INDEPENDENCE IN GUINEA-BISSAU!

On September 24, the National People's Assembly declared independence for the REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU. After 12 years of fighting against Portuguese colonialism and U.S. imperialism, the PAIGC controls 75% of this west-African territory and is developing a new life for the people, based on institutions which serve, rather than exploit, the people.

COME AND CELEBRATE THIS PEOPLE'S VICTORY!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13 8:00 P.M.

A celebration of film ("MADINE BOE"), slides, poetry and readings from Guinea-Bissau.

Special donation in solidarity with the new Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

Sponsored by Chicago Committee for the Liberation of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea (CCLAMG)
The Republic of Guinea-Bissau was declared an independent and sovereign state by PAIGC (African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde) on September 24, 1973, marking another crushing defeat for Portuguese colonialism and western imperialism in Africa. The declaration came during the first meeting of the National People's Assembly, and follows a decade of armed struggle led by PAIGC. Portugal remained an "occupying foreign power" in the capital of Bissau, the town of Bafata, and the Cape Verde Islands.

The 120-person National Assembly, elected in 1972 by popular vote in the liberated areas of Guinea, met September 23-25 in Medina Boe, one of the first Portuguese bases captured by PAIGC. The Assembly adopted a constitution and established a fifteen-person Council of State. The new president is Luís Cabral, brother of the late Amílcar Cabral. Chairman of the Council of State is Francisco Mendes; João Bernado Vieira will preside over the National Assembly. Aristides Pereira remains as Secretary General of PAIGC, which is named in the constitution as the nation's ruling party.

The new Republic was immediately recognized by twenty nations, and it is expected that seventy nations will follow in a short time. Within the next few weeks Guinea-Bissau is expected to apply for membership in the United Nations.

Guinea's statehood is not only a blow to Portugal's claims in Africa, but gives added impetus to the national struggles of FRELIMO in Mozambique and MPLA in Angola. While Guinea-Bissau is of relatively minor economic importance to Portugal in comparison to mineral rich Angola and Mozambique, an independent Guinea, recognized by the world community, seriously challenges Portugal's claims to its other African colonies. This will have a significant influence on future developments in Southern Africa, particularly on the racist regimes of Rhodesia and South Africa.

The declaration is also a blow against Portugal's imperialist allies. The United States and other NATO countries strongly support Portugal with military equipment; its officers are trained by U.S. "advisors" in counter-insurgency techniques developed in Vietnam. The best air equipment produced in the U.S. is at Portugal's disposal. In 1971, Nixon provided Portugal's flagging economy a shot in the arm with a $436.5 million aid package. While continuing to mouth "self-determination" to the African territories, the U.S. continues to vote with Portugal and South Africa in the U.N.

The People of Guinea-Bissau have again shown that their will and determination to liberate themselves is stronger than modern military technology and more powerful than all the imperialist economic loans. As in Vietnam, the liberation movement has been confined to ground actions, using only small out of date equipment, usually transporting everything on foot over rough terrain. In the last six months, the Guineans have shot down no less than fourteen Portuguese airplanes.

But the fighting is not yet over. Portugal continues to occupy certain strategic areas. The first goal of the new nation is the total liberation of the mainland and the Cape Verde Islands.

We urge your support for the newly proclaimed Republic of Guinea-Bissau. While this is truly a People's Victory, the Struggle Continues!

Concretely: 1) Write letters to U.S. Mission to the U.N., to Senate Foreign Relations Committee, to Nixon, your senators--calling for recognition of Guinea-Bissau. 2) Send a letter or telegram of congratulations to PAIGC, P.O. Box 298, Conakry, Republic of Guinea. 3) Make a donation to the liberation struggle--send a check directly to PAIGC (above address) or to CCLAMG, designated for Guinea-Bissau (2546 N. Halsted, Chicago, 60614).