

'African Solidarity Day' set for May 27

By Abe Weisburd

Mass demonstrations are being organized in Washington, D.C., and other cities May 27 to oppose U.S.-backed colonialism in Africa and in support of African liberation fighters. The protests are sponsored by the African Liberation Day Coordinating Committee, a coalition of Afro-American organizations and personalities.

The ALDCC was organized in January "to show solidarity with our brothers and sisters fighting wars of liberation on the continent; to let the European colonialists know that we are aware of what is going down in Africa; and intend no longer to sit idly by while our brothers and sisters are being oppressed, exploited, colonized and brutalized."

The committee has attracted the most broadly based political group of black leaders to join together for any project in recent memory. Owusa Sadauki, president of Malcolm X Liberation University in Greensboro, S.C. is chairman. Cleveland Sellers, former SNCC organizer, is field coordinator. Among the 45 Steering Committee members are: Angela Davis, Huey Newton, Betty Shabazz, H. Rap Brown, Congressmen John Conyers, Charles Diggs, Louis Stokes, Ron Dellums and Walter Faunteroy, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Julian Bond, Dr. George Wiley, Rev. Charles Koen, Roy Innis, Stokely Carmichael and Imamu Baraka (Leroi Jones).

The ALDCC, organized as an ad hoc committee, is discussing the question of becoming a permanent organization.

The May 27 mass demonstrations correspond to the May 25 African Solidarity Day observances, which will be celebrated by the 41 African nations which are part of

the Organization of African Unity. The demonstrations will be in Washington D.C., San Francisco, Toronto and the Caribbean. They will show support for the African guerrilla liberation fighters of Zambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), Angola and Namibia (Southwest Africa).

The May 27 action in Washington will begin in Malcolm X Park at 9 a.m. At 11 a.m. a march will start that will stop off at the Portuguese embassy; the Rhodesian Information Center, the South African Embassy and the U.S. State Department. At each stop an indictment of the government concerned will be read with statements from individuals and organizations supporting the indictments. At 4 p.m. the march will culminate with a mass rally at Sylvan Theatre near the base of the Washington Monument.

Over 10,000 black people are expected to travel to Washington by bus for May 27, from as far away as Houston, Texas and Des Moines, Iowa. Groups of black professionals have volunteered to help raise funds to pay for those who cannot afford the fare. On May 5 an evening of poetry and music will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Crampton Auditorium of Howard University to kick off the fundraising campaign.

Since its formation the ALDCC has not been content just to organize the May 27 demonstration. It supported an April 21 rally in Washington which protested at the Portuguese embassy against the bombing of Tanzanian territory. The Committee also joined with several other black organizations in support of the Pan-African Liberation Council and the Harvard-Radcliffe Afro-Student Association which

took over University Hall in Harvard's Administration Building, in protest "against Harvard's reactionary refusal to divest itself of its \$21 million Gulf Oil stock in the Portuguese slave state of Angola where our African brothers and sisters are being colonized, exploited and brutalized."

On April 10, Owusa Sadauki issued a statement on behalf of the Committee, deploring the assassination of Sheik Abeid Karume, leader of Zanzibar's Revolutionary Council. The statement said in part: "We view this diabolical assassination as a continuation of European-American colonialist foreign policy which is systematically attempting to wipe out all these African leaders who initiate and support progressive developments in the continent."

President Sekou Toure of Guinea and other African leaders have sent messages of solidarity to the ALDCC.

White support?

In answer to questions by the Guardian regarding white participation in the May 27 African Liberation Day demonstrations, ALDCC through one of its staff members stated: "The ALDCC is not inviting nor does it welcome direct white participation in the May 27 demonstrations. We suggest three roles for well-meaning whites:

(1) Non-Intervention: Stop imposing yourself through projects which only help the white community and the white business community.

(2) (a) Give money not advice; We will take the money and spend it as we see fit. (b) Technical: Teach us how to make machines but never what to do with them. (c) Other resources.

(3) Civilizing movements: Go into the white community and attempt to civilize, liberalize and humanize."

For information and to send funds for bus fare and other expenditures: African Liberation Day Coordinating Committee, 2207 14th Street N.W., Washington, D.C., 20009 (202-462-3411 and 202-882-5772).