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### African Agenda, October & November 1975

African American Solidarity Committee

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# AFRICAN AGENDA

A Voice Of Afro-American Opinion

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## Women In The Anti-Imperialist Movement

In November, 1967, the United Nations Assembly adopted a Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. This declaration set the stage for renewed commitment and pressures by the world's progressive forces to come to a final decision to proclaim 1975 as International Women's Year. This resolution was adopted at the 27th U.N. General Assembly. The question of ensuring women's equality and the vigilant struggle for its solution has attained particular political significance. By declaring 1975 International Women's Year, the U.N. has acknowledged that equality and development are inseparable from peace, and has recognized the vital role of women in achieving these objectives.

"Equality, Development, and Peace," the central theme of International Women's Year put forth by the U.N., enjoys the support of the majority of the world's people. The theme focused on three basic objectives: to promote equality between men and women; ensure women's participation in the economic, social and cultural development of their countries; and recognizes the importance of women's increasing contribution to the strengthening of world peace.

### IMPORTANT MEETINGS

This year saw many expressions of the commitment of the world's progressive forces towards the accomplishment of the goals of International Women's Year (IWY). There were numerous conferences and seminars on the question of women held throughout the world. They included the regional seminar on "African Women's Equality and Role in National Liberation, Development and Peace," held in Mogadishu, Somalia Democratic Republic in April. An international women's seminar on "Peace and Disarmament," was held in New York at the U.N. in May. The seminar at the U.N. headquarters was in itself an indication of the opportunities opened by detente and its development for uniting the women's peace movement. The document adopted by the U.N. seminar calls for the

prohibition of the use of force in international relations which would make it possible to carry out general and complete disarmament. It supports the convocation of a world disarmament conference and urges the next General Assembly session to set the date for it.

The 60th Session of the International Labor Conference opened in Geneva in June 1975 to discuss problems of women workers. An international meeting—"Women in the Struggle Against Fascism, for a Lasting and Just Peace in the World", was held in Minsk, Byelorussia in August. It was attended by delegates from 27 countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. The women who came

## International Women's Year 1975



to Minsk from different parts of the globe held different political views, but were brought together by a common goal to preserve and strengthen peace.

Another conference this year was the "International Seminar of Representatives of Asian Women's Organizations" which was attended by delegates from 26 countries and representatives were present from various organizations such as the Women's International Democratic Federation, the World Peace Council, the All Arab Women's Federation, and the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization. In the final document of this conference the forum adopted a communique which stated, "The seminar participants expressed their conviction that peace, security and national independence are an indispensable prerequisite for women's full equality." In Latin America the delegates to the Central American and Ca-

ribbean Seminar on the "Access of Women to Study and Work", which was organized by the Federation of Cuban Women this year, expressed support of the General Declaration of the International Conference of Solidarity with the Independence of Puerto Rico held in Havana, Cuba Sept. 5-7, 1975, and called for the unconditional release of Lolita Lebron, heroine of the struggle for national independence, who has been imprisoned in U.S. jails for more than 20 years. This body also clearly stated, in their final document, "that the problems of women are part of the problems of the people of their countries as a whole, and only to the extent that there are profound changes in the economic political and social structures will it be possible to bring about the integration of women into all aspects of national and international life."

### MEXICO CONFERENCE

This same analysis was expressed by delegates to the Conference of the World Meeting of Young Women, held on Oct. 13-17, 1975 in Moscow. It was also the predominate view of delegates to the Mexico City Conference of June 1975 which was the U.N. conference for I.W.Y. The main political document of the Mexico conference, emphasizes that women's problems are part of the entire range of social and economic issues. It urges women of the world to strengthen unity in the struggle against imperialism, neocolonialism, racism, apartheid, Zionism and aggression, and against the seizure of territories of other states. This progressive document was submitted by a group of non-aligned countries and supported by the socialist states. It won majority support, after a counter draft had been submitted earlier by the U.S., British and West German delegations, which they later withdrew, after having provoked major discord among the majority of delegates. In the final vote for the Mexico City Declaration, only the U.S. and Israel opposed it. Eighty-nine countries voted for it, and there were 19 abstentions. (Continued on page 7)

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The situation in Angola remains extremely tense. One of the main obstacles in the way of the normalization of the situation are the actions of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) led by Holden Roberto. He is largely responsible for the bloody clashes taking place in the country.

The 52-year-old director general of a Zaire-based company, Holden Roberto, can be called an Angolan only by reason of birth. In 1954 Roberto founded the Union of the Peoples of Angola (UPA) which later turned into what is now known as FNLA. At that time, the foreign press was already aware that UPA was financed by subsidies from the CIA and Belgian monopolies which dominated in the Belgian Congo.

Following the establishment in 1956 of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), a patriotic organization of the Angolan people which in February 1961 began the armed struggle against the Portuguese colonialists, Roberto's superiors asked that he prevent the passage of MPLA units via Zaire to inner Angola. Roberto's gangs killed MPLA activists and started the terrorist campaign against the population which sympathized with MPLA.

