African Liberation Day Coalition

FIGHT IMPERIALISM AND NATIONAL OPPRESSION
FROM U.S.A. (Union of South Africa) TO U.S.A. (United States of America)

May 7, 1977

TO: All African Revolutionary People's Party
FROM: African Liberation Day Coalition (A.L.D.C.)
RE: Uniting in one demonstration for African Liberation Day, May 28 1977

African Liberation Day (A.L.D.), 1977, must be a single mass demonstration in Washington D.C. on May 28th, that unites all who can be united in the struggle against imperialism, and for the liberation of all countries and peoples in southern Africa. Everywhere Africa is in flames, the people are rising up against imperialism and national oppression, the spark of the Soweto uprisings burns brightly. We want to have one demonstration because the crisis demands it, but the All African Revolutionary People's Party has refused thus far to unite. WHY?

We are pleased that you have changed your plans for the rally to what we have proposed, a march on the White House. This will eliminate the “festival” aspect and correctly focus all of our energy on the object of our struggle, imperialism. But why do you propose two marches when our greatest contribution can only come from one unified march?

There are many different forces in this struggle, who recognize that the objective crisis in southern Africa requires unity against the main enemy, even while continuing to struggle over our differences. We want to unite in the spirit of equality and mutual respect, while maintaining independence in addition to the broad social movement that we must create. This means that there must be one demonstration under the joint leadership of all forces who can be united on the basis of fighting imperialism.

There are specific points we do not agree on, but we do not think this should prevent us from having one powerful demonstration. It does give us the opportunity to debate out different views so that all the people can learn, discuss and struggle over the ways to support African liberation and fight for freedom in this country. First, while we share the aspirations of all countries and peoples in Africa for freedom, at this time we must be concrete and support actual struggles rather than taking a utopian view that all of Africa is one homogeneous political entity. This means focusing our support on the struggling people of southern Africa as they stand on the verge of victory—while our rulers desperately cling to their power. Second, we believe that Black people here in the United States, while facing discrimination and national oppression from the same rulers as those who stand over the African people—should center their struggle for freedom here in the U.S., while taking up support of our African brothers and sisters as part of the battle to weaken and hurt our common oppressors. Third, we believe that African problems should be solved by African people and therefore cannot support the Soviet Union's role in Africa either, a superpower. We are prepared to make this a point of struggle, rather than a point of unity.

We want to build a broad mass social movement that unleashes the strength of the American people against U.S. imperialism and not simply build one organization. We want to have one demonstration and unite all who can be united around basic principles. We welcome the opportunity to debate our views with you, openly in public in Washington D.C. as soon as possible before African Liberation Day on May 28th—to allow people to determine what views, positions and policies will best move our struggle forward so that we can build a more powerful struggle and movement.