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### African Agenda, September 1972

African American Solidarity Committee

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# AFRICAN AGENDA

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## Editorial

### STOP NIXON

The staff of the *African Agenda* feels that four more years of the murderer of thousands of Vietnamese people and arch racist Richard Nixon would be an unmitigated disaster for ourselves and for the world.

His policies toward Africa have indicated that he is the first President to openly support the Portuguese colonialists against the liberation movements who are struggling for freedom and independence. The Azores agreement which gives the Portuguese \$436 million, including military hardware, is open support by Richard Nixon to continue the wars of aggression in Africa. He is one of the first Presidents to openly break the UN sanctions applied to the illegal regime in Rhodesia by buying Rhodesian chrome. In South Africa, Richard Nixon, the staunch supporter of imperialism and world reaction, has increased U.S. investments in South Africa by 220% since he has been in office and is openly trading with the South African racists by buying sugar from South Africa. Richard Nixon is a supporter of South Africa's illegal hold over Namibia and of South Africa's policies in Africa as a whole.

Under the Nixon-Agnew administration, Black Americans and other oppressed people are suffering from the highest rate of unemployment since the late fifties, higher taxes to pay for U.S. aggression in Vietnam, and disastrous cutbacks in spending for welfare, new schools, housing, and health care.

If Richard Nixon is re-elected, it would mean he will be in office four more years as a "lameduck" President, unable to run again in 1976. Knowing that he would not need the people's votes to support his re-election, Nixon's 1972-76 policies would mean fewer jobs, less social services, open murder of progressive leaders and people, and loss of democratic rights for the people.

Do we want these setbacks? No! Given a choice between U.S. aggression in Vietnam and Africa, and peace, the people will choose peace. Given a choice between unemployment and jobs, the people will choose jobs. Given the choice between the wage freeze and limiting the power of giant corporations to exploit the workers, the people will choose the latter.

We strongly urge people to cast a vote *against* Richard Nixon on November 7th as a vote against one of the most racist, ruthless, imperialist aggressors in modern history.

## Vietnam Points the Way for Africa and Black America

Imperialism was first described by V. I. Lenin in 1917 as the final stage in the development of capitalism, the highest and monopoly stage of capitalism. Imperialism involves the exploitation of foreign lands for their natural resources and labor, and the control of the dependent country as a market for capitalist goods and investments. The basic features of imperialism that breeds aggression are 1) the concentration of production, i.e. all things produced and capital, (investments and profits) into the hands of a few people; 2) the creation of a financial monopoly by the merging of bank capital with industrial capital; 3) the export of capital as distinguished from the export of commodities acquires exceptional importance; 4) the formation of international monopoly capitalist associations, or a few industries and banks which share the world market among themselves; and 5) the territorial division of the whole world among the biggest capitalist powers, which today are represented by the United States, West Germany, Japan, France, and Britain.

The war in Vietnam is the major confrontation today between a people fighting for their freedom and imperialism, especially U.S. imperialist aggression. The experiences of the Vietnamese liberation forces who are resisting the ruthless imperialist policies of the Nixon ad-

ministration contain important lessons for the whole anti-imperialist front, and especially for Africans and oppressed people in the U.S.

Firstly, the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people in defeating Nixon's policies indicates that a united front of peasants (the majority of Vietnam's population) led by a small working class can be a powerful force in carrying out anti-imperialist struggles. African liberation movements face similar conditions in that the majority of the people in Africa are peasants with a small working class. Like the Vietnamese, the African liberation forces are waging a struggle against highly technical and superior military forces.

Secondly, by striking a blow at the recent imperialist policies of Nixon, Vietnam has also strengthened the anti-monopoly struggle of the working class and other oppressed peoples in the U.S. Black workers are part of this world wide anti-imperialist, anti-monopoly front, although they are struggling under different conditions. Blacks in America are not in a colonial situation or fighting for political independence as are the Vietnamese. Instead, Blacks are industrial workers integrated in the industrial process with no separate territory. Afro-Americans are scattered throughout the U.S. as a super-exploited

## REGISTER & VOTE NOW!

continued on page 4

## TRICKY-DICK AND TOM

Afro-Americans who claim neutrality or support of Nixon in the forthcoming presidential election as a way of maximizing our power are weak carbon copies of AFL-CIO's chief George Meany. His so-called neutrality is an obvious and turncoat manner of supporting the policies of this big business president.