According to the African press, the CIA at that time began to supply Roberto not only with money and weapons, but with advisers as well.

Regarding the positions of U.S. monopolies in Angola, it should be remembered that in 1973 under Caetano's fascist government, they were the biggest consumers of Angolan exports, especially coffee, Angola's main crop. It should also be remembered that North Angola, including Cabinda, is rich in oil, and the U.S. maintains capital for its exploration and development. Thus, late last year the American oil company Texaco discovered a big oil deposit off the northern coast of Angola.

During all these years, FNLA units stationed along Angola's border with Zaire have not conducted military operations against the colonialist troops, but entered inner Angola after Lisbon's promise to grant Angola independence and the end of the liberation war.

More recently Roberto found another ally in the Maoists who came onto the Angola scene soon after the new Portuguese authorities had announced their intention to recognize the independence of the colonial peoples.

On June 3, 1974 the Portuguese newspaper *Capital* published a French press dispatch from Kinshasa which read as follows: "A team of Chinese military instructors has arrived in this city to begin the training of FNLA units. Zaire Press reports that Holden Roberto recently reached agreement with Peking whereby the latter has made available to him 112

Chinese instructors who will begin building up Angola's future army..."

New steps followed. On September 11 last year the Portuguese newspaper *O Seculo* carried a dispatch from Kinshasa which said that the FNLA had announced the delivery of 450 tons of war materiel. Senegalese newspaper *Le Soleil* wrote: "The PRC is giving aid to those forces in Angola which have no support of the Angolese people... The FNLA, despite its flirtation with Peking, which recently supplied a large shipment of arms to it, is undoubtedly a pawn in the game America is conducting today."

Desiring to end bloodshed and to support the efforts of the Portuguese authorities aimed at creating conditions essential for the proclamation of Angola's independence on November 11, 1975, the MPLA agreed to participate in the transitional government of Angola along with the FNLA and the National Union for Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).



Agostinho Neto, President of MPLA

However, the FNLA sabotaged the activity of the government. FNLA agents drove thousands of heads of cattle to neighboring countries in an attempt to precipitate a food crisis in Angola. The Minister of Public Health in the transitional government—an FNLA representative—recalled all medical personnel from rural areas of Angola. Cooperatives set up by MPLA functionaries in villages during previous years were dissolved.

The Sierra Leone newspaper *Nation* recently wrote that Chinese and American official representatives in Peking had met on several occasions, during which time they had agreed to step up military aid for Roberto's activities. It had also been agreed that China would increase arms supplies to Angola. Chinese military advisers and instructors were also found to be in FNLA combat units.

The facts cited above provide sample evidence to the effect that the Maoists have entered into criminal collusion with the enemies of Angola. The FNLA, which is trying to block the free and independent development of Angola, appears to be nothing more than an instrument in the hands of the American intelligence service and the Maoists. Thus, Holden Roberto and his organization show their true colors.

(Novosti Press Agency)



Message of greeting from Fidel Castro, Prime Minister of Cuba, to the World Congress for International Women's Year.

On behalf of the people, the Communist Party and the Revolutionary Government of Cuba I convey to you, the delegates of the World Congress for International Women's Year held in Berlin, the capital of the German Democratic Republic, sincere revolutionary greetings.

With close attention, we are following the course of this great event, the climax of the tremendous host of preparatory work carried out enthusiastically and perseveringly under the theme of equality, development and peace. And all this from the moment when the United Nations endorsed the proposal submitted by the Women's International Democratic Federation, that highly distinguished organization which has always figured prominently in the struggle for defending the rights and well-being of women, for national independence and peace, and which now can look back on 30 years of creditable activities.

The World Women's Congress is further proof that the ideals of social progress and striving for a better life in conditions of freedom, justice and genuine peace throughout the world have experienced a great upsurge. This fact is confirmed by the noble aims set out in the pamphlet announcing the details of the Congress to be held in Berlin. These aims met with great interest from many national, regional and international organizations which are gathered together now to discuss all the facets of the struggle for equal rights for women and their involvement in progressive developments.

It is encouraging to know that millions of women all over the world take part, in this way or another, in the struggle waged by their people, all the more so, as they have been discriminated against and oppressed for centuries.

This century has borne witness to powerful acts of heroism which have changed the course of history. The progressive role of women can be seen clearly in each deed, from those who struggled by Lenin's side in the first socialist revolution in the world, thus demonstrating the invincibility of a just and noble cause, to



# "Part of the Global Struggle—Women's Equality"

the heroic women, who opposed fascism and contributed to the peoples' resounding victory over fascism. This is to say, nothing of the illustrious deeds of the Vietnamese heroines who have provided the world with such an unforgettable example of courage, ingenuity and selflessness, and have thus, as part and parcel of their people, shown that imperialism can be defeated. Women in Asia, Africa and Latin America are joining together and are struggling as part of the mass of people against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, racism, Zionism and apartheid—all of which oppress men and women equally.

