Dear Friend,

The pressure for changes in the orientation of African Studies in the United States has been building for some time. That bottled-up rage finally exploded into disruptive energy at the international convention of the African Studies Association in Montreal. The anger and concerns which began to coalesce in caucus meetings and in lobby discussions must, to have any lasting effect, be translated into qualitatively different types of teaching and research directions.

At the Convention the Africa Research Group, a new radical research and education organization, was primarily concerned with promoting a critique of the role that African Studies has played in American penetration of Africa. We now hope to play a more positive role in attempting to assist concerned people in finding new teaching materials and new research problems to explore. While we will continue to operate outside the constricting framework of academic institutions and professional organizations, we plan to continue to make our ideas and publications widely available.

We are enclosing with this letter a copy of our updated literature list. In addition to our own studies we will distribute a reprint series of important, but generally unavailable articles, pamphlets prepared by organizations that share our concerns, and a new and partially annotated bibliography of radical literature on Africa. Yours suggestions for any additional titles are of course invited. Within the limits of an exceptionally low budget we have sought to make our publications readable and inexpensive. We think they are suitable for Black Studies and African Studies programs. We hope you agree and will help us in distributing them for classroom use.

We invite people interested in working on the systematically neglected problems of imperialism and revolution in Africa to write to us. We would like to know about your interests, see your papers (perhaps publish some) and coordinate our own efforts with yours. By maintaining contact with us, and by letting us know your own specific concerns and experience, perhaps we can be of some assistance to you.

Finally we would like to raise the problem of funds. Needless to say, the major funding sources completely dry up when it comes to subsidizing radical and independent research. We presently receive small subsidies from sympathetic church groups and individuals. If you are making more than you need, we would welcome your financial help.

Africa Research Group.