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*File
Black Panther*

Eldridge Cleaver,
for President Committee,
Peace and Freedom Party
Black Panther Party
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Spokesmen of the Black Panther Party, the Radical Caucus of the Peace and Freedom Party, the Brown Caucus and the Black Caucus of the Peace and Freedom Party, the Medical Committee for Human Rights, and candidates of the Peace and Freedom Party, including Bobby Seale, Kathleen Cleaver, Peter Franck, Walter Riley, Richard Romo, Richard Highland, Paul Shaprio, Dave Comstock, James Vann, and Paul Jacobs today issued the following statement:

On the eve of the Black Revolution, White America now confronts the final resolution of its basic contradictions. With the present leadership of the United States madly plunging the country into the white hot center of a national and international conflagration,, radical alternatives must be created immediately. The struggle of black people in America and oppressed people around the world against poverty, exploitation, and racism has now erupted into a wo-ld-wide war of liberation; the response of the rulers of America has been bullets, bombs, and bullshit.

Revolutionary vision, powerful commitment, deep compassion, and genuine statesmanship could wrench America from its dangerous course. The racist imperialist butchers will no longer be allowed to usurp the electoral process to camaflogue their illegitimate ~~use~~ exercise of power, maintained through treachery, terror, and genocide. Dedicated leaders must replace these callous hypocrites, power must be restored to the people, and their desires for freedom, justice, and peace must be implemented. As a first step in this direction, as a cornerstone to building

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a new country on the ashes of the American Dream, we announce the candidacy of Eldridge Cleaver, Minister of Information of the Black Panther Party, for President of the United States.

Eldridge Cleaver has written: "The viability of the Black Panther Party's approach to solving problems is testified to by the fact that it has engineered two remarkable feats that constitute the foundation for a revolutionary movement that overlooks nothing, is afraid of nothing, and is able to resolve the major contradiction of our time. On the one hand, the Black Panther Party cemented a working coalition with the predominantly white Peace and Freedom Party. On the other hand, it effected a merger with SNCC. This is the key center of the eye of the storm, because whether they know it or not, whether they like it or not, neither white radicals nor black radicals are going to get very far by themselves, one without the other. In order for real change to be brought about in America, we have to create machinery that is capable of moving in two different directions at the same time, machinery the two wings of which are capable of communicating with each other. The Black Panther Party, through its coalition with the Peace and Freedom Party and its merger with SNCC, has been the vector of communication between the most important vortexes of black and white radicalism in America. Any black leadership in our era with national ambitions has to embody this functional flexibility without sacrificing its integrity or rock-bottom allegiance to the black masses." Eldridge Cleaver personifies this approach to resolving the basic contradictions consuming

this country. Eldridge Cleaver's political genius, personal compassion, and profound belief that the struggle for freedom was the crucial factor in the success of this historic coalition and merger. Our Presidential campaign will project the leadership of Eldridge Cleaver and the machinery he created as the radical alternative to a national catastrophe.

In launching this campaign, we are declaring war on the shysters of the Democratic and Republican con game. Black, white, and brown people have been used as pawns of a world power elite that has denied them representation and delivered them repression. The Democratic Machine has now reared the wolfish head of Bobby Kennedy to trick and devour the revolutionary struggle of the youth for peace and freedom. By running Eldridge Cleaver for President, we project as our national spokesman a black man whose entire existence embodies the struggle of colonized and oppressed people -- a struggle for survival, for dignity, for freedom, and for peace. Following the inspiration of Malcolm X, Eldridge Cleaver became a leading organizer and spokesman for the freedom of black people while he was in prison. The phenomenal energy, imagination, intellect, talent, and profound understanding of our problems that make Eldridge Cleaver such an outstanding leader have been dedicated completely to the struggle for black liberation, indeed, for the liberation of mankind. Eldridge Cleaver has demonstrated that he is a statesman of the highest calibre, a brilliant writer, and a deeply humanistic individual. This is the type of leadership our campaign will project.

While it will address itself to the entire nation, this presidential campaign will be focused on the desires and needs of

of the most oppressed and exploited people in the country. We view the campaign as primarily a means of educating and organizing the exploited and colonized masses -- black people, brown people, and poor people -- and those whites who will struggle to end racism and colonialism, rather than a move to get votes. In particular, this campaign will initiate a frontal attack on the inhumane and archaic penal system. In SOUL ON ICE, Eldridge Cleaver wrote: "It is only a matter of time before the prisoner's debt to society versus society's debt to the prisoner is injected forcefully into national and state politics, into the civil and human rights struggle, and into the consciousness of the body politic. It is an explosive issue which goes to the very root of America's system of justice, the structure of criminal law, and the prevailing beliefs and attitudes toward the convicted felon." With the prisons across the country burgeoning with thousands upon thousands of black, brown, and poor people victimized by the structure of this society, making a national issue of the prisoner's position in this campaign will give it powerful impact and depth. The political imprisonment of Eldridge Cleaver is the focal point of the campaign, driving our attack into the infested core of the rotten system we are fighting.

The campaign of Eldridge Cleaver for President acknowledges the vanguard role of the leadership of the black liberation struggle and projects one of the leading spokesman and strategists of the Black Panther Party as the leader of the nation. The programs of the Black Panther Party and the Peace and Freedom Party will be spread nationally in this historic move. We offer the people of the United States the opportunity, on this last

go round, to take the initiative and begin to cure themselves of the vicious racism and materialism that has infested their lives for generations. If white people as well as black can accept the national leadership of a black revolutionary, then a margin of possibility remains, however slim, that America -- and the world -- may avert the impending holocaust.