In Europe and in the very heart of the USA, hundreds of thousands of women are taking part in the increasingly bitter confrontations with their oppressive regimes. They extend their solidarity to the revolutionary movement, which is developing and strengthening all over the world.

The problems which effect women should and must not be isolated from the political, economic and social situation of their people. Their struggle is a part of a global struggle which is being waged in many countries for liberation, national independence, democracy, social progress and peace.

Before the successful revolution of 1959, women in Cuba were discriminated against and exploited by the capitalist society. Today, we can say with full justification, that Cuban women united in their militant organization now numbering more than two million members, play a decisive role in the far-reaching changes taking place in our country. They have become an important political force which is working for the construc-



tion of socialism at the side of the working class and of the whole of the people.

In the present epoch of human history, the struggle for the full realization of women's rights and for genuine, more advanced forms of human relations is closely connected with the enforcing of fundamental changes in the sociopolitical and economic structure to end injustice, exploitation and discrimination once and for all. For these aims to be achieved, it is imperative to unite the efforts of all in one mind and one body.

Women, struggling together with the rest of their peoples for the fulfillment of their most fervent wishes, are thus taking the first step towards complete emancipation. Hence, this Congress will provide

an orientation for the campaigns to ensure the active involvement of women in all spheres of national and international life, on the basis of full equality with men. This common desire has brought men and women together from the whole of the human race, irrespective of national frontiers or linguistic barriers, for this great congress in the German Democratic Republic.

Permit me to express words of encouragement and militant solidarity on this important occasion to the women of the world, who are actively struggling on the side of their people. I wish you every success for your Congress, and I am sure its results will make an important contribution to the struggle for the complete emancipation and equality of women.

## "Firm Links of Militant Solidarity"

Message of greetings from Nguyen Huu Tho, Chairperson, Consultative Council, Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam to the World Congress for International Women's Year.

On behalf of the Central Committee of the National Liberation Front and of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam I convey heartfelt congratulations to the World Congress for International Women's Year.

The tremendous development of the international women's movement over the past few years makes an active contribution to the world-wide movement for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress. Women in Asia, Africa and Latin America, despite severe sacrifices and privations, have fought side by side with men, achieving great successes in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and racial discrimination, for national independence and women's emancipation.

Women in socialist states and emergent nations have made great and self-

sacrificing efforts to build up their country, to improve living conditions for the people and to make the future of their children secure.

Women in other countries, despite countless difficulties, do not slacken in their fight for freedom, democracy and equal rights. The universal movement of women fighting jointly against war and for peace is growing rapidly. The role and social status of women have gained importance.

We are convinced that the Congress will strengthen the militant solidarity of progressive women from five continents in the fight for women's emancipation and the revolutionary struggle of the peoples of the world.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the representatives of national and international organizations, from socialist and non-aligned countries as well as progressive women's movements in the whole of the world for the support and

comprehensive, inestimable assistance given to us in our struggle against American aggression and for national salvation. We are certain that they will support us even more strongly and effectively in the construction of our country.

The people and women of South Vietnam who have made great sacrifices in the long-standing struggle for independence and freedom are determined to weld still firmer links of militant solidarity and friendship with the neighbouring peoples of Laos and Cambodia, the non-aligned countries and the socialist states, as well as with all forces fighting for national independence, democracy, social progress and lasting peace all over the world.

We wish the Congress for International Women's Year every success and the Women's International Democratic Federation a great number of outstanding achievements in the struggle for a happy future for women throughout the world

# The African Women's Movement—

Opening Speech made by Jaalle Major General Mohamet Siyad Barre, President of the Supreme Revolutionary Council of the Somali Democratic Republic, current Chairman of the OAU at the African Women's Regional Seminar held in Mogadishu April 3rd to 5th, 1975 in connection with the Women's International Year.

In November, 1967 the Assembly adopted a Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, in which it was affirmed: "The participating States condemn discrimination against women, and promise to continue, in accordance with all appropriate means and without delay a policy to eliminate discrimination against woman in all its manifestations, since discrimination denies or limits women's and man's equal rights".

Through the pressures exerted by the world's progressive forces, the United Nations proclaimed this International Women's Year. These progressive forces have made the United Nations a much more democratic world body in spite of the cries and complaints of the reactionary and imperialist forces.

The celebration of International Women's Year must emphasize the work women organizations have achieved in favour of the conquest of equal rights for women. Above all, this is the time for all of us to work together to translate into action the principle of equality. Continuing opposition or inaction in this matter of humanistic principle is a major barrier to development effort, to genuine national liberation and to world peace and security.

