



MARCH 1976

ANVIL

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CONVICTS

THE UNITED PRISONERS UNION — SERVING THE CONVICTED CLASS AND FRIENDS

UPU HISTORY, PRACTICE, OBJECTIVES

The U.P.U. grew out of a movement in the early 1970's which recognized that real changes had to be made within the inhumane prison system. The original work U.P.U. undertook was to organize prisoners and ex-prisoners into labor unions that could make demands such as a minimum wage scale, workmen's compensation, safer working conditions, better medical care, etc.

Initially, U.P.U.'s focus was in securing reforms as a means of bringing about change inside the prison system. We recognized that prisoners represent one of the most exploited parts of the working class as we recognized the need and importance of building convict organization. From the beginning, as a part of this organizing process, we realized the necessity of study, of self-education, and of extending this education to those inside and out. We had to learn about the economic and political role of the prison system in this society—who fills the prisons and why.

Through the process of struggle within the prison movement we have improved our theory along with our practice. This has helped us to grow and develop politically. We realize now that reforms in themselves are neither a goal nor a solution but rather a tool to use in bringing about the change necessary to end the cause for prison itself.

Because U.P.U. realizes the importance of not allowing our brothers and sisters locked down to be isolated, our two main services are transportation and correspondence: we provide rides for those who would not otherwise be able to visit family and friends; the correspondence program deals with opening direct lines of communication by finding people outside the prison walls to write and/or visit prisoners inside.

U.P.U. receives a large quantity of mail requesting legal assistance and other services which we answer and if unable to assist directly we will find out who can. We also provide outside support and propaganda for prison struggles inside (such as the CIW boycott, the North Carolina women's prison struggle etc.) as well as helping form defense committees for people being persecuted by the so-called justice system.

As a continuing part of our education program we publish our newspaper, The Anvil, and we do speaking engagements throughout the state. Additionally, we are active in political struggles within the community.

U.P.U. understands that under capitalism, prisons are one of the principal tools of oppression/repression used by the ruling class to further exploit and control poor and working class people, especially national minorities. Prisons are a necessary part of the bludgeoning state apparatus needed to maintain the precarious economic balance. This is why every prisoner is a political prisoner. We recognize that prison represents only one symptom of capitalism and as such the prison struggle is an integral part of the total struggle to eliminate the disease of capitalism itself. Therefore, as a part of our practical activities, our immediate objective is to link up and to connect the prison struggle with other popular and progressive working class struggles. This is in order that these combined may be united as a single organized force to destroy capitalism and replace it with a socialist society. This is our primary objective. We further believe that this task will be accomplished by an organized and unified working class using all the tools of class struggle. While we criticize individual tendencies toward western adventurism, history has shown that one of these tools will be armed struggle. Formation of underground movements is a vital step in revolutionary process. U.P.U. has always given above ground support and comradely criticism to the underground and will continue to do so.

U.P.U. is a non-profit organization. We are solely funded by the popular support of the people through their donations. We also have a monthly film series in which we show politically educational films to raise funds.

For additional information please give us a call, write us, or drop by the office—we will be glad to help in whatever way possible. We need both your support and criticism to move our struggle forward and eventually remove all the chains that bind our brothers and sisters.

U.P.U. staff and other comrades

ANVIL
944 Market St. #508
San Francisco, CA 94103

Beni
1433 Univ. Terr. 735
Ann Arbor
Michigan 48104



S.L.A. STATEMENT

January 1976

Viewed by an isolated and frightened government as a threat for having committed the political atrocity of surfacing the poor and hungry in America and surfacing the fact that they could be fed by the rich and powerful, we, like others before us who have attempted to expose the true nature of this country, have been subjected to a vicious propaganda campaign designed to discredit us with most Americans and sever us from the growing revolutionary support base.

Regardless of the shortcomings and errors of the SLA, the food giveaway program showed many thousands of people throughout this country and the world that the SLA's commitment was in the interest of the people and further confirmed what has already been shown through out the history of people's resistance -- that a determined guerilla front can creatively relate to our needs. The failure of the FBI to capture us for over a year and a half not only exposed them as a domestic paper tiger, but revealed the extent and depth of our support in the community and the threat to the government posed by this growing base.