President Nixon's assault on wages, education, health, housing, employment and other vital areas is cutting a wide path through the lives of all working citizens. But the realities of national oppression are such that Afro-Americans and other oppressed, super-exploited national groups feel the cutting edge of Nixon's murderous program.

The war in Vietnam has plunged U.S. imperialism into a serious crisis. The disproportionate amount of casualties suffered by oppressed nationalities in this criminal war is well known. The harmful effect of wasteful military spending has reduced the budget for welfare, education, health and city services.

But what Nixon is up to in this period is to make low-wage, unemployed, middle-income and even small business sections of the population foot the bill for the defeats of super-rich monopolist and their military accomplices in Indochina.

How is Nixon doing this? A prime example is the freeze on wages which remain the same while profits and prices soar, and the dollar purchases less and less. Big business has also ordered Nixon to hold down employment while simultaneously using the "welfare loafers" scare to mash public assistance under the amount needed to meet people's basic human needs. Nixon also wants to weaken the already cruelly low Social Security pension benefits. Nixon opposes the sort of guaranteed national health plan that even most Western European capitalists have accepted by now.

Meanwhile, he seeks to whip up hostility between national groups by resorting to thinly disguised racist slogans such as "law and order", "stop busing", and "quotas are un-American".

The Supreme Court has been packed with judges representing the richest profiteers who stoop to brute force and fascist red-baiting to hold on to their unjust "legal" claims to the national wealth.



Exploiting the opportunism of certain right-wing elements in the Black community who seek not liberation, but a greater chance to exploit their "brothers and sisters". Nixon argues that Afro-Americans have different standards (lower, by implication) of education, housing, health and so on than have descendants of Europeans. Certain Black separatists who accept Nixon's beliefs are helping in the creation of new forms of exploitation based on racism.

These policies of the ruling class however are not absent from the Democratic Party. Although the base of that party is broader than the GOP's and represents far more active mass forces than the top dogs of the party can control. Afro-Americans and others who have an interest in limiting the power of private wealth and ultimately, in building a better society must not let the weakness of the Democrats blind them to the divisions and even antagonisms between different sections of capitalists.

These proposals of the Democrats and smaller, more progressive parties that would bring a fairer tax policy, protection of Constitutional rights, and most important today, an end to the Indochina war must be fought for with consistency.

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## McGovern on Israel

In looking at U.S. imperialism's policies with respect to the two hotbeds of international tension, Viet Nam and the Middle East, presidential contender, George McGovern displays an inability to pursue a consistent democratic policy. Lenin said that "the bourgeoisie is incapable of being consistently democratic". This is most manifest in McGovern's often-time contradictory policy statements.

This patent inconsistency is carried over in his pro-Zionist statements supporting Israeli aggression in the Middle East, an area of the world where profound progressive and revolutionary socio-economic changes have taken place. McGovern's unswerving support for Israel will only further aggravate tension in that part of the world.

On the other hand, McGovern is most vocal on the issue of lessening tension in Indo-China and committing himself to the total withdrawal of all U.S. forces from that part of the world. Of course all progressive mankind welcomes such a move, which is a more progressive step than the reactionary militarist policies of Richard Nixon.

The presidential contender on more than one occasion, has stated that "the cornerstone of American policy in the Middle East must be the survival of an Israel that is militarily secure and economically sound". Even the former Secretary of State, Dean Rusk has said recently that no matter who becomes president, U.S. policy in the Middle East will remain the same.

Israel definitely has a right to exist as a state, but surely not in the service of U.S. and international imperialism. All states must recognize principles of international law, among which are the principles of non-aggression, peaceful co-existence, renunciation of the use of force, national equality, mutual respect and co-operation. Zionism, as an ideological and political force, presupposes

an affront to these principles.

McGovern's position on the Middle East is reactionary, but reflects the objective need of U.S. imperialism — to hold on to its vanishing privileges and positions — whose economic basis is its \$5 billion investment in the whole Arab world, controlling 60% of all oil extractions. The American monopolies obtain super-profits on these investments, plundering the countries of their national natural resources, badly needed for their industrial and scientific development.

McGovern represents the rational sections of monopoly capital, ensuring the continuance of imperialist policies. Yet his rank and file base support are working class people who by their demands and wishes are objectively anti-imperialist.

