THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTHWIDE CONFERENCE TO STOP SOUTH AFRICAN COAL

(1) The steering Committee wants to re-state the Coalition's attitude towards ZANU, since material is being circulated claiming that there was an "insult to Tapson Mawere and ZANU, whose specific requests for support were rejected by the Conference."

In addition to stopping the coal, the Coalition has the view of raising the American people's consciousness about the conditions in Southern Africa and about the liberation movements there.

In accordance with this view, one workshop recommendation that was approved by the Convention was to have a fund-raising/educational event in the local areas specifically for ZANU as part of the activities leading up to the May demonstration.

Furthermore, the interim committee at the Conference took the position that the Coalition would use the contacts, local coalitions, and other resources of the Coalition to facilitate speaking engagements for Tapson Mawere as the N.A. representative of ZANU.

The current steering committee upholds these positions and urges the local Coalition to implement them. We are willing to help any local people who want to set up local speaking engagements for Mr. Mawere.

The Conference did not reject Mr. Mawere's requests for support. On the contrary, we included ways for people to carry out the suggestions he made for concrete material support, and most importantly, we formed a united coalition which will build up political support for the liberation struggles in Azania, Zimbabwe and all of Southern Africa.
We have set a tentative date for a meeting of the regional steering committee for March 22nd in Atlanta. We will go ahead with this date unless there are strong objections immediately. The main items for the agenda as of now are:

1. The May demonstration - location, date, coordination with ALSC, content, etc.
2. Approval of literature, posters, etc., of the Coalition.
3. Other Southwide campaigns of the Coalition

Anyone with proposals about these or other topics should bring them to the meeting written up.

The Steering Committee urges all the people in the different states to have a state-wide meeting before this date and elect their two representatives to the regional steering committee.

In addition, we urge people to form local coalitions around Stopping the Coal and begin local activities right away. We ask that you send us copies of local leaflets and other materials that you put out as well as brief reports of what kind of activities you are carrying out.
The Conference was officially convened at 10:30 A.M., Saturday, February 1, 1975 with the first order of business being the ratification of the agenda, the chairpersons, and the ground rules of the Conference. The three chairpersons were Debbie Broedel, Neal Woods, and Malcolm Suber.

The opening session included a report from the organizing committee on efforts to build the Conference and a view from the Committee that the Conference was to be a working Conference where it was hoped that people would attempt to hammer out an anti-Imperialist programme around the South African Coal Importation question. The procedure for the presentation and discussion of proposals was outlined. There were three addresses made in the morning session: Bob Zellner of SCEF; Malcolm Suber of ALSC; and the main speaker Tapson Mawere-North American Representative of ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union).

The Saturday Afternoon Plenary Session was divided into two sections: (1) presentation of proposals and (2) discussion of proposals. All the proposals were presented as a particular view held by organizations or individuals on the political perspective, goals, strategies and tactics of the campaign. There were six proposals from the following groups and individuals: (1) The Philadelphia Coalition to Stop Rhodesian Imports, (2) Ken Lawrence and Eileen Whalen, (3) The Atlanta African Liberation Support Committee, (4) The Black Worker's Congress, (5) The October League, and (6) A group from the Birmingham Coalition to
Stop the Coal including members from the Revolutionary Union.

There was general agreement in most of the proposals on three points: (1) that the major focus should be on the Southern company as representative of the Imperialist exploiters of workers in the U.S. and South Africa; (2) that the goal of the campaign should be to stop the coal and to build and support the liberation movements in Southern Africa; and (3) that the strategy should be to write as broad a sector of the population as possible around the programme of the Coalition with the working class as the main force.

There was disagreement over these points: (1) How does one link programmatically the struggles of workers and oppressed nationalities in the U.S. with the liberation struggles in Southern Africa? (2) What is the connection between racism and imperialism and how does one struggle against these two phenomenon? (3) The structure of the ongoing body and the level of political unity required in local bodies.

After the presentation of the proposals, there was about 2 1/2 hours from the floor of the Conference. Different points of view were debated back and forth. After this debate there was an extended break at which time people met in smaller groups to discuss the proposals and other issues of the Conference.

The result of this extended break was that all the presentees of proposals withdrew their proposals and united around the Atlanta ALSC proposal as representing at the least the minimal political unity that could be achieved at the Conference. The Atlanta ALSC proposal came to the floor on Saturday night open for discussion and amendments.

There were three amendments made of the Atlanta ALSC proposal.
The main slogans adopted were:

1. STOP SOUTH AFRICAN COAL!
2. STOP ALL SOUTH AFRICAN AND RHODESIAN IMPORTS!
3. END OUR GOVERNMENT, MILITARY AND CORPORATE SUPPORT TO THE RACIST REGIME OF SOUTH AFRICA!
4. UNITE TO FIGHT ATTACKS ON WORKING PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND AMERICA; END APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA AND RACISM IN AMERICA!
5. SELF DETERMINATION FOR THE AFRICAN MAJORITY, DISMANTLE THE RACIST STATE

After the adoption of the amended proposal the Saturday session was adjourned until the Sunday workshops and the election of people to the Steering Committee.

The Sunday sessions began at 11:00 A.M. with workshops in six (6) areas: (1) Propaganda (2) Southwide Tactics (3) Research (4) Taking the Campaign to the working class (5) Outreach and (6) Building support for ZANU.

The final plenary session on Sunday afternoon was for the reading and adoption of workshop reports and for elections. Four of the reports were read and adopted: (1) Propaganda (2) Research (3) Southwide Tactics, and (4) Outreach. The report from taking the campaign to the working class workshop was challenged, and since there were no resolutions two versions were read into the official minutes. The workshop report from ZANU was read, but the two resolutions from the workshop were ruled out of order by the chair because they sought to broaden the focus of the campaign and to raise additional slogans which was not the purpose of the workshops. The recommendations were:

1. The Coalition should have as one of its major
thrusts to support ZANU and the Zimbabwe liberation struggle, and that this should be put forward with at least the same force as the "Stop the Coal" issue. 

(2) The slogans - Support ZANU and Support the Zimbabwe Liberation Struggle be added to the approved proposal.

Five persons were elected from the body to the Steering Committee: Joe Brown (BWC) New Orleans; Debbie Broedel (SCEF) Tallahassee, Fla.; David Simpson (OL, SCEF) George Greenlee (ALSC); and Malcolm Suber (ALSC) of Atlanta.

SUMMATION - The Southwide Conference to Stop South African Coal would have to be seen as a moderate success. It of course had many shortcomings, but it also reflected the growing strength of the movement. First the Conference represented the first time in recent years that Black and White groups (and geographically scattered groups, for that matter) had come together. There were 194 people registered coming from over 50 organizations throughout the South. Minimal political unity was achieved although there was not the fullest of discussion and participation by the conferees. The chairpersons were not staunch enough at times, and too staunch at other times. The organizing committee and groups and individuals did not get the proposals to people on time.

Hopefully as our work continues we will overcome the primitiveness of our work and forge even greater unity. This struggle will be a long and protracted one. So let's get busy! We want to hear from you!
FINANCIAL REPORT

Cash on Hand After Expenditures -- $359.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Workshop proposals are being gathered and will be forthcoming.

If you want copies of any of the final proposal, send for them.

Cassette copies of Tapson's speech are available for $3.00.

* One correction - The slogan on page 6 of the amended proposal should read: Stop All South African and Rhodesian Imports!