It is for these reasons that the government, violating its own laws and rules, intentionally leaked false and misleading information linking us with numerous murders, bombings, robberies and conspiracies; all of which supposedly happened while we were dodging history's largest posse. And, of course, they have no facts to prove their allegations, nor have we been charged or indicted for any of them. The FBI has also systematically leaked incorrect and misleading information to the mass media regarding so-called evidence found in two "suspected SLA safe-houses". Much of this "evidence" has never existed and will never appear in court. The District Attorney's office in Los Angeles, the FBI and the Los Angeles Police Department have consistently tried our case in the media. In fact, the majority of the prosecution's case has been detailed on at least two occasions over a period of a year and a half in the Los Angeles news media.

The same tactic was used against Russ Little and Joe Remiro in their trial in Sacramento. The government's case was so weak that an up-tight jury, composed predominantly of government employees deliberated for over 11 days before reaching a verdict.

These innocent brothers were found guilty as a result of the hysteria generated by the mass media which was used by the prosecution to cover up the fact that there was no evidence linking them to the Foster assassination.

For those people who have been misled and taken in by this campaign, we feel compelled to point out these facts:

1. We are not the New World Liberation Front or any other underground group. When this charge was made shortly after our capture we could only smile to ourselves knowing that comrades-in-arms in the underground would prove the absurdity of this fantasy by their actions. We were proven correct. Since our incarceration their actions continue unabated on an even more righteous level than before. We send our most heart-felt love and support to the revolutionary underground.

2. We did not kill Popeye Jackson and Sally Vove. Popeye was a friend of ours and in fact the SLA publicly criticized these murders as counter-revolutionary.

3. We did not murder a woman bank employee in Sacramento. Circumstantial evidence placing us in the Sacramento area a few months before this incident has been used to imply that we are responsible for all of that area's unsolved crimes. The FBI has even gone so far as to contend that Bill Harris, himself, committed this murder, an allegation which they have not backed up with evidence or formal charges, and which is, in fact, totally unfounded. There was no "unsent communique" taking responsibility for this crime, as was alleged by the FBI through the news media.

4. We were not responsible for the assassination of the former chief of police of Union City, California, nor were we responsible for the execution of the LAPD undercover agent, Edwards, as has frequently been alleged in the various local and national news media. These allegations from police agencies were originally given front page coverage in newspapers and played over radio and television. When these ridiculous charges were eventually proven false, this information was either hidden away on the back pages or not dealt with at all.

5. We have never put out a "death warrant" on a person named Maalik el-Maalik. In fact, we had never even heard of the person until we read in the newspaper that the FBI had found an "unsent communique" by the "SLA" demanding his execution. The unsent communique trick seems to be a favorite of the FBI. The fact is that a poor quality, xeroxed copy of

S.Q. VIOLENCE CONTINUES

On Tuesday February 10, Michael Shane Guile, a prisoner at San Quentin was stabbed in the exercise yard. Michael, known to be politically progressive is an active member of the U.P.U. Michael has often been a plaintive in class action suits against the S.Q. administration and benefiting all prisoners. He has worked to educate people both inside and out about prisons and especially the need for multi-racial unity among prisoners to bring them together to combat these institutions of oppression/repression. Because of his outspokenness he is hated by the prison administration.

Shortly before he was attacked, Michael was among comrades in a racially integrated tier in San Quentin's North Block. The administration then knowingly transferred him to a section of the prison where they were able to exploit the racial and cultural contradictions existing among prisoners. They knew that Michael would be among prisoners hostile to his multi-racial and progressive political views. As a direct result of the administration's action, Michael was attacked and stabbed on his first day in the exercise yard while waiting to go before the board. Michael, bleeding from six deep knife wounds and multiple minor wounds was taken to Marin General Hospital in severe critical condition. Doctors removed his spleen and performed emergency surgery for wounds of the heart, lung, stomach, intestines, and liver.

In spite of efforts, both medical and legal not to have Michael moved, one week later he was transferred from the intensive care unit at Marin general to the S.Q. hospital. His condition then was stable but still critical. Because of the severeness of his condition and other complications including diabetes and diet restrictions, there is an imperative need for Michael to have the best medical care. If Michael is to survive he must be released to an accredited hospital where he will receive this care and be safe from further attack.

a publicly distributed, fake "communique" supposedly issued jointly by the People's Forces and the SLA was found among other papers in the house where Patricia Hearst and Wendy Yoshimura were arrested. This information, found in the inventory of items taken from that house, is a matter of public record. It had to be obvious to the FBI that this was both a copy and a fake. We can only assume that disclosure of this document's presence in that house was intended to confuse the public and malign the SLA.

