

**45 COLLEGES ENDORSE ALD****Correct United Front Effort  
Speeds Up ALD Momentum**

March 31-April 2, New Haven, CT. Over 500 students from over 45 colleges, mainly from the Northeast but as far away as the University of Michigan and UCLA, came to the Northeast Conference on the Liberation Struggles in Southern Africa. The conference also had the support of the New Haven community. The broad-based conference endorsed African Liberation Day (ALD) 1978 and pledged to mobilize for it. This conference represents a significant development in the rapidly growing movement to support the peoples struggles in southern Africa. But mainly it is an example of correct united front work and tactics and how they help to build ALD.

The Conference began with a press conference and a panel discussion. The South Africa Action Group brought into focus the masses striving to unite. They said, "In backing this conference, Wesleyan University calls on all university African liberation groups, sympathizing organizations and individuals to gather their energies into one coordinated mass movement to bring freedom now in South Africa." At the panel discussion that night, representatives of South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), Black People's Convention (BPC) and African National Congress (ANC) told a crowd of 300 of the dramatic victories the masses are winning through self reliance and armed struggle.

The next morning, students got in the many workshops to learn more about the struggle in southern Africa, and how to learn from the struggles students are involved in. Most important were the workshops on the history and current state of the liberation movements in southern Africa, and the workshop on the campus divestment struggles. Students were particularly interested in the victories at the University of Wisconsin, University of Massachusetts and Hampshire College.

**Presenting Correctly the Relation  
Between April 30th and ALD '78**

The whole weekend was highlighted by serious discussion and comradesly struggle. The high point of it all was the question over which demonstration to mobilize for—ALD '78 or one called by the American Friends Service Committee on April 30th. This was a concentrated expression of the desire to build a broader movement which will unite the many streamlets and tributaries of struggle into a mighty river, aimed at the two superpowers, U.S. Imperialism and Soviet Social Imperialism. They know nothing short of this will do justice to the valiant fighters of Azania, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Plans had been made for a regional demonstration on April 30, recognizing

that the plan was a good thing for the people of southern Africa and for the support movement in the U.S. Thus, the need to mobilize for African Liberation Day had to be presented correctly. Otherwise ALD '78 would be pitted against the April 30 demo, and a divisive and bitter struggle would have been the result.

The students there deeply respected the many months of hard work that have already gone into preparing for ALD, the long list of endorsers of the NCSAL, and the resolutions of the National Conference showing our deep desire to work toward *one* ALD. They respected NCSAL representative's patient struggle to show that right now our political differences are petty and insignificant in comparison to the contradictions between the Azanian masses and John Vorster, the Zimbabwean masses and Ian Smith. To do the job that must be done we must unite!

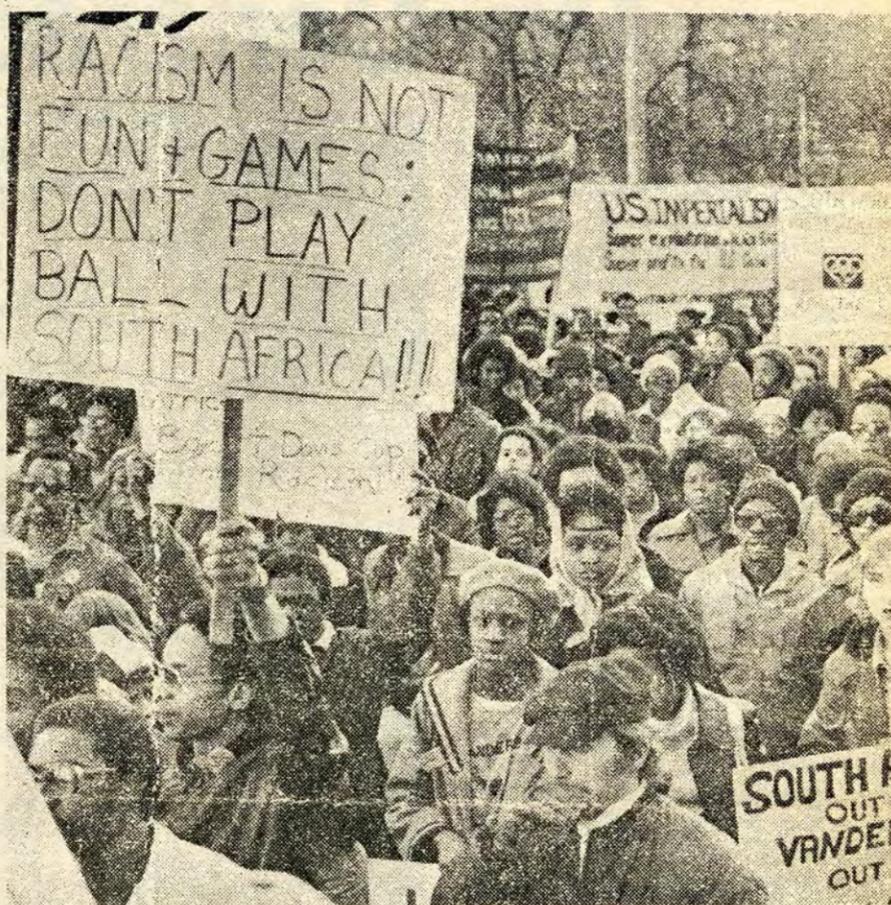
Wanting to find a way to work together was the main feature of the discussion. Concrete positive proposals around ALD '78 and the sham internal settlement were advanced by NCSAL and through discussion, agreement was reached.