## THE WORLD-WIDE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT

Let me, at this point, pose the question: What led to the world wide move to proclaim 1975 as International Women's Year. If you recall, I briefly mentioned the increasing pressure of progressive forces in the international arena, due to the fact that the majority of mankind has been maturing in consciousness. Let me be more specific: We are all living in the epoch of a world-wide revolutionary movement. This revolutionary movement has three main currents.

**First, there is the current** unleashed by the successful socialist revolutions in the first half of the twentieth century. These revolutions consolidated women's rights not only legally but through everyday socio-economic measures that were undertaken to implement equality in actual life. The triumph of socialism over capitalism and imperialism has been a major help to the second world-wide revolutionary current.

**The second current** is historically important to us because we are its component part: The movement for national

liberation in formerly colonized areas of the World (in Asia, Africa, Central and South America). The national liberation movement is daily gaining momentum. In Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia, the oppressed masses—the forces of history are dramatically scoring great victories over those who want to hold history back—the forces of imperialism and reaction. We witness better prospects in the Middle East where the forces of imperialism and Zionism are beginning to experience the evergrowing power of the Arab peoples, particularly of the Palestinian people derived from the better organization and co-ordination of a just struggle for their usurped national rights.



**Prime Minister Indira Gandhi**

In Africa, we have witnessed the remarkable progress achieved by the forces of national liberation. Today Guinea-Bissau is an independent State, Mozambique will formalize its independence this coming June; Angola, Principe and Sao-Tome later on this year. These achievements represent an extraordinary stage in the development of the African Revolution. In these struggles, women have obtained remarkable progress in equality due to their significant contribution to the liberation struggle. This is a lesson that Africa and all progressive forces must not forget. It marks a telling blow against colonialism and neo-colonialism. In the meantime we ask our brothers and sisters in these revolutionary countries—especially those in resources-rich Angola—to struggle to unite their forces and to continue to be vigilant.

Their victories have brought about a tremendous crisis among the forces of apartheid, racism and colonialism in southern Africa. We should increase our support for the struggles in these areas—Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Azania. We should beware of the forces of reaction and their manipulations. They attempt to appear soft, to call for a dialogue while their dirty hands assassinate or jail our leaders. We condemn the Smith fascist regime which has revealed its true inten-

tions by jailing brother Sithole and murdering brother Chitepo. Leaders, as mortal men, may fall and die but the cause they represent—a part of a world-wide historical struggle—will not die. The brutal assassinations of Lumumba, Amilcar Cabral, Mondlane, and recently Chitepo, to mention a few, serve to strengthen our will and determination to struggle on and on ... such acts reveal the desperate minds of fascists Ian Smith, Vorster and their international supporters.

Yes, we must rid Africa of all remnants of colonialism. We ask you to support the struggle of men, women and children in French Somaliland, Seychelles, Comoro Islands and Spanish Sahara so that they too will be liberated from colonial bondage. All efforts should be made to remove anachronistic colonialism from our continent of Africa.

Many African countries that are politically free have begun to discover that political freedom is meaningless if the economy is not free. This is why the late Comrade Amilcar Cabral insisted that true national liberation involves the liberation of the means of production from neo-colonial control. Only in freeing the material basis can one hope to free the political, social and cultural superstructures. It is not only because capitalism is brutal and causes inequalities, it is also because under the present stage of international monopoly capitalism, independent capitalist development in formerly colonized territories is impossible. We have, for instance, the examples of Central and South America to warn us against any illusions about capitalist development for people. This is why I have often insisted that socialism is not an abstract choice for us, socialism is a matter of historical necessity. All genuine national liberations, sooner or later progress towards socialism. So here we see the historical dialectical relationship between the world-wide socialist movement and the national liberation movement because, as I said earlier, it is of immediate and concrete concern for all of us.

Now that I have sketched the two currents of the world-wide revolutionary movement, you may begin to wonder where is the **third current**? You have a right to wonder because this third current has tended to be greatly overshadowed by the other two and for various historical reasons has not met our just expectations of it. It has often manifested itself as an evolving stream rather than a mighty flood like the other two currents. This **third component part** of the world-wide revolutionary movement is represented by the working-class and other progressive movements within the imperialist capitalist nations. As Europe moved from feudalism to capitalism, two essen-



# A revolution within the revolution

tial classes were born. The exploiting bourgeoisie and the proletariat. This historical transformation and the resulting class struggles gave birth to scientific socialism.

Through the super-exploitation of colonies, the capitalist nations were able to buy some historical time. They did not abolish the internal contradictions of the capitalist system, they simply postponed their day of reckoning with their own exploited classes. European working class leaders became purely welfare oriented, many became pro-imperialists, infected with bourgeois racism. We regret this corruption of the Western progressive forces. But in their limited struggles they have managed to obtain welfare services. During the turn of the century they worked hand in hand with the women's movement to obtain basic democratic rights for women, such as the right to vote.

Now, these three world-wide revolutionary currents and their sub-currents have a dialectical relationship with each other.