6. We would also like the FBI to explain why they said they found "40 pounds of explosives, bombs, machine guns and hand grenades" at the Precita Avenue house in San Francisco. They know perfectly well that these things do not exist and that by telling such lies to the news media they would become sensational headlines. This imaginary evidence will not surface in any trial.

7. There has never been an SLA army of 200 in the California prisons and there is no SLA death-list composed of some 130 names of prisoners. This is pure counter-intelligence propaganda originating from CIA conspiracy patsys, Freed, Headly and Rhodes, with the obvious intention of setting the 4 of us up for attack and/or execution in the prisons. These are the same fools that hype the line that SLA is a CIA plot hoping to implant mistrust in people's minds and fear that all successful revolutionary activity originated from the CIA.

The objective of these tricks has been two-fold. The first motive is political and entails the tactics of divide-and-conquer. By branding us as criminals or as CIA operatives, police agencies hope to isolate us and other revolutionaries from the larger mass of struggling people; and therefore, erode or prevent the building of mass support for revolutionary change.

The second motive entails the further subversion of an already unequal judicial process. By polluting the atmosphere of our trial with these fantastic tales of criminal behaviour, the government and police agencies hope to prejudice the minds and attitudes of our jurors and by doing so insure our conviction.

It is not our intention to have these contradictions viewed in a vacuum. We are hardly the only victims of state-sanctioned, police agency subterfuge. And we are but two among millions of poor people who have been at the mercy of the American system of criminal injustice, our destinies controlled by the whim and caprice of the state. It is our hope in filing this civil suit and in sharing our experiences with others that we will bring some relief to us all by continuing the process of uncovering illegal and repressive police activity and further identifying the real enemies of freedom and liberty.

From Bill and Emily Harris

Michael has a release date in September. The day he was hit he was to go before the board to receive credit for 120 days county time spent awaiting trial. Michael has a job outside, a home and many people that love and support him. Only by being outside can he get the health care and security he needs to survive. Hundreds of people have written letters and telegrams urging Michael's release to Mr. Procunier, Chairman of the Adult Authority and to Governor Brown. Mr. Procunier responding saying all actions taken in this case "will be in the best interest of Mr. Guile." He says that Michael's condition is too severe for him to be released. But it was not too serious to move him once and Michael will have much better chances outside.

This was certainly no an isolated incident; many more brothers and sisters are victims of politically motivated set-ups. There is a conscious policy on the part of the administration to neutralize progressive prisoners. A week after the murder of George Jackson, Warden Nelson said in point 4 of his general policy: "Correctional institutions are expected to correct faulty mental attitudes. It therefore follows that we must make an effort to suppress and correct revolutionary action and attitudes. All our resources shall be directed toward that end."

Capitalism maintains its rule by dividing the people against each other. Small privileges are given to some sections of the working class, buying them off and therefore encouraging fear and distrust among the people. Racism is the major example of this.

This tactic is especially clear in prisons. Racism and hatred are institutionalized by the system. Learning about our cultural identity and history is discouraged. The system of privilege from trustee down to the hole is used to try to get prisoners to sell out their brothers/sisters. Some privileged convicts work in collusion with the administration and do its dirty work.

Multi-racial unity is the primary threat to the prison set-up and it is necessary for us to build this unity if we are to end our oppression. In order to fully be able to defend ourselves we must educate ourselves. We must understand the strength of unity and how, when divided we allow ourselves to be used. We must isolate the racists. We must become conscious as a class of who we are and who our enemy is -- then no walls will contain our righteous anger.

UPU Staff

AN OPEN LETTER REGARDING POPEYE JACKSON

There has been a lot of controversy within the movement about Popeye Jackson since his death. Many people on the left have said a great deal of good things about Popeye while on the other hand some others have said a few bad things about him -- the good things are far too numerous to say here; some of the bad things said involved "criticism" accusing Popeye of being a "snitch" and "police agent", etc.

The purpose of this letter is neither to praise Popeye nor condemn him, but rather to ask a few questions concerning Popeye's critics -- and these questions must be answered correctly if we are to resolve the controversy surrounding Popeye.

We are all, unfortunately, aware of the stock-in-trade tactics used by the enemy against us in the struggle -- rumors, distortions and lies are among the most easily used methods of causing paranoia and division amongst our ranks. The most common play of this type is for the pigs to start a false rumor accusing someone of being a snitch or police agent, the more respected and popular the person is, the more vicious the lies used to discredit and slander the individual (or group).

