

## LOOKING BACK

Over the past four years since the birth of the B.L.A. we have experienced many tactical setbacks, some have been costly in material, others in manpower (P.O.W.s) and the most costly in blood of comrades, who gave their lives. Nevertheless the B.L.A. still lives, still continues to struggle with arms against the oppressor.

In the beginning when we started out our primary targets were the police as a political consequence for their murders and brutalities against Black and Third World peoples. Bank monies were expropriated as a means of support for guerrilla units and seen as an attack on capitalism. Most of our activities were carried out on the East and West coast in large cities with the hope of raising the militancy of the people to resist the oppressive state apparatus. The spark we hoped would start the fire that would burn Babylon down was extinguished by State propaganda organs and special anti-guerrilla squads. Many comrades moved to the South hoping to establish a southern base; this too failed because we lacked knowledge of terrain and the people, so again we moved back to the cities, this time as fugitives with little popular support among the masses. Our primary activity at that period was hiding and carrying out expropriations. With the deaths of Woody and Kinu we launched assaults against the police that set them on edge; their counter-attack saw us at the end of 1973 with four dead, over twenty comrades imprisoned in New York alone. In New Orleans, Los Angeles, and Georgia, B.L.A. members were taken prisoner by Federal agents working with local police to crush the B.L.A. 1974 found the guns of the B.L.A. quiet until April, when with so many comrades imprisoned we assaulted the Tombs in an effort to liberate some comrades; the attempt was unsuccessful; and two weeks later found three more comrades captured in Connecticut.

While our ranks outside were being diminished, our ranks inside started to grow. Within the prisons themselves comrades launched numerous assaults and attempt escapes on a regular basis. Before 74 was over, another comrade was shot and captured, victim of an informant. Now in the third month of 1975 we have one dead, two captured in Virginia, and another escape attempt in New York. Since the beginning we have shown a willingness to struggle and our efforts have not been in vain, for we are rich in experience that comes with trial and error. Now in the year 1975 - the year of sorting out and consolidation - we must sum up those experiences, analyse them and return to the front.

### What Have we Learned?

We have learned much about the enemy and about ourselves. The enemy we have come to learn is weak, easily demoralised, and ineffective against the audacity of the guerrilla. He relies heavily on informants, the news media, and technology to combat the guerrilla. He takes advantage of our mistakes, uses a high concentration of troops as a means to intimidate and ward off attack. The enemy implements pacification programs among the people along with terror tactics in an effort to forestall the revolutionary tide. In essence alot of the enemy's strength comes from our own weakness. True, the enemy is materially and technically superior, but these gaps will be closed once we organize ourselves, instill either self-discipline or organizational discipline among our ranks, improve our technical know how,

strengthen our lines of communication. We have learned ourselves that we lacked a strong ideological base and political base; yet there is great potential for the latter. In failing to lay down an over-all strategy we have become isolated from the masses, we have failed in seeing the strategical victories in our tactical setbacks, and thus failed to press the attack. There is much we have learned and much to be learned - how to improve relationships between comrades and the people, and comrades, and each other - yet by continuing to struggle we will overcome these difficulties with revolutionary determination.

#### In Closing

In looking back we must never forget those comrades who gave their lives for the people, nor forget our mistakes but constantly sum up the things we've learned. Yet our look back must be a glance to see where we're going so as not to travel the same road where so many difficulties beset us. Let us look to the future with faith and knowledge that the experiences of the past will be guides in assessing and implementing our present programs that will take us to victory in the future..

Get Organized and Consolidate  
To Liberate  
Revolution Until Victory  
We Will Win!

Unit 3 B.L.A.