



INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN LIBERATION SUPPORT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, DAWOLU Gene Locke, center, presides over recent meeting.

Summary, Debate, Plans Mark ALSC Conference

YOBU NEWS SERVICE GREENSBORO, N.C. - The second semi-annual meeting of the Steering Committee of the International African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC) was held in Greensboro, N.C. on Feb. 1-3. This meeting was attended by delegations from 43 local committees, including two that are based in Canada (Toronto and Montreal).

This meeting of the Steering Committee accomplished several things: first, an examination of the development and work of each of the local committees present; second, the reaffirmation of the ALSC Statement of Principles which had been adopted six months ago at the historic first meeting of the ALSC Steering Committee in June, 1973 at Frogmore, S.C.; and third, the adoption of an international program of activities for 1974.

The meeting was characterized overall by vigorous and thorough discussion and ideological struggle.

U.S. based delegations represented the northeast, the Southern and Midwest regions of the country.

INTERNATIONAL REPORTS

The Steering Committee meeting got underway with formal welcoming remarks from Joyce Johnson, host committee (Greensboro) chairperson, followed by the international chairperson's report on the state of the International ALSC.

The report of the international chairperson, Dawolu Gene Locke (Houston, Tex.), reflected tremendous progress in the development of the ALSC. He noted that since the previous Steering Committee meeting in June, the number of local committees has nearly doubled, increasing from 26 to presently 44.

He spoke of the trip to Africa by the ALSC delegation, which included the international chairperson, the secretary, Brenda Paris and the chairperson of the Southern Region, Owusu Sadaukai, in August of

1973. This trip was the culmination of the ALSC United African Appeal (UAA) campaign of 1973. The delegation distributed \$32,000 of the UAA fund among three African liberation movements - PAIGC, FRELIMO and UNITA.

The chairperson's report also reflected progress in the area of national activities. The two major national activities that have been started since June, are (1) the repeal of the Byrd Amendment campaign and (2) the petition drive in support of the New Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

These two activities are part of the ongoing work of ALSC inside the U.S.

Early in the meeting, a proposal to add the adjective "international" to the committee's official name, was put forward and adopted. The name International ALSC correctly reflects the geo-political scope of the committee - the U.S., Canada and the

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THE SECOND ALSC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING HELPED CLARIFY A VARIETY OF questions for most participants.

Historic ALSC Meeting

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Caribbean (the Western hemisphere).

The first portion of the meeting was concerned with progress reports from the local committees, about one-third of which have been started only in the last two to three months. In the main, the locals are as yet small in size and have not reached all sectors of the Black community in their respective areas.

However, the sum total of the local committees represent work around various issues in the Black community, including an increasing support for Black workers' struggles.

In total, they also represent the participation of nearly every major nationalist organization and many regional or local Black organizations. In this respect, ALSC is beginning to take on a united front character as is called for in the Statement of Principles.

IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE

The high point of the Steering Committee meeting was reached through vigorous ideological struggle around the position of ALSC as put forth in the Statement of Principles.

The ideological position as presented in the Statement of Principles, is summed up by the following three main points:

1. The new unity of the Black Liberation struggle must be anti-racist, anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist in character.
2. The struggle to unify Black anti-racist, anti-imperialist forces is our source of strength in building an ideologically advanced movement.
3. Our unity must involve all Black social groups and class formations, and we propose that Black workers take the lead.

Nelson Johnson and Abdul Alkalimat, members of the international executive committee, presented a document, which further explains and clarifies the main concepts in the Statement of Principles - the concepts of imperialism, monopoly capitalism, racism, the Black worker, the united front and others.

The discussion around the ideological position as advanced in the Statement of Principles, proceeded from this presentation.

As discussion and debate heightened, it became clear

that there was a struggle between essentially two lines of analysis, on the question of the nature of the oppression of Black people.

The dominant line asserted that the chief enemy of Black people in the U.S., throughout the Western Hemisphere, in Africa, and of oppressed people all over the world, is monopoly capitalism and imperialism; and that racism is a tool used by capitalists and their functionaries, to super-exploit the masses of Black people everywhere that capitalism exists and everywhere that imperialism has extended.

Not only that, but racism is also used as a tool to divide oppressed people, causing them to fight against each other instead of their common principal enemy - the system of capitalism.

