

SECTION B

From Anti-Imperialism to Global Justice

3.B.1.

African Liberation Day Coalition

“Fight Imperialism and National Oppression from the USA to the USA” (1977)

The anti-apartheid movement in the United States held deep roots in Black radicalism. This flyer from the African Liberation Day Coalition draws links between US and South African policies, not least through the countries’ shared acronym USA. It further marked an upsurge of organizing across southern Africa.

Fight Imperialism and National Oppression from the USA (Union of South Africa) to the USA (United States of America)!

Today the flames of freedom flash across the African continent and everywhere the people are in rebellion. The great armed struggles against Portuguese colonialism are matched now by the growing struggles against white minority rule in southern Africa and neocolonial rule in countries such as Ethiopia.

In South Africa young people have taken to the streets to demonstrate against the segregation of the apartheid system. Black workers by the tens of thousands are refusing to go to work in the foreign-owned mines and factories. In Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) there is increasing unity between the liberation forces; and the unity of ZAPU-ZANU [Zimbabwe African People’s Union-Zimbabwe African National Union] has brought the people of Zimbabwe closer to victory. The ruling whites, who are outnumbered twenty-three to one, can only delay the arrival of democratic majority rule, not stop it. In Namibia (South West Africa), SWAPO [South West Africa People’s Organisation] continues to make important gains against the South Africans, while in the north, the Eritrean peo-

ple advance in their struggle against the Ethiopian military junta. The heroic fight of the African people against oppression has rallied the support of people around the world. As part of this worldwide support movement, the African Liberation Day Coalition, a broad coalition that seeks to unite with others, is calling a demonstration at the White House at 1 p.m. on African Liberation Day, May 28.

On this day thousands of people of all nationalities will be marching on the White House to demand the US out of southern Africa. Why? The struggle in southern Africa is a just one—the struggle against the hated system of apartheid, the African people breaking the chains of white minority rule. People of these countries are saying the end is coming for colonial rule where British and American companies are free to rob the riches of their country, particularly the labor of the people. The African struggle for liberation and independence is a struggle for all who want to see freedom replace tyranny and equality replace discrimination.

In particular, for those who have felt the lash of racial discrimination, the struggle against apartheid and white minority rule is a clarion call. Four hundred years of national oppression prove the rulers of this country will not end discrimination in Africa. Blacks who have been turned away at the hiring halls for the crime of being Black and who have faced the humiliation of systematic inequality know well the US is not serious in reaching a settlement in the interest of the African people, only in its interests—profits (\$).

People of all nationalities should stand up for freedom in Africa. We are victimized by the same rulers as the people of Africa, and together we must fight them. These are the same financial magnates like IBM, GM and Polaroid who profiteer from apartheid, drag us into wars we never asked for, force us into unemployment, cut back our social services. We can influence history by supporting the African people as we have in the past in the fight against slavery, the Black liberation struggles of the 60s, and the Vietnam protests. A victory for the African people is a victory for ourselves. It's the African people themselves who are making the change. They are building the struggle for their independence. The African people are not content to let a few Black puppets replace the white settler regime; they are fighting for freedom and independence. *Victory to the people of southern Africa!!* It's a struggle against the white settler states who impose apartheid, concentrate millions into segregated areas, and demand passports for Blacks to travel in the country. *Down with white minority rule!*

Backing these settler states has been US imperialism. The US has blocked every move for freedom diplomatically and militarily. Without US support the settler states of southern Africa would quickly collapse. However, the US has demonstrated that it will do everything it can to protect its \$1.6 billion investment in southern Africa. Jimmy Carter and Andy Young and the rich men they represent are now trying to trick the American people and divide the African people with their phony scheme of “peaceful transition to majority rule.” Imagine that! Right when the African people are on the verge of winning, they want

them to lay down their guns and negotiate for their freedom. The African people have said no to that. The American people have said no to that. Let the ruling classes of southern Africa and the US tremble at the onslaught of African revolution!

Waiting in the wings, pretending to be socialists, is the other superpower, the Soviet Union. Using empty promises and wallets full of rubles (\$), they hope to use the African peoples' aspirations as a sword against their US rival, so that they can take over. The Soviet Union not only tries to prevent unity among the liberation groups, but it also pits one against the other. While they supported the military junta in Ethiopia, they branded the Eritrean freedom fighters (in Ethiopia) and PAC [Pan Africanist Congress] (Azania) as CIA agents and fronts. This clearly unmasks the great power imperialist policies of the USSR. The people of Africa and the world are increasingly aware of the contention and collusion between the US and the USSR for the resources of Africa. They are determined to enjoy complete freedom and will not exchange one master for another. *US out of southern Africa; superpowers hands off!*

The African Liberation Day Coalition is calling on all who want to organize and reach out to the millions of potential fighters for freedom to join us. Join our campaign to isolate the white settler states and force the US out of the area.

Educate and mobilize the American people to understand Africa and to reject Carter's phony pretensions of favoring majority rule.

Collect all the necessary material aid that will enable the freedom fighters in Africa to pursue their just cause.

Oppose the US support for the settler states. Demand that banks stop selling the coin that pays for apartheid—the Kruggerand. Stop the arms sales and mercenaries that prop up illegal regimes in Africa. End university investment in corporations that do business in southern Africa.

A crucial part of the support campaign is African Liberation Day. Historically thousands have marched on this day to support the people of Africa. This year we will be making clear that the American people are part of the international movement going for the liberation of Africa. We'll be militant, we'll be loud and serious, we'll be disciplined and we'll be going right up to the doorstep of Jimmy Carter. Thousands of us will be bringing the determination and understanding gained in Selma, the Watts rebellion, the Vietnam mobilizations, the Black Panther movement, and other struggles to reaffirm our desire to see freedom in Africa and an end to the oppression of minority nationalities here in the United States.

The vast majority of working people have nothing in common with the rich rulers of this country or their buddies in South Africa and stand opposed to them. We must unite our ranks. *Now is the time* to stand up. *Now is the time* to bring our forces together. On May 28 we will be out, thousands strong, showing our support for the freedom fighters in Africa. On that day we will yell loud and clear: *US out of southern Africa, superpowers hands off! Fight imperialism and national oppression from the USA to the USA!*