The rumors about Popeye have accused him of "this, that and the other" but as yet no one has been able to offer anything concrete to substantiate these rumors. Some underground people have been especially critical of Popeye -- accusing him of having been a snitch. However, while it is easy to accuse someone of being a snitch (especially if that someone is dead and unable to defend themselves against the accusation!) it should also be proven at the same time before any credence to the accusation is given or action taken concerning this person. While we have a couple of communiques (from which their true sources are in question) accusing Popeye of being a snitch there has been no proof -- nothing concrete -- in the way of objective evidence to support the validity of these accusations! Trashing someone with unproven accusations and slanderous innuendos is not the way to correctly deal with this issue but rather we should have objective facts and concrete evidence as a necessary basis to support any criticism, especially one as important as calling someone a snitch.

Hello Amerikkka,

What's going down? Nothing hey? Like, it's all going up. Taxes up, cost of living up, and pain up. Yeah Amerikkka, something is going down. But you are blind, and fail to see. More death, more crime, more discrimination, more deceit, more murder, more enslavement, and countless more--mores of this and that. Oh you pitiful Kountry of Amerikkka. When will you learn???? Will you ever learn???

I have heard many people say--"Amerikkka-home of the free and the brave". How can this statement even be spoken? Amerikkka may contain brave peoples, but very few could I even begin to classify as free, except maybe the rockefellars, the late onnasis, jackie kennedy, the duponts--- then I say they are truly not free, for they chain themselves to greed, ignorance, discrimination, their own private luxuries, hindering them from living like people, they live as they are kings and queens, so they too are enslaved by their own doings, and ignorance.

When I first came to visit North Karolina, I noticed the license tags on the cars--"First in Freedom"--Amerikkka, how could you let one of your states deceive people so??? You are guilty of letting your state deceive, lie, print fictional quotes as mottos--you are guilty of so much. "First in Freedom"--has 88 persons on death row, out of 149 in the entire U.S.--"First in Freedom--has prisons open to young men of only fourteen years of age, young women sixteen years of age. "First in Freedom"--needs to be changed --maybe to "Last in Freedom/Life would suit the state better.

Amerikkka, do you know your death is in the making?? Your entire destruction?? You can't possibly continue like this.

Some of your people Amerikkka, spend thousands and even millions of dollars "\$" on furs, pretty diamonds, clothes--some of your people, Amerikkka run barefooted in the wintertime, have no clothes on their backs, some have no food to eat. Do you not claim them, Amerikkka, or do you feel they belong elsewhere?

You, you pitiful, sorry, Kountry of Amerikkka.

Want me to rap on, Amerikkka, or do you have an idea of what I'm saying??

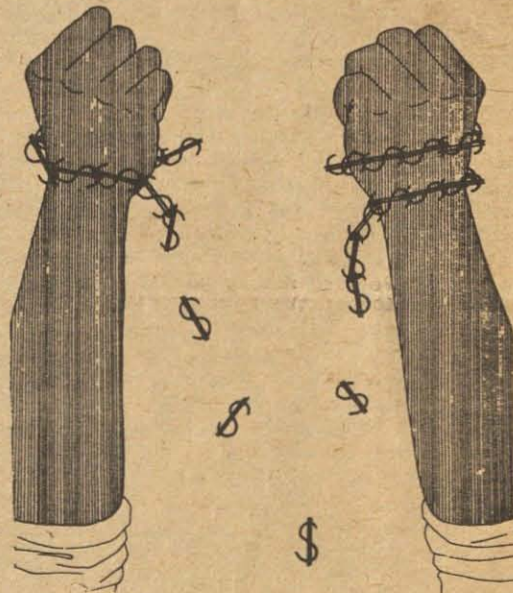
"Amerikkka, home for the free and the brave"-- think about George Jackson, Malcolm X, Elijah Muhammed,---Think about little 10 year old Clifford Clover, and his mourning mother-- think about your starving, naked, illiterate children---

Think about your racist/fascist/capitalist system, and then ask yourself--"Am I a free and brave Kountry"???

From one sister--who feels she speaks for many peoples.

A Sister struggling for change,

Tarishi Maisha (Shirley Herth)



U.P.U.'s Anvil is shorter this issue due to lack of funds. We felt that it was important to get out what we could. We hope that this is a temporary situation and our next issue will be the usual length.

