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for the PC

'76 Strategy

[from Unity-Struggle, Vol. 4, No. 5, April, 1975]

March 14 and 15 at the Congress of Afrikan People National Office in Newark there was a meeting in which many people from different parts of the country, representing different organizations, came together to seriously discuss whether a concrete strategy for the Election year of 1976 can be put together and secondly whether there is any basis for a continuing relationship even past the '76 motion. During the weekend discussion a number of issues and questions were raised. One of the strategies proposed was the call for a mass party, which was put forward by the National Interim Committee for a Mass Party of the People. The other strategy called for was a broad Popular Front that would take in everyone who was anti-Democrat, anti-Republican, anti-depression and anti-repression to oppose the rightward move of the Democrats and Republicans. This '76 Strategy was put forward by the Congress of Afrikan People Amiri Baraka, Chairman of CAP quoted Chairman Mao Tse Tung of the Communist Party of China on the "Three Magic Weapons" for struggle against imperialism -- vanguard party, united front and armed struggle -- pointing out that we don't have any of them. The '76 Strategy is viewed as a method for building a national united front.

Some of the other questions raised were "How would this electoral move differ from the Communist Party USA or the Socialist Workers Party campaigns?" This was raised by the October League and answered by Chairman Baraka, who stated that it would differ by the content and the intention as shown in the '76 Strategy minimum program which is anti-capitalist and the maximum program which is pro-socialist, and would educate the people that they cannot benefit from this social system and that a new one is needed. Another plan suggested by Fight Back, a workers organization in Harlem and Brooklyn headed by Jim Haughton, is the creation of Independent Workers Centers, to send representatives to job sites and get people jobs. There would be a determination of whether the job sites had a correct quota of Black and Puerto Rican workers and if they did not, they would picket until the quota was met. The purpose of the centers would be to organize Black and Puerto Rican workers. It was pointed out that these centers are a good organizing basis, but that militant economism is no different than economism, and that Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse Tung Thought must be injected into these centers to politicize workers.

A comrade from El Comite raised the question that we should understand the difference between popular front and a populist party which he said were the two basic lines taken at the meeting. A populist party is not based on an ideology but is shaped solely on the immediate needs of the people; a popular front is a good coalition for struggle around a specific issue that can unite a broad sector of people. Populism, per se, is reformist, while a popular front can be the basis for real revolutionary movement. He also pointed out the need for working class, not petit bourgeois, leadership of the movement! Throughout the meeting the representatives seemed to be very interested in the CAP proposed strategy for 76. There were in depth discussions which were not held back by sectarian debates, but were principled and productive. At the end

of the second day, the NIC (National Interim Committee) put forward a proposal which calls for the need to make some basic agreement, generally around the proposed CAP '76 strategy.

The proposal was voted on and accepted by eight organizations voting "yes" and two voting "no." Twelve organizations abstained but said they will participate in the meetings until their organizations get back to the National Steering Committee with final decisions on their involvement. Basically the consensus was that with the heightening contradictions and chaos in the ruling class, a strategy to mobilize a mass popular movement led by the working class in 1976 for political education and to wage struggle with the intermediate sector lackies of imperialism -- the labor aristocrats, petit bourgeois politicians, and the revisionists/fake communists -- is an absolutely critical strategy for the progressive forces to build, using a minimum program based on the urgent needs of the people, i.e. effects of depression, growing repression, threatening war, showing the people clearly that there are no real solutions to these problems under the capitalist system and calling for a new social system and people, that is worker, control of economy and state. The movement would build by giving local issues national scope and bringing national attention to local struggles, involving large numbers of diverse people in concrete work and struggle together.

As the CAP working paper, agreed upon as a basic guideline by the groups present, stated, in partial paraphrase of Dimitroff's work on the United Front Against Fascism, "the campaign must cause people to begin to disassociate themselves from the capitalist parties without delay. It is not a socialist or communist movement, but it must be anti-all the forces that true socialists and communists are against. It cannot be a communist movement or a socialist party, but a broad front that takes as many of the positions that honest communists understand to be necessary, as possible without sectarianism (i.e., subjectivism in political work) or opportunism.

The next meeting is April 6 at the CAP headquarters, 13 Belmont Ave., in Newark, N.J. At this meeting we will discuss how to get other organizations involved, principles of unity, and the pulling together of a national meeting/convention that will bring all people who are concerned about the rightward move of the Democrats and Republicans, the depression and repression and are ready to struggle!

Build an anti-depression, anti-repression concrete electoral strategy for '76!

Build a campaign among the popular masses led by the working class and its advanced forces!

Expose the Democrats, Republicans, labor aristocrats and revisionist lackies of the bourgeoisie!

Build a new mass movement towards socialist revolution!

Victory to all oppressed people!