The national liberation movement in its valiant struggle against imperialism and forces of reaction enjoys the consistent support of the socialist camp.

The national liberation struggle is likewise dialectically related to the movement of progressive forces in capitalist nations.

## **IMPERIALIST DIVIDE-AND-RULE TACTICS**

We, in Africa, have bitter lessons to draw from imperialist divide-and-rule policies; the traditional trick of setting so-called Africa—South-of-the-Sahara against so-called Africa—North of the Sahara and vice versa has already been played to often in the past. Are we foolish enough not to learn from history and therefore be condemned to repeat it? I am convinced that we will not let that happen. Instead of joining in the attempt to break the unity of the Oil Producing Nations, we should devise ways and means of getting organized so we can all get better terms of international trade for all our products.

I need not emphasize that such tactics of divide-and-rule are all the time taking new shades and forms. They, for example, take the form of racial, religious and linguistic differences. We have here exposed the neo-colonial trick of setting Arabs versus Black Africa.

At the same time, we should advocate the policy of peace among nations in order to expose and isolate the most nuclear war minded among the imperialists. Women of Africa, push for an international united front against war and for peace and disarmament. You will have more occasions to meet with women of other developing nations and of those

socialist and capitalist nations. You must take the opportunity presented at the International Women's Conferences to be held this year in Mexico city and in Berlin. You must urge the progressive and working women from capitalist nations not to be fooled by the propaganda of their ruling classes. Historical trends are clear as day light for them to see. They must increase their anti-capitalist efforts. They have to resist fascism and imperialism. They have to stop playing the game of the sleeping queen of history, they should strengthen and deepen their revolutionary current and actively join those of us making a new history of mankind, a history of social relations based on the principle that man shall not exploit or dehumanize another man.

## **THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IS PART OF THE WORLD REVOLUTION**

Dear comrades, distinguished delegates, have I diverted from the issue of women's equality, peace and development? The imperialists will answer yes. But you who have known colonialism and one way or another suffer from the impact of neo-colonialism know much better than that. From your own experience you know that women's struggles cannot be separated from these other struggles. The point is, the woman is a member of society and her problem is a social problem—it cannot be treated in isolation. For purposes of analysis and step by step implementation you may indeed isolate various aspects of any problem at hand. But this should be done while having a general historical and dialectical overview in order to grasp at the dynamic interrelationship within any social phenomenon. This is why I have outlined the various currents of this revolutionary epoch. The women's movement, the movement for working class, peasant and progressive women of Africa must see itself as part and parcel of this world-wide anti-imperialist struggle because it represents a revolution within this revolution.

In your careful and serious analysis, you must always keep these historical relationships in mind. Every human problem must be viewed from the point of time, of history. The dynamic changes in material conditions and their two-sided movement and interactions with the social, political and cultural levels.

Therefore, do not make the mistake of those women whose liberation is being manipulated by capitalist and imperialist interests. Do not make men—in a so-called sex war—the target of your struggle. We are talking about building strong, healthy families based on the principles of freedom, equality and justice; we are talking about protecting our families from the exploitation of imperi-

alism and capitalism; this is no time for petty-exhibitionist, sexist quarrels and confrontations. Such divisions wreck family, class and national unity and expose all of us to the power and greed of imperialism.

Of course, I am confident about ultimate victory, however slow and difficult the road ahead. I began my address with an optimistic mood concerning the remarkable revolutionary currents of our century. But let me make it perfectly clear to you that my optimism is not based on a belief concerning the blind, inevitable march of History. The history I am talking about is the history we are all making with our conscious efforts. I do not have faith in a blind march of history but I have faith in, and I am optimistic about our conscious and organized people—our workers, peasants, revolutionary intellectuals, our youth. I have great faith in our women. In Chile we have all suffered a bloody set-back, we condemn the Chilean fascists and their international supporters. We support the renewed struggle of Chilean Patriots and progressives. We should draw lessons from such set-backs. We should never be cynical or fatalistic due to such temporary failures. We should emerge better organized to deal with imperialist manipulations.

## **ANALYSIS SHOULD SERVE PRACTICE**

That is why we always need to meet, to analyze and to discuss. We hope you carry out your analysis along scientific lines. The women's movement needs a revolutionary theory that relates it to the world-wide revolutionary movement. We hope your details, tables, figures and statistics, case-studies etc., are drawn up within the framework of a revolutionary theory badly needed in Africa at this historic moment. We also hope that you do not simply enjoy analysis. Your theoretical exercise must be based on practice and it must be tested in practice. Please, do not specialize in attending international women's conferences in order to simply discuss this and that, you must always be involved; you must struggle to learn in order to learn to struggle better. Intellectual analysis for the sake of intellectual analysis will not bring about women's equality, development and world peace. We also know that struggling without theory, without critical analysis carries with it great dangers and risks ending up in a reactionary corner. As Karl Marx reminded us, bourgeois philosophers simply wish to analyze history but (for the exploited) the point is to change history. We in Africa most of all must change history, our recent history has consisted of exploitation, oppression, humiliation, degradation, hunger, disease and ignorance.