ANVIL STAFF: Bob Burton, Anne Jankovic, Pat Singer, Sharon Levine



Women Strike at N.C. Prison

On June 15 through 20, 1975, the inmates at North Carolina Correctional Center for Women staged a peaceful sit-in protest against the harsh and extremely unsafe working conditions in the laundry, inadequate medical care, the practically non-existent rehabilitation program, the inadequate and racist counselors, and being subjected to the guards' "anytime-we-want-to-ass-kicking". 450 male guards were called in from Central Prison, the male correctional center in Raleigh, as well as 150 Highway Patrolman, 50 city police, and an undetermined amount of National Guardsmen on standby.

Male guards equipped with heavy riot gear, mace, billy clubs, helmets, and tear gas came in to break up our peaceful sit-in protest. These pigs started beating the sistahs and of course the sistahs fought back with any weapon available--bricks, mops, blocks, chairs, etc." -- Marjorie Marsh, NCCCW inmate

In an effort to silence the women and to break the bond of unity which existed, 34 inmates were transferred to Morgantown, N.C., to Western Correctional Center, an all-male facility. On August 8, Sept 19, and Sept. 26 after 49 days in the male detention camp the women were handcuffed together and moved back to their original "home" The prison had not gone through any constructive changes and had intensified its Reversive Behavior Modification program.

"I will be going to the hole for a chumped up charge. I was talking to a 16 year old sistah on 500 milligrams of thiazine (behavior modification drug)--trying to educate her, give her some relief and of course the pigs didn't dig that"

Since our comrades' return to NCCCW, they have been constantly threatened and harassed by guards and officials.

"Alice Wise was threatened at knifepoint by Captain Barbour while she was in isolation, before going to the hole on 9/29/75. After staying in isolation for a day or two she was placed in the hole with the other two (Ann Willett and Shirley Herth). Captain Barbour stuck his knife in her bed, pulled out a plug of foam and said before we take over his camp again we will all remain on lock-up as long as he was here."

On December 4, 27 sisters filed a class action suit for redress from brutality in the Federal Court, asking for \$25 million damages. The first hearing was scheduled for December 29, but was held over for continuance until January 17, 1976. Changes in court dates are a common tactic used to confuse efforts to organize.

"On January 17th the courtroom was packed and the picket line strong. Our attorneys did a beautiful/strong attack and the defense was plenty shaky. Since we (the inmates filing the suit) could not go, we fasted on 1/16 for ourselves and fasted on 1/17 for the rally in N.Y. in Solidarity with the MPLA comrades." M. Marsh

"We have no fear of these racist goons, for our faith is in the power and support of the people. Although a suit has been filed, we look not to the courts for relief from this slow death but to the people. Only through your active participation and support will victory be achieved. Stand with us my people for united we make a might fist, that no power, however great, can crush. All power to the people." M. Marsh.

Letters of support should be sent to:

The Honorable Judge Dupree
U.S. District Court
Eastern District of North Carolina
Raleigh, N.C.

The Honorable James Holshouer, Governor
Governor's Office
Raleigh, N.C.

Copies of letters, and donations, should be sent to: Action for Forgotten Women
c/o Brook E. Whiting
7601 Sedgefield St. Apt. E
Durham, N.C. 27705

Because Popeye was an old friend who we respected as a comrade and revolutionary, it is hard not to be somewhat prejudiced, however, regardless of any personal feelings involved we would be the first to expose Popeye or anyone else as a snitch if in fact that is the truth. (We as prisoners hate and despise snitches as much, if not more, than anyone else -- we have seen and experienced the terrible damage snitches can cause!) And the best (only) way for us to discover the truth about Popeye is not by repeating rumors or unproven accusations but instead by scientific investigation in order to arrive at concrete answers to the questions. This isn't to say that we should not be critical of any shortcomings Popeye had, but only that all criticisms should have an objective basis in fact to support each specific issue of criticism-- to criticize someone or something without concrete evidence to substantiate the criticism being given is non-dialectical and leads to subjective errors rather than the truth!

Our position is that until something concrete is offered as a necessary means to support an accusation against Popeye, then we must assume his innocence. We also feel that any communique which makes any accusation or statement against Popeye (or anyone else) should be supported by concrete evidence -- anything less is only trashing Popeye and causes to divide the movement of the unity necessary for us to overcome the struggle against our enemy (capitalism and its lackeys)!