Disregarding his mass support McGovern has endorsed statements by leading Zionist organizations. In the Sept. 2 N.Y. Times article published for 8 leading Zionist organizations McGovern states that "the governments (U.S.) M.E. policy rests on fundamental national interest and that whatever the outcome of the election the next administration will continue to support that policy in support of Israel".

McGovern's policy isn't dictated by personal, subjective wishes, nor moral considerations, but by its class substance "capital". Lenin again was correct when he said that "each policy, foreign as well, has its own objective logic, irrespective of what persons or parties plan in advance".

The only plausible solution to easing tension in the Middle East is for Israel to respect and obey the Security Council Resolution 242 of November 1967, calling for Israel to withdraw to its pre-1967 borders and to settle fairly and respect the lawful rights of the Palestinians. This will benefit all peoples, including the Israelis, and ensure a stable peace along the Mediterranean. ★ ★ ★

# THE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC PARTIES' AFRICAN PLANK

Printed below in full are the Democratic and Republican Parties planks on Africa that are contained in their parties platform.

## THE REPUBLICAN PARTY'S PLANK ON AFRICA

Our ties with Africa are rooted in the heritage of many Americans and in our historic commitment to self-determination. We respect the hard earned sovereignty of Africa's new states and will continue to do our utmost to make a meaningful contribution to their development. We have no illusions that the United States can single handedly solve the seemingly intractable problems of apartheid and minority rule, but we can and will encourage non-violent, evolutionary change by supporting international efforts peacefully to resolve the problems of southern Africa and by maintaining our contacts with all races on the Continent.

## THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S PLANK ON AFRICA

The central feature of African politics today is the struggle against racism and colonialism in Southern Africa. There should be no mistake about which side we are on. We stand for full political, civic and economic rights for blacks and other non-white peoples in Southern Africa. We are against white minority rule. We should not underwrite a return to the interventionism of the past. But we can end United States complicity with such governments.

The focus of America's concern with Africa must be on economic and social development. Economic aid to Africa, without political conditions, should be expanded, and African states assured an adequate share of the aid dollar. Military aid and aid given for military purposes should be sharply reduced.

1. All military aid to Portugal should be stopped and the Nixon \$435 million deal for unneeded Azores bases should be cancelled.
2. UN sanctions against the illegal racist regime in Southern Rhodesia should be supported vigorously, especially as they apply to chrome imports.
3. The US should give full support to UN assertion of its control over Namibia (South-West Africa), in accordance with the World Court's ruling.
4. The US should make clear its opposition to the racial totalitarianism of South Africa. The US government should act firmly to press US businesses in South Africa to take measures for the fullest possible justice for their black employees. Blacks should be assigned at all levels to US offices in South Africa, and throughout Africa. The South African sugar quota should be withdrawn.
5. No US company or its subsidiary should be given US tax credit for taxes paid to white minority ruled countries in Africa.

★ ★ ★

## IMPERIALISM... IN DOLLARS AND CENTS

Imperialism is not just a jargon word used to frighten people. The bourgeois would like us to believe that imperialism no longer exists, that today enlightened capitalists are merely investing in developing countries and helping their economies grow. This is not true. If we look at the facts we find that the major means of imperialist exploitation, the export of capital, has increased in the past twenty years.

It is no mistake that the most powerful imperialist country, the USA is also the largest exporter of capital in the world today. United

States total foreign investments in 1946 was \$18.7 billion. By 1967 it had jumped to \$122.3 billion, an increase of 550%. About \$59.3 billion of the 1967 total was direct long term private foreign investments. American monopoly capitalists employ over six million foreign workers directly and gross around \$120 billion annually; this is larger than the gross national product of any single capitalist country, except the US.

Over two-thirds of American foreign investments are made in Western Europe and only one-third is invested in

the underdeveloped countries of the world. In 1967 U.S. private capital investments were \$11.9 billion in Latin America, \$4.3 billion in Asia, and \$2.3 billion in Africa. While this may seem a small fraction of the total foreign investments, it is more than double the amount invested in 1956. Furthermore, the USA invested 50% of the total foreign capital exported to Asia, Africa and Latin America; France 12%, Federal Republic of Germany 10%, Britain 8%, Japan 7.5%, and Italy 2.5%.

Dollar for dollar the USA makes more money in the "third world" countries. The only way this is possible is by super exploitation of the labor and natural resources in the developing countries. So rather than helping the developing countries by investments, imperialism in fact drains the countries of its resources. The following chart clearly indicates the inflow of U.S. investments to various world regions and the outflow of profits to the U.S. in 1950-1965.