Using this method is the best way to insure principled struggle and as a result unity at a higher level. The Revolutionary Student Brigade (RSB), an opportunist sect, did not have a positive program on this question. They were left no alternative but to resort to an "oppositional mentality" which in the end, fell into slander and rumor-mongering. The discussion ended with overwhelming support for the April 30 demonstration and for ALD '78.

**Mass Line Includes Promoting  
Good Leadership From  
the Masses**

Though the struggle was the high point and the most important single feature, there are many other things that go into a successful conference. From trying to solve problems of organizing meetings, food distribution, cultural work, to clean up and placement of chairs, as communists we must be concerned with all of these things.

A steering committee meeting was called Saturday night to organize the plenary session the next day. In that meeting many problems came up. Party members, African Liberation Support Committee and NCSAL worked closely with the masses to help solve these problems. As a result of this work an NCSAL member was proposed as chair. This was turned down because the positive program of the NCSAL was one of the main points of controversy in the conference, and having a NCSAL member as chair would only cloud the struggle. A slate was presented as an alternative by NCSAL, primarily of the students who had earned the respect



The massive protests at the Davis Cup Matches show the rapidly rising and broad student forces involved in the support of African liberation. Correct united front tactics can draw active students closer to the Party and spur the accumulation of forces.

of the masses due to the struggles that they led and their hard work during the conference. This was agreed upon nearly unanimously by the members present. The Saturday activities ended with a party sponsored by the Black Students Alliance of Yale.

**NCSAL's Positive Program Wins  
People Over, Rejecting  
RSB's Opposition**

The last session of the conference was a plenary session Sunday morning to unite on resolutions based on the workshops the previous day. Resolutions called for a broad coalition to unite the many groups of students into a stable organization to improve communication between groups and to begin to lay the basis for broader and more coordinated struggle.

The plenary session then moved to come out in full support of the liberation movements in southern Africa. The sham internal settlement in Zimbabwe was condemned, along with U.S. imperialism's support of the brutal apartheid system, through economic and military support. Also included were resolutions in support of the struggle against national oppression and racial discrimination in the U.S. A resolution was passed to hold a week of struggle at different campuses between April 14th and April 22nd.

The end of the plenary was drawing near, and some students had to leave soon. A motion was passed to rearrange the agenda to move the Spring mobilization up on the agenda so all the students could participate in it. The united

proposal of the April 30 demo and ALD was presented to the general body. Many good questions were raised in the discussion. The RSB, though, persisted in the oppositional mentality it demonstrated the day before, and it only served to confuse many of those who were relatively new to political activity, and diffuse the struggle. This caused some confusion in the meeting.

Among 400 people a plan that is not closely linked with pushing the struggle forward can create a chain reaction of amendments. This can take a large meeting entirely off course. The people wanted to move the conference forward and to end the confusion that was created by RSB. The chair ruled RSB out of order on the basis of not having any positive suggestions. Once order was restored the united proposal to mobilize for both April 30 and ALD '78 got the nearly unanimous approval of the plenary session. Shortly afterward the plenary session adjourned amid thunderous applause.

The endorsement by the Northeast Conference of African Liberation Day is a milestone for the rapidly growing support movement in the U.S. for the liberation of southern Africa. A significant sector of the student movement is marching with the NCSAL.

The lasting significance for the Party is that guided by our strategic outlook and our correct line on united front tactics another stratum of active and advanced students have come into contact with the Party. Guided by the Party's correct line, these active students of today, can be staunch proletarian revolutionaries tomorrow. ■