By way of closing this letter we will simply say if Popeye was a snitch we should expose him as such, however, unless we have some real evidence to prove him, one, when we should remain silent.

Five (5) Prisoners
San Quentin State Prison
15 Sept, 1975

FROM ALCATRAZ TO MARION

In June, 1962, the United States Bureau of Prisons closed the most repressive prison America had ever known. Located on an island near San Francisco, surrounded by the Pacific Ocean, Alcatraz was truly "The Rock."

But even before the doors of Alcatraz were closed, the Bureau was making plans to build a still more repressive maximum security prison. Opened in 1963, three hundred miles south of Chicago in rural Illinois, the U.S. Penitentiary located at Marion became the new Alcatraz.

The Bureau put fifteen years of planning into the creation of Marion. Just before Alcatraz was closed down, James V. Bennett, then director of the Bureau, called together the wardens from the federal prison system to discuss new methods of dealing with prisoners. A series of seminars was conducted to establish more "progressive" trends of penology; for prisoner discontent was pervading the prison system, and resistance toward prison officials and prison "programs" was becoming wide spread. Black, Third World and poor white prisoners were starting to understand that they were victims of an economic crisis taking place in this country and that their imprisonments were, in many cases, an inevitable outgrowth of their class backgrounds. Interrelating their class backgrounds and their imprisonments, progressive prisoners acquired a consciousness to resist the arbitrary and unchecked power of their keepers.

At one of these Washington, D.C. seminars, psychologists supplied prison officials with an alternative to physically brutalizing "problem" members of their captive communities. They outlined brainwashing methods allegedly employed by North Koreans and Chinese Communists during the Korean War, and encouraged the use of such techniques on prisoners in the federal prison system.

Between 1962 and 1971, many attempts were made to set up these brainwashing methods in federal prisons. Because the Bureau had the authority to transfer prisoners arbitrarily to any federal prison on the country, they didn't care where their programs were set up. Even one program, if it were uncontested by prisoners, lawyers, and the public, would be sufficient for their needs.

One of the Bureau's more successful programs was implemented inside Marion. There, hidden from public view since its inception, a long-term Control Unit was established under the guise of a "behavior modification" program. Originally set up in July 1972, to punish 102 prisoners who had participated in a peaceful work stoppage, the Control Unit has become a permanent part of the prison, holding almost exclusively those prisoners who have resisted the Bureau's practice of denying basic first amendment rights to freedom of expression and religion - rights still supposedly retained by imprisoned persons. The Control Unit also holds state prisoners who have been contracted to the federal prison system, and some U.S. colonies have been known to send their prisoners to Marion.

In future issues of the Anvil, we will report on some of these new behavior modification techniques. There will be an article in the next issue about the use of prolixin.

ANGOLA

Angola is a country twice the size of Texas located on the Western side of Africa on the South Atlantic. Angola has a population of 6.5 million people and is rich in natural resources, especially oil, coffee, and diamonds. Angola is a country still struggling for self-determination after kicking out the Portugese which had been maintaining rule for 500 years.

The Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) was founded in 1956 and chose the radical poet/doctor Agostinho Neto to be its president. In 1963, President Neto (like Ho Chi Minh before him) sought aid from the U.S. to combat the colonialists. This request was refused because of his Marxist-Leninist background (also because the U.S. wanted to continue to use the Portugese owned Azores and maintain NATO). Regarded as a communist, President Neto gained aid from the Soviet Union, Cuba, and Algeria. President Neto and the MPLA are determined that Angola chart its own independent course. They have a progressive, socialist administration and are the real peoples' movement. They have steadfastly restrained from opportunistic appeals to racism and tribalism.

The MPLA does not intend to become a power in superpower politics. Upon victory they will ask all foreign troops and advisers to leave. They have stated they will not allow the Soviet Union or any other foreign power to build bases in Angola.

The CIA, which had been instrumental in the assassination of Patrice Lumumba and had placed Mobutu Sese Seko in power in the neighboring country of Zaire, felt it had to counter MPLA gains and Soviet military support in Angola. In 1962, it backed Holden Roberto when he split with the MPLA and formed the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA).

