special attention was also given in the Africa caucus to concrete actions such as the Gulf Oil and Polaroid boycotts and other anti-corporate activities. It was suggested that the Gulf Oil campaign be given national endorsement by all groups joining the coalition.

For the time being, the N.A.A.I.C. is minimally structured. A monthly newsletter is being produced (we have several copies of the first issue on hand) by the anti-imperialist collective of Chicago, in which each member group will have an equal amount of rotating space. There will be an annual group membership fee of $25, which will help to cover the costs of the newsletter. Individuals cannot join the Coalition alone, but they can subscribe to the newsletter for $6 annually.

A permanent steering committee will be chosen by member groups to plan next year's conference and to act on other matters arising during the interim. Until such a permanent committee can be elected, a temporary one was chosen by conference participants.

The question now before MACSA is whether or not to join the N.A.A.I.C. Our participation in the Colorado conference was an implicit invitation to join, and already we are involved in all three of the activities which were recognized as basic to the struggle against imperialism. Many points might be raised both pro and con, but the decision must be made by MACSA as a whole. If we decide to join, that decision implies acceptance of the Coalition's statement of purpose, as well as certain responsibilities.

The arguments against MACSA's
joining the Coalition might be stated as follows: (1) The benefits we as a group would receive from it would probably not outweigh the disadvantages; (2) the terms "class struggle," "imperialism," and "socialist revolution" are ill-defined in the Coalition's Statement of Purpose, and some MACSA people are not prepared to accept them as a basis for action; (3) we would be less likely to alienate people and more likely to attract support if we remained more specific in our goals and commitments.

On the other side of the coin, there are several arguments in favor of our joining the NAAIC: (1) If we share the view that oppression in Southern Africa is not an isolated issue but is closely linked to oppression elsewhere in the world by virtue of having a common enemy, imperialism, then we should share the burden of developing a common strategy against it. This cooperation can strengthen our own forces. For example, we are already working with the Center for Community Action on Latin America (CAIA) in Madison on the Gulf Campaign. This cooperation has grown directly out of our mutual participation in the Colorado conference. (CAIA has already joined the Coalition); (2) In joining the Coalition we could participate in the clarification of terms like "class struggle," "socialist revolution," and "imperialism." We could do this through writing articles for the NAAIC NEWSLETTER, through nominating our own members to the NAAIC steering committee, and through clarifying our own political stance; (3) Finally, it should be noted that national structure of the NAAIC is relatively weak at present and that its ideological stance is minimal. Thus, the responsibility for developing a clear strategy is vested heavily in the local groups. It is now up to MACSA to decide whether or not we want to take that responsibility.

GENERAL MACSA MEETING SUNDAY

There will be a general meeting of all those interested in MACSA on Sunday, October 24, at 2:00 P.M. in the University YWCA (305 N. Brooks St.). The main topic of discussion will be the question of our joining the North American Anti-Imperialist Coalition, described above. Since MACSA has no official membership, anyone who comes and participates in the discussion is entitled to vote on our policies.

BOYCOTT GULF!

There is a nationwide boycott of Gulf products in effect which was initiated by a group in Dayton, Ohio in July with a call that Gulf credit cards be returned to the company. Emphasis has been placed on Gulf as a symbol of the manner in which American corporate involvement in parts of the "underdeveloped" world tends to support and perpetuate the condition of underdevelopment rather than to alleviate it.

Because of Gulf's particularly wide range of direct activity in the international sphere, it was recommended that member groups of the North American Anti-Imperialist Coalition, formed in Denver in August, endorse and support the Gulf boycott and continue research on Gulf's specific ties with particular parts of the underdeveloped world.

Gulf's ties in Angola are particularly significant and it was in light of the monetary and technical support which Gulf gives the current colonial Angolan regime that the boycott was originally initiated. Gulf's operation in Cabinda provides the colonial government with financial aid in the form of rents, taxes, royalties and advance payments. Under Gulf's present contract, royalties alone amount to an annual payment of $5.5 million. A U.N. report estimated that total payment from the company to the government in 1969 was more than 20 million dollars. During this same year the Angolan budget for military expenditure was $144 million.

The Gulf contract, like those of all foreign companies in the colony, stipulates that Gulf is obligated to support the Portuguese government in securing "peace and order," thus making the company a direct collaborator in the maintenance of unjust, colonial rule.
GULF RECRUITER TO BE IN MADISON

On November 17, the day the recruiter for Gulf Oil is due to be on campus, there will be either a luncheon with a Gulf representative to discuss the company's involvement in Southern Africa and Latin America or, if Gulf refuses the luncheon invitation, a teach-in on the same topic. WSA will be sponsoring the luncheon.

CURRENT MACSA ACTIVITIES

MACSA people have formed two committees, one which is in charge of research and information dissemination, and another which is responsible for raising financial and material support for liberation movements. The Education Committee meets every Thursday in the Union Cafeteria in or near the Plaza Room. All interested people are welcome to join. Currently they are working on the Gulf campaign, in cooperation with other groups in Madison, and are discussing tactics against other corporations with interests in Southern Africa and elsewhere in the Third World (eg, G.M. and Polaroid). We are doing research on some of the liberation movements (notably the Zimbabwe, or Rhodesian, movements and those active in Angola) so that we can develop a clearer understanding of their histories, their strategies, and their effectiveness in their respective countries. Furthermore, as a follow-up to the "Israel and South Africa pamphlet" (which has been revised and will soon be available), we also plan to do research on the links between Japan and Southern Africa and France and Southern Africa. We need all the help we can get on these projects.