# "The Emancipation of Women Means Rid the System from Exploitation and Oppression"

Message of greeting from Ahmed Sekou Toure, President of the Republic of Guinea, to the World Congress for International Women's Year.

The people of Guinea are especially glad to send the World Congress of Women their warmest congratulations for its session because the gathering represents the hopes of the people of the world in general, and the revolutionary forces in particular, for the swift arrival of a world full of democratic and social change.

The struggle for the emancipation of women is the concern of the whole of the people of the world, and for all thinking men who are perfectly aware of the common features of the human condition, which go beyond the natural distinctions which separate people, such as sex, colour or race.

Social emancipation requires absolute and permanent respect for the qualities which liberate the individual and which organize human society.

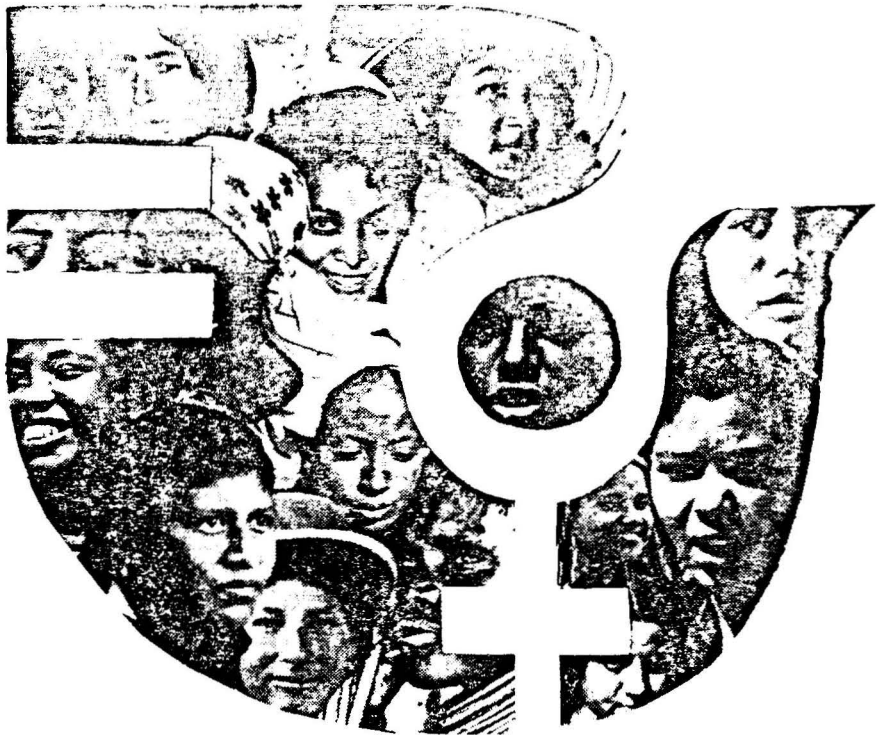
Social equality, personal liberty, democracy and the responsibility demanded by the women of the world, are indisputably among those qualities which encourage and will continue to encourage the emancipation of human society and the growth of its material and moral well-being.

The revolutionary people of Guinea consider that as long as women are subjected to measures which discriminate against them or restrict them in the flowering of their human potential, and in the exercise of their political and economic rights, then human society will become weak and inefficient because of the curbs placed on women's development.

It is really therefore a question of curing the world of its present ills, of its philosophical and ideological inadequacies, and of its inability to create and develop the conditions necessary for it to achieve full greatness, that is to say: social equality, social democracy, social justice, and the concrete responsibility of each and every human being.

Women are the victims of the outdated attitude of superiority which their brothers, the men, still have. Women should not have to beg favours of men, nor should they have to demand that which is a natural right; to live freely, as a worthy, responsible and useful contributor to the shaping of the world and to the economic, social and intellectual development of their people.

Women must demand respect for their rights, and to take part confidently in the real struggle for the emancipation of society, in the firm conviction that in ridding society of its current insufficiencies they will be contributing to the creation of the material conditions ne-



cessary for human happiness, justice and lasting peace. Women must be equally responsible as men, as free as men, and be accorded the same respect as men. Liberty, responsibility and respect have to be won, they are not gifts.

Thus, the World Women's Congress must determine clearly and dynamically the objectives of this struggle which must be for a social revolution which will lead the peoples to maturity and the nations to full grandeur.

The delegation of the Revolutionary Women's Union of Guinea, participating in this Congress, has been mandated to express the full support of the revolutionary people of Guinea for the noble aims and objectives which your Congress has been charged to define.



The party and government of Guinea, true to the world revolution, assures you of their unconditional support and of their resolute hopes to do everything possible to help realize, in Guinea, in Africa and in the world, the ideals of equality and of social justice which have always been calls to action for people struggling for social and democratic progress.