The FNLA was funded, trained, and assisted by the CIA and President Seko of Zaire. By the late 1960's the lack of mass support for the FNLA lead the CIA to back Jonas Savimbi who had split from the FNLA and in 1968 created the National Union for Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). Because of continuing MPLA gains FNLA and UNITA formed an alliance. Over the years the FNLA-UNITA forces have recieved aid from Romania, West Germany, France, Belgium, China, U.S., Zaire, and South Africa.

What is complicating about this national liberation struggle is the international involvement. Of course the U.S. (operating from Zaire) seeks to exploit the rich natural resources of Angola. With the defeat of the U.S. in Southeast Asia, there was a reduction in foreign investments and a subsequent loss of profits and production at home, the U.S. government and industrial-military corporate complex view Angola as a bail out from the economic crisis at home; capitalism's highest stage of exploitation is imperialism; the highest stage of imperialist contortions is neo-colonialist domination and colonial wars. This is business as usual.

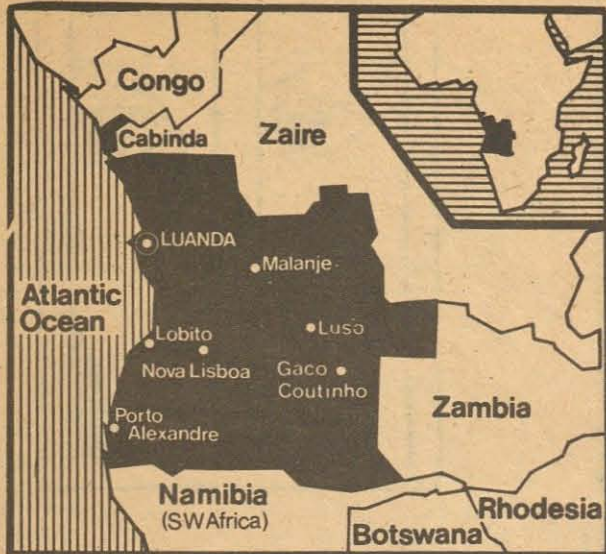
South Africa (operating from the Angola-Namibia border) fears a communist Angola because then South Africa and its allies would be encircled by socialist countries. These countries would have the responsibility to join in united front efforts with the South West African Peoples Organization (SWAPO) to free South West Africa from the ultra-racist South Africa and also to aid the revolutionary factions in Rhodesia.

South Africa has also invested hundreds of millions of dollars into the Cunene hydro-electrical dam-project in the south of Angola. This project is considered the key to developing the disputed territory of South West Africa (naturally little power was intended for Angola). South Africa has 20,000 trained troops about 15 miles inside the southern border of Angola and 6,000 troops dug in surrounding the dam. They are supported by very advanced weaponry including jets.

The Soviet Union's aims may be to become a dominate force in Africa. However, the Soviet Union cannot be totally assailed. Without the staunch support and aid of the Soviet Union the MPLA would not have so quickly gained independence from Portugal nor attained its victories over the imperialist aggressor. Because of the internal contradictions of bureaucratic state capitalism the Soviet Union needs vigilant scrutiny by all communists of the world and especially the people and leaders of Angola and Africa.

The greatest humanitarian gestures have come from Cuba. In 1963, Cuba sent the first 450 guerrilla warfare experts to train and supervise the revolutionary armed forces of the MPLA and has continued and increased this support.

The Peoples Republic of China should be criticized for its intervention and its patronage of the reactionary, opportunist UNITA. China reports that its involvement was to counter the Soviet Union, accusing the Soviet Union of imperialist ventures and attempting to colonize Angola. China's accusations were in actual collusion with the U.S. They helped train UNITA counter revolutionary forces and helped forestall MPLA gains. Also in collusion with the U.S., China's delegate on 11/24/75 called for a government of "national unity"



including all three forces. Even if Chia's claims that the MPLA were not "true" socialists and and no "revolutionary significance" (and claims concerning the Soviet Union) were correct, China's policy is still politically irresponsible. The MPLA, no matter its form of socialism is the one belligerent that is truly anti-imperialist and is seeking true national liberation from all outside forces.

When, on November 11, 1975, Angola's independence was secured from Portugal the MPLA was in control of nearly two-thirds of the country. In the capital city of Luanda the MPLA formed the Peoples Republic of Angola. Despite the implications of world politics and imperialist aggression the MPLA continues to advance and liberate its country. There have been dramatic gains while this was being written. The FNLA-UNITA forces have disbanded, forced to wage a guerrilla war without the necessary mass base. With the exception of the area around the dam and along the southern border defended by South African troops the entire country is liberated. The possibility of a bloody confrontation there is strong but South Africa is now willing to negotiate. Although the war is not over victory, is certain.