Delegates who argued for this analysis, showed that the logical extension of this line of reasoning is that the best way to fight the economic and racial oppression of the masses of Black people inside the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean, and at the same time aid the African liberation movements, is by attacking the stronghold of monopoly capitalism and racism - the United States system of capitalist and racist exploitation.

They further argued that Black workers (who are the vast majority of Black people) have the greatest interest in the struggle to defeat capitalism. Moreover, among the different classes and social strata of the Black community, they are key to that struggle. Black workers, therefore, must become the leading active force in the Black community against racist and capitalist exploitation.

The opposing line was that racism (some individuals even said "all white people") is the primary enemy of Black people and that capitalist and imperialist exploitation are secondary. The extension of this line, as argued, was that the best way for Black people to fight economic and racist oppression is by building separate Black institutions, and attempt to separate all aspects of Black people's existence from that of white people - including the economic aspect.

Those who argued this line did not address the concrete day to day struggles, which the masses of Black people face in

trying to survive economically, except to say that Black people are powerless. They overlooked the fact that the economic life of Black people is totally controlled by only a small number of capitalists. Instead of struggle led by the masses of Black people to change the system that oppresses Black folk, they argued for the changing of Black people's values.

The ideological struggle between these two lines led to greater clarification of the position advanced in the Statement of Principles. One of the most important points clarified around the question of Black workers was that, although this class of Black people are not now in the leadership of struggles in the Black community, it is the position of ALSC that issues related to Black workers must be supported and projected by the ALSC.

In addition, controversy and confusion around the question of the independence and initiative of individual organizations within the United Front of ALSC, was clarified and settled through the adoption of a policy on that question.

The policy recognizes that the United Front has two basic aspects. First, there is the aspect of unity among the various individual organizations based on agreement with the Statement of Principles. On the other hand, there is the aspect of differences on certain questions outside of the Statement of Principles given that ALSC, or any united front, is not one single organization, but in fact, many.

The policy further provides that the independence and initiative of the various independent organizations is to be preserved on matters outside the realm of ALSC, but that while acting under the auspices of ALSC, each and every organization within the united front is bound to support and not contradict the ideological position as put forth in the Statement of Principles.

The atmosphere of this debate and struggle in this steering committee meeting was characterized by openness, frankness and honesty uncharacteristic of the type of deceit and corruption that prevails in this society, particularly in ruling class struggles for power as exem-

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ALSC Program For 1974

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plified in the Watergate scandal.

In an overwhelming majority vote of 64-10, the steering committee reaffirmed the Statement of Principles as written and also voted to set up some type of public forum whereby further discussion, analysis and clarification of the main concepts in the document can be held.

The steering committee recognized the necessity to support and advance Black community and Black workers struggles against the system of monopoly capitalism and racism in the United States in particular, because this country is the base and the stronghold of racism in the and of imperialism. It recognized that this is the best way to support and aid the African liberation movements, but also recognized the importance of lending direct financial and material support to the struggles on the African continent.

PROGRAM FOR 1974

Accordingly, the international program adopted for 1974, is as follows:

1. On the local level, ALSC committees are to engage in and support activities around

issues of the Black community and Black workers which are important in their respective areas.

2. On the national and international level, ALSC will sponsor a week of activities around African Solidarity Day. The week of activities will begin with demonstrations on the local level in observance of Malcolm X's birthday on May 19. During the following week,

an anti-racist, anti-imperialist conference, will be held in Washington, D.C., followed by a centralized national demonstration (ALD '74), also in Washington, D.C.

The steering committee meeting ended on a note of unity through struggle and optimism for the further development of the International African Liberation Support Committee.

Wounded Knee Trial

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tration of the defense by the FBI prompted a motion by the defense team to dismiss the charges. Voluminous affidavits show that legal researchers, potential witnesses and other defense workers have been intimidated, threatened and harrassed.

The government refused to guarantee that the conversations of three defense lawyers, Kuntsler, Mark Lane and Luke McKissick, were not electronically surveilled. The son of one of the Wounded Knee defendants, Ellen Moves Camp, was offered money by federal agents to testify against his own mother. When he refused,

he was physically assaulted.

The FBI assigned 75 agents to work with local police in screening prospective jurors. These and many other incidents indicate the attempts of the government, continuing from their actions at Wounded Knee, which included the murder of two Indians to behead and destroy AIM and any other Indian peoples who dare protest the genocidal policies of the U.S. government towards Native Americans.

The struggle of Indian peoples for self-determination and control of their own lands, is quite clearly a fight the U.S. government is willing to use any means necessary to defeat.