The Fund-Raising Committee has met twice, so far, and is making plans for a major campaign to collect clothing and other items, as well as money, to send to the liberation movements. For further information on this, contact the MACSA office.

WALK AIDS MOZAMBIQUE INSTITUTE

The Madison Walk for Development was completed on Sunday by 1,500 walkers, about half of the number who started out on the 30-mile trek. Local organizers of the Walk estimate that they will have achieved a net gain of $30,000 to $90,000 from the event.

32.5% of their gains have been promised to the Mozambique Institute in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. The Institute, run by the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO), operates schools, hospitals, clinics and various training programs in practical skills for Mozambicans both in Tanzania and in the liberated zones of Mozambique itself.

CHURCHES AID LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

The World Council of Churches last month approved another $200,000 grant to 24 organizations fighting racism around the world. The grant, made through the WCC's Program to Combat Racism, is the second to be allocated in such a manner since the Program was established in 1969.

A total of $125,000 was given to liberation movements in Portuguese Guinea, Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), South Africa and Namibia (South West Africa). Other recipients of WCC money include four groups in Europe and Zambia who are supporting the cause of liberation in Africa.

The remainder of the money was divided between groups in North America (eg, the Malcolm X Liberation University in North Carolina), Latin America, the Caribbean, and Asia.

In a similar move, the Lutheran World Federation voted several months ago to give $92,000 to FRELIMO's Mozambique Institute in Tanzania. Some German lutheran churches are also calling for voluntary contributions from individuals to a fund for freedom fighters in Africa.
SENATE BOOSTS RHODESIAN ECONOMY

The US Senate voted to permit the importation of chrome from Rhodesia. To resume such imports would of course represent clear disregard of the UN embargo on trade with Rhodesia. The Senate amendment, which would remove the President's authority to ban the importation of Rhodesian chrome, is to be considered during the next few weeks by Senate-House conferences. The House must vote in support of the measure before any change in US economic policy goes into effect, but already the Senate vote is interpreted in Rhodesia as strengthening the position of Prime Minister Ian Smith in his own negotiations with British diplomats concerning the future political status of the white minority ruled nation. The Senate move is seen as symptomatic of increasing US sympathy for the Rhodesian government.

The removal of the ban on chrome by the US would be of substantial economic significance to Rhodesia and would certainly do much to undermine the effect of the UN embargo. Chrome ore is an important source of foreign exchange for Rhodesia, and direct sales could be used to finance imports (the UN embargo to this point has significantly depleted Rhodesia's foreign currency reserves and has forced the nation to curtail imports). It is reported that even during the past five years, chrome has been exported by circuitous routes, some of it ending up in the US, so in fact any future official US non-participation in the embargo may not serve so much to alter US-Rhodesian economic relations as to make clear the nature of US sympathies, as these appear to be largely determined by her economic interests.

SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE ENTER ZAMBIA

On October 5 a London Times reporter in Cape Town, South Africa gave the following report:

"A column of South African paramilitary police crossed into Zambia today in pursuit of guerrillas, after two land-mines had killed a police captain and badly wounded four constables in the Caprivi Strip of South West Africa.

"The force crossed the border on direct orders from Mr. Vorster, the Prime Minister, who dramatically interrupted the opening session of his Nationalist Party congress in Pretoria this afternoon to announce the move.

"The crossing of the border, which could precipitate a major crisis in Southern Africa, was greeted with loud applause at the congress. Mr. Vorster did not mention Zambia by name as the country into which force crossed, but his statement left no room for doubt on this...

"The mines had been planted at a point about five miles from Katima Mulilo and well within South West African territory, the Prime Minister said. This section of the strategic Caprivi Strip, a long tongue of land linking South West Africa with the Zambezi River, passes between Angola and Zambia to the north and Botswana to the south.

"The South African Government has frequently accused Zambia of harboring guerrillas in camps near the border and maps of their alleged positions were leaked to the press here this year. It is thought likely that the police column, part of a 3,000-strong paramilitary element of the South African police, may seek to destroy one or more such camps.

Observers here are anxious about the possible consequences if the South African force runs into a Zambian military patrol, in view of Mr. Vorster's warning that they would defend themselves if attacked."

Two days later Vorster formally denied press reports that South African police had crossed the Zambian border. A meeting at which Mr. Vorster was to preside was called for October 20. He was to have "friendly discussions" with the chairman of all South African newspaper companies about the press handling of security stories.
SUMMARY OF UP-COMING EVENTS

Oct. 24 - General MACSA meeting, 306 N. Brooks (UW-YWCA), 2 P.M.

Oct. 27 - Gerard Chaliand will speak on "Political Strategy of Armed Struggle in Portuguese Guinea", Wisconsin Center, 8 P.M. Chaliand spent some time with the African Independence Party of Guinea and Cape Verde Islands (PAIGC) in the liberated zone of Guinea. He authored a book entitled The Armed Struggle in Africa and has also written on the struggle in Palestine and North Vietnam.

Nov. 9 - FRELIMO film, made by Dutch TV company inside liberated zones of Mozambique, to be shown on WHA TV, 9 P.M.

Nov. 17 - Gulf Oil recruiter to be on campus (this date could be changed).

Every Thursday noon - MACSA Education Committee meets in Union Cafeteria.