In the spirit of revolutionary internationalism, the growing progressive and revolutionary forces in North America have a responsibility to educate, organize and mobilize the masses in support of the MPLA. We should condemn Roy Innes (CORE) for recruiting American mercenaries. We should demand that congress give recognition to the MPLA - Peoples Republic of Angola. (As most nations have already done). We should demand the end of U.S. aggression and CIA covert activities in Angola and everywhere in the world.

Long live the MPLA and Peoples Republic of Angola. Victory to national liberation struggles everywhere in the world!!

IN ILLINOIS

As a result of a suit, Green v. Sielaff, et. al. 71 C 1403, brought in the U. S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division. . . . The court entered the following injunction against the Director of the Dept. of Corrections . . . referred to as the "publishers only" rule. . . . The Defendants (Director of Dept. of Corrections) . . . henceforth shall allow and permit inmates to order, solicit, receive as gifts or otherwise obtain publications from friends, relatives, attorneys or from any other source of publications or written statements."

RODRIGUEZ DECISION EXPLAINED

Last June 30, the California Supreme Court ruled that Rudolfo Rodriguez, who had been in prison for 22 years, was serving a sentence disproportionate to his offense.

The Rodriguez decision has altered the parole board's mode of operation in three ways:

First, under the new policy an offender's sentence must be fixed promptly after his commitment to prison. Second, the A.A. may consider only the offense and the person's past history. Behavior after the crime, such as prison adjustment may not be considered. And third, once the sentence has been fixed, it cannot be refixed.

The Rodriguez decision does not affect the A.A. power to determine an inmate's parole date or recid that date.

For example, an inmate's overall term might be set at 6 years by the A.A. with the parole or prison release set for 22 months after arrival at prison. The inmate's subsequent behavior could conceivably affect his parole date, lengthening the time he would spend in prison. However, such behavior could not extend the date for his discharge beyond the originally determined 6 yrs.

For detailed information please contact us at our office.

HARD TIMES CONFERENCE

On the week-end of January 30 - February 1, 1976, I attended the National Hardtimes Conference in Chicago, Ill. Nearly 2,000 activists from all over the country gathered for discussion, information exchange and to lay plans for a multi-racial coalition to fight the exploitation of working people by the ruling class. Our basis of unity was an emphasis on anti-racist, anti-imperialist politics. There were comrades representing many struggles and organizations including health, labor, prison, farming, women, gay, Angola, Puerto Rico, A.I.M., C.A.S.A., and more.

The prison struggle/movement was well incorporated into the program. It was obvious that a national movement must include prison work. The prison workshop, to me, was a success. After a show start we were able to get down and really rap about what to do. We adopted a paper which in part said, ". . . In building our national prison movement/network it is essential that we get a mass base of support. We must teach people the role the prison system plays in the capitalist system, and understand that we won't see the abolition of prisons until there is a total take over of state power. We must inter-relate the struggles of prisoners to struggles of all people around the world who are similarly being crunched by the cruelty of U.S. imperialism. A mass base prison movement/network cannot be fully effective unless it is integrated into a mass movement involving all areas of struggle. The Hard Times Conference is a significant step in building a mass movement which will include prison workers As we can see there are many focuses. We must analyze which focuses will best help build a mass base for the prison movement. Our aim is not reform. Ultimately we are moving to abolish prisons. However, we find it imperative to put forth intermediate demands around the prison struggle. We feel a need to have our newly formed mass movement gain some victories and build momentum so it can tackle all the problems confronting prisoners today."

There was talk of a national prison conference and everyone was eager to keep in touch with each other. For me it meant meeting people whose struggles I had been reading about and relating to for many months. It made those struggles that much more real. All of the people doing prisonwork agreed on some basic ideas: 1) U.S. imperialism must be eliminated and along with it racism, classism, and sexism; 2) While working toward this goal there are some intermediate demands we must work for; 3) the prison movement must become a mass base national movement; 4) the prison movement must support the self-determination of prisoners.

A lot of struggle happened at the Hard Times Conference. To me the good points outweighed the bad points. We all had total agreement that, "It is imperative that we join together, find basic points of unity and carry out a national program to fight back against the hard times."

Pat Singer
UPU staff



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