The struggle for a new and better world is inseparable from the people's fight for a complete abolition of reactionary ideologies and practices created and maintained by the forces preaching the exploitation of man by man and supporting imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, and sex discrimination.

We emphasize that women's emancipation is the same as the emancipation of society as a whole.

The emancipation of society means to rid the system from exploitation and oppression, it means its establishment on the foundations of justice, democracy, and of continuous progress so that men and women can work together in friendly cooperation and in a climate of revolutionary emulation with the aim of safeguarding and enhancing the material and spiritual well-being of humankind and of the people.

For this noble and just struggle, which must be led to total victory, the revolutionary people of Guinea is always ready to help with all the courage and progressive awareness at its disposal. Let us bring justice to the world!



At the Mexico Conference the U.N. drafted a World Action Program which set forth recommendations to governments, international organizations and the world community, on what should be done to abolish women's inequality and actively involve them in political, economic and public affairs. The World Plan is projected over a ten year span with concrete aims in female emancipation. The World Plan was adopted by all the delegations with the exception of that of the People's Rep. of China who tried, to no avail, to reduce the goals of the conference along lines desired by Peking, and finally found itself in complete isolation. Although there were many disagreements and debates on the many resolutions passed at this conference, progressive forces hailed the resolutions which were anti-imperialist, anti-colonialist and anti-fascist in character.

### WORLD CONGRESS

In the spirit of the U.N. resolution proclaiming this year as IWY, the second major international meeting of women was held after two years planning, and numerous events leading up to the World Congress for IWY. The World Congress for IWY was held Oct. 20-24 in Berlin, capital of the German Democratic Republic, a global event of first rate importance which was the culmination of the events of IWY.

The World Congress delegates assembled on the twentieth of Oct. in the spacious sports hall, the Werner-Seelenbinder Halle, with participation by almost 2000 delegates representing 135 countries, 75 international and regional organizations, and a presidium of some 365 representatives. On the first day of the Congress, working commissions and other bodies were created and established at a plenary session. Freda Brown, President of the World Congress for International Women's Year, was elected chairperson of the Congress and delivered the main report.

The Congress was showered with greetings from hundreds of progressive forces wishing to extend their greetings, solidarity and firm commitment to the aims of the IWC. Messages of greetings were read from Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India; Fidel Castro Ruz, First Secretary, Central Committee, Communist Party of Cuba, Sekou Toure, General Secretary of the Dem. Party of Guinea; Marien N'Gouabi, President of the People's Rep. of the Congo; Yassar Arafat, Chairman of the Exec. Comm. Palestine Liberation Organization; Nguyen Huu Tho, Chairman of the Consultative Council, Provisional Revolutionary Govt., Rep. of South Vietnam; Pham Van Dong, Prime Minister of the Dem. Rep. of Vietnam. Though these people were not present, at the Congress their presence and expression of solidar-

ity was felt by all. Both Vietnamese delegations were greeted with standing ovations and praise from all participants, similar praise was given Cosmonaut Valentina Nikolaeva-Tereshkova, Chairman of the Soviet Women's committee and head of the Soviet delegation, who arose to read the message of greetings from Gen. Secretary Leonid Brezhnev, (Communist Party of the Soviet Union). He stated in the message that, "Women are playing an increasing role in production, making creative contributions to the material, social and spiritual progress of mankind. Never before in history have there been such massive and effective action by the peace forces, never before has the scale of the liberation movement been so great, and the people's striving for national independence and social progress so deep-going. This is why women's equality, their broad participation in the economic, social and cultural life of their countries, the extension of their role in the strengthening of peace—these lofty aims to the attainment of which your Congress is dedicated—have in truth become the imperative of our time."

IWY has not only incited interest and enthusiasm among women and women's organizations, but also among trade unions, peace movements and youth movements, religious and other organizations. This was clearly reflected in the composition of the Congress, in which representatives of such varied organizations as the World Federation of Trade Unions; the World Council of Churches; the World Federation of Democratic Youth; the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and the International Planned Parenthood Federation attended.

The following three days of the Congress were spent in the nine working commissions which had been set forth by the International Preparatory Committee. The Commissions were: Equality of Women in Society, *de jure* and *de facto* (in law and in fact); Women and Work; Women and Development; the Family and Society; the Education of Women; Women and the Struggle for Peace, Detente and International Security; Women and the Struggle for National Independence and International Solidarity; The Effect of the Mass Media, Literature and Art; Cooperation and World Action of Women of the World of Governmental and Non-governmental Organizations; and the United Nations for the Realization of the Aims of International Women's year.

### PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

The tone and general direction of the Congress was fully elaborated in the keynote address given by Erich Honnecker, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (GDR) and in the main report

given by Chairperson Freda Brown. "Our Congress," she stated, "is taking place in an improving international political climate. The recent Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe has given new hope and encouragement to all those who strive for peace. We hope that its decisions will strengthen detente and reduce danger of military conflicts in Europe. The principles of respecting sovereign equality of the states, non-use of force, inviolability of the borders, territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs of the states should become a norm of international behavior' all over the world." Ms. Brown went on to say, "Further consolidation of the principles of peaceful coexistence, the triumph of the liberation struggles of the peoples of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos, the downfall of the Portuguese colonial empire and other remarkable successes of the peoples liberation struggle, all create favorable conditions for the achievement of the goals set by the international women's movement. The fight for peace and its consolidation does not divert us from the struggle for women's emancipation. On the contrary, it contributes vastly to its success."

The profound progressive nature of this congress was clearly seen in the overwhelming support by the general body of the resolutions calling for the Expulsion of South Africa from the United Nations, and for an end to all diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties with the racist apartheid regime of South Africa.

The Congress denounced the inhuman terrorist practices of the Israeli ruling circle against the Palestinian and other Arab peoples in the territories under occupation by Israel. It further condemned Zionism as a racist colonialist movement, and resolved that the Congress propagate the demand to expel Israel from the U.N. This resolution when read before the general body was welcomed with an overwhelming storm of applause and standing ovations.

Grave concern was expressed by the congress of the situation in Angola. The delegates gave full support to the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) in their inevitable victory over the forces of internal and external reaction.

International solidarity was expressed with the progressive forces in Portugal, Puerto Rico and Cyprus. A moving expression of fraternal solidarity was seen as Mrs. Hortensia Bussi Allende (wife of assassinated President of Chile, Salvador Allende) addressed the seventh commission (National Independence and International Solidarity). Mrs. Allende spoke of the atrocities of the Chilean junta against the people of Chile, and appealed to the Congress for support of the prog-

(continued on page 8)



## Recommended Books

1. *Africa In Social Change*, by P.C. Lloyd. Penguin African Library. A study of the development of new towns and factories in West Africa and its effects on traditional society. Price: \$3.95.
2. *Moses Kotane: South African Revolutionary*, by B. Bunting. Imported Publications, 320 W. Ohio St., Chicago, 60610. A political biography of the General Secretary of the South African Communist Party and his resistance to apartheid. Price: \$8.00.
3. *In The Eye Of The Storm: Angola's People*, By B. Davidson. Doubleday & Anchor Book. A history of the liberation movement and the fight of the MPLA against Portuguese colonialism and internal reaction. Price: \$2.95
4. *The Life and Writings of Frederick Douglass*, Ed. by P. Fonor. International Publishers, N.Y. An excellent offer from the publishers of four volumes for \$20.00 plus volume five free if purchased before Dec. 31, 1975.

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## Women In The Anti-Imperialist Movement

ressive forces fighting against the fascist regime in Chile. She went on to attack the Maoist support and cooperation with the fascist Chilean junta.

### U.S. DELEGATION

Representatives from the U.S. delegation came from such diverse political and social backgrounds as trade unionists, students, feminists, Communists, church members, women's organizations and peace groups. It was comprised of many nationally oppressed peoples, including Black, Puerto Rican, Native American, Chicano, Asian and Dominican, with an age span from a 20 year old student to an 89 year old civil rights worker. Many delegates from the U.S. spoke out against the role of U.S. imperialism in international aggression, militarism, interference in domestic affairs of other countries, and all forms of racism at home and abroad.

While the majority of the U.S. delegation assumed a progressive stance on most issues, there was a very vocal minority comprised of feminists, gay liberationists and a few others who sought to deal with the issue of women from the standpoint of "men are our major enemy". This idea along with others reflective of trends of racism and white chauvenism, found little if any support at the Congress. Comrade Samora Machel, President of the Peoples Republic of Mozambique, was very clear on this issue when he spoke before the 1973 conference of Mozambican women, stating that, "It is important to stress this aspect because we now see an ideological offensive

taking place particularly in the capitalist world, in the guise of a women's liberation struggle. The aim is to transform the contradiction with men into an antagonistic one, thereby dividing exploited men and women to prevent them from fighting the exploitative society. In fact, leaving aside the demagoguery which hides its true nature, this ideological offensive is an offensive by capitalism to confuse women, to divert their attention from the real target."

Unanimous recognition was made of the great contribution put forth by the Womens Democratic League of Germany (GDR) and to the German people, both for their gracious hospitality in ensuring the success of the Congress, and for their consistent commitment to the advancement of women in all spheres of life, and their solidarity with all forces struggling for peace and social progress, for national independence and equality as part of their international policy.

The World Congress for International Womens' Year committed itself to unity and consolidation of the forces of womens' international and regional organizations in the struggle for their rights, for peace, disarmament and social progress. The World Congress like the Mexico conference concluded with a ten-year program to facilitate international cooperation to achieve the aims of International Womens' Year. To improve the status of women in the world, for Equality, Peace and Development

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