So we see that unequal trade relations results in the de-development of Asia, Africa and Latin America under imperialism. The above figures are a very conservative estimate and do not take into account worsening trade conditions.

During this election year it is not enough for us to call an end to the imperialistic and racist war in Southeast Asia. We must call a halt to all imperialist activity that robs the peoples of the world. If we are not careful we will find full scale wars in other parts of the world as well. There are already Green Berets operating in Africa. The peace movement must continue to pressure, threaten, and force the American government and especially the President to end the war in Southeast Asia; but beyond that, we must build a broad anti-monopoly and anti-imperialist coalition in order to prevent future Vietnams.

FIGURES IN BILLIONS

	Western Europe	Canada	Latin America	Asia & Africa
INFLOW OF DIRECT PRIVATE INVESTMENTS .....	8.1	6.8	3.8	5.2
OUTFLOW OF PROFITS TO USA .....	5.5	5.9	11.3	14.3
BALANCE LEFT IN OTHER COUNTRY .....	+2.6	+0.9	-7.5	-9.1



## Recommended Books

1. *Apartheid Axis: The United States and South Africa* by William J. Pomeroy, Price \$1.25
2. *Black America and the World Revolution* by Claude M. Lightfoot. Price \$ .90
3. *Black Workers and the Class Struggle* by Roscoe Proctor. Price \$ .45
4. *Neo-Colonialism; The Last Stage of Imperialism* by Kwame Nkrumah. Price \$2.85
5. *Sechaba*, monthly organ of the African National Congress, 1-year subscription. Price \$6.00
6. *Strategy for a Black Agenda* by Henry Winston. Price \$ .40

To order, please circle prices of items you want, mail this ad with your name, address and payment to All Points of View, P.O.B. 321, San Antonio, Texas 78292.

### SOUTHERN AFRICAN RELIEF FUND

The Southern African Construction Relief Fund is collecting money to buy medical supplies, educational materials, clothing and food. These funds will help the African liberation fighters and the victims of racism and oppression from the Republic of South Africa, Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, and Zimbabwe. Several hundred dollars have already been collected, but more funds are needed to help those oppressed people. Checks should be made out to: **SOUTHERN AFRICAN RELIEF**. Mail to: Mr. Cosmo Pieterse, 38-004 North McKinley, Athens, Ohio 45701.

The African American Solidarity Committee has a speakers bureau of people willing to speak to schools, organizations etc. Please send all inquiries to our mailing address.

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### Vietnam (continued)

and oppressed nationality having suffered from racial discrimination, centuries of super-exploitation as slaves and semi-slaves, and denial of equality of opportunity in education, job training, etc. Black Americans can and are making a contribution to the Vietnamese struggle by joining the anti-monopoly alliance of American workers in fighting for an end to the war in Vietnam and keeping all foreign corporations out of Africa.

Thirdly, the Vietnam struggle has shown that national liberation struggles can only succeed with the help of the socialist countries, especially the Soviet Union which supplies 70% of the military equipment for the Vietnamese struggle. Without this equipment, the imperialists would have conquered Vietnam by now. In this regard, the African liberation movements have recognized the valuable contribution of the socialist countries, and many leaders, such as Amilcar Cabral of P.A.I.G.C. and Alfred Nzo of the A.N.C., have acknowledged that most of their military support comes from the socialist countries.

Fourthly, the Vietnamese struggle has struck a blow against the imperialist policies of racism. The many different minorities in Vietnam were often subjected to racial discrimination by the former Chinese, Japanese, and French colonialists. Today the Vietnamese liberation forces have united all of the people into a common struggle against imperialism. The equal participation of all minorities in the new society of North Vietnam have stopped the imperialist

plans of causing racial antagonisms and splitting the nation on a tribal basis. In Africa, the imperialists are trying to divide African countries on a racial and tribal basis as recently witnessed in Burundi and the Sudan. The 4,000 or more African tribes are looking more and more to the North Vietnamese society as an example of a society actively fighting tribal and ethnic conflicts. Indeed, the anti-imperialist struggle in Vietnam and the anti-monopoly struggle in the U.S. of Black and oppressed workers are one common struggle in the fight against racism and imperialism.



### Tricky Dick (continued)

Today, we need to reject Nixon's boss' policies and advance toward a broad front of progressive forces capable of checking fascism, weakening the monopolies and changing the class in power.



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