

# AFRICAN PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST PARTY: OUR STANDARDS OF PARTY LIFE



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**AFRICAN PEOPLE'S  
SOCIALIST PARTY**

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## **OUR STANDARDS OF PARTY LIFE**

The purpose of this pamphlet is to outline our standards for Party life. Our goal is to provide a guideline for being a good Party member and an example of effective Party organizations.

When we say "Our Standards for Party Life," we must emphasize that standards set down in the following pages are not limited to Party activities or our action and interaction within the Party.

Every Party member must CONSTANTLY strive to live up to these expectations and enthusiastically do everything necessary for carrying out our struggle for political independence, African unity and socialism-rais-ing our standard of political education, developing organizing, leadership, and speaking skills and the ability to analyze and make decisions.

Our everyday thoughts must be about freedom. Revolution is not something we "save for a rainy day." If we are to be victorious, which we must, we must breathe the African freedom struggle. Our first thought when we wake up in the morning must be African freedom. Our last thought before we go to sleep at night must be African freedom. The thought of freedom should be manifested throughout our daily lives-in our work, our "personal lives," etc.

A true African Internationalist understands that total commitment to the struggle is necessary. To be an African Internationalist revolutionary means, above all, to merge one's own desires and actions with the desires and actions of African liberation. This is a process that we continuously struggle to achieve.

### **The African People's Socialist Party Serves the People**

In order to effectively lead black people in our struggle for political independence, our Party maintains firm links with the masses of our people. Not only do we join and contribute to the different associations organized to benefit the people, but we also help to organize different committees and associations to deal with specific problems our people are confronted with.

The African People's Socialist Party also uses every opportunity to educate African people to the true nature of the problems confronting us, and becomes actively involved with the people in attempting to solve them. In our efforts to educate the people and provide them with the political philosophy of liberation, the African People's Socialist Party attempts to become the telescope through which Africans view the world.

Ours is a Party that serves the people, not in a reformist or charitable manner, but by attacking the very root causes of the people's problems. Ours is a Party that struggles

against the cause of African poverty and oppression. We struggle against the cause of police terror and black genocide. To struggle to put political power in the hands of the people is to truly serve black people.

### **The African People's Socialist Party is a Revolutionary Party**

The African People's Socialist Party is a revolutionary political party. It is a political party which bases its program on a scientific investigation and analysis of the real, concrete problems facing African people. Our Party has discovered that the major problem affecting African people is a vicious system of exploitation called imperialism. This system reveals itself as colonialism in its attacks on African people within current U.S. borders. Colonialism is used by the imperialists to exploit and oppress foreign workers and nations by violently imposing and maintaining foreign imperialist rule through control of the political power necessary for independent and free decisions.

The imperialists, who are an international group of rich and powerful bosses which has stolen from the exploited and oppressed peoples the materials necessary to produce essential goods, have their political parties also. In the U.S. the parties of the imperialists are the Democrat and Republican parties. They are not revolutionary parties which work to free the oppressed peoples in the U.S. Instead, both of them are two arms of the same imperialist monster used to keep the people oppressed for the benefit of the imperialist profit. The African People's Socialist Party which is the Party of Liberation, seeks to free the people from oppression, while the Democrat and Republican parties of the imperialist bosses seek to keep the people oppressed. Those who serve the imperialist parties serve imperialism, and those who serve the African People's Socialist Party serve African people who suffer from imperialism. The African People's Socialist Party, armed with the powerful teachings of African Internationalism, which is summed up in our General Party Program, is capable of directing the struggles of our people along the correct line, capable of leading the people to victories while avoiding unnecessary sacrifices. The African People's Socialist Party is a revolutionary Party committed to the total destruction of the colonial relationship which binds our people to U.S. imperialist domination.

Such a struggle cannot be made haphazardly, without a scientific guide to inform our practice. Such a struggle cannot be made without a general strategy. The Party's general strategy, which has been widely written about and which appears in pamphlet form under the title, *Tactics and Strategy for Black Liberation in the U.S.*, helps us to determine who the friends and enemies of the people are; it helps us to determine which forces contribute materially through their own self-motion to the realization of political independence.

The Party's strategy also helps us to determine which forces, although incorrect in their direction, are not hostile toward or antagonistically contradictory to our ultimate aims and which may therefore be worked with. It will also help us to identify those forces

which are hostile and which consciously or objectively serve the forces of imperialism and African colonization.

It is from our strategy that we receive the general guidance for all Party activities and struggles. A casual glance at the elements of the Party strategy will show how it serves our general program and how it informs us in the manner described above. The strategy consists of seven elements, briefly listed below:

1. Our first and most important objective should be to win black people to the position of political independence. If the masses of black people are not won over to the position of independence, there will be no independence for black people. It is as simple and clear as that. Most of the Party's campaigns have been carried out with this objective in mind.

2. A second and related strategic objective for winning liberation is to establish the leadership of the pro-Independence movement. This objective is important for many reasons, but one primary reason is the need to permeate our oppressed colonized communities throughout the U.S. with the spirit of independence through self-liberation. In doing this, we will be building mass movements and influencing the movements which exist already. As the Party will be a small, minority Party for much of its existence, it is absolutely necessary that the general movement for independence through self-liberation be recognized as the general leadership of the people. The Party's revolutionary leadership of the people will often be exercised and recognized through these mass organizations and groups, as well as through the many programs and activities initiated by the Party in our own name.

3. Another strategical objective for winning independence which should guide our work is to win support for the Independence position within current U.S. borders. The main targets for this effort to win support for the Independence position should be the general anti-imperialist forces within current U.S. borders, other oppressed, subject, and colonized nationalities, and progressive U.S. North Americans. The Party's pursuit of this objective has contributed to the creation of a North American (white) solidarity committee and the various committees which work under its leadership. It has also contributed to our continuous attempts to deepen our relations with the Native People, Puerto Ricans, and the various other oppressed, subject, and colonized nationalities.

4. Another element of the Party's general strategy for liberation is the creation of dual, or competing, or contending, governmental powers. That is to say, to the degree possible, the Party and the general pro-Independence movement must assume the real and actual responsibilities of government for our people. That is to say, every oppressed colonized African community must be made impossible to administer by the U.S. colonialist government and any of its agencies. Every oppressed colonized African community must be transformed into fighting soviets, or councils, for African liberation, political independence and socialism.

If we can realize this objective, we will have plunged a wooden stake into the heart of the imperialist blood-sucking vampire of the world. For it is not only true that U.S. bourgeois democracy—which is capable of being so defined because of its ability to

obscure its class dictatorship-cannot exist in the face of such rejection, but to the degree we can effectively build competing state power, we actually negate the power of the U.S. North American state.

5. Another objective of the Party's general strategy is to expose the oppressive nature of the U.S. government, thereby constantly undermining it within and without the current U.S. borders. The U.S. government must be exposed as an imperialist danger to the entire world, a danger which practices colonialism within its own borders and Puerto Rico, and which is engaged in unremitting, though generally unrecognized class war against the U.S. North American people, and all workers.

6. The Party's general strategy also calls for winning international support for our Independence position, thereby contributing to the international diplomatic encirclement of the U.S. All progressive peoples and countries of the world are in unity with the aspirations of colonized peoples to win our liberation. This fact makes it necessary for even the U.S., which is the chief prop for the reactionary and colonial powers in the world, to pay lip service to the aspirations of the peoples for independence.

7. The seventh element in our general strategy calls for the building of an African People's Liberation Army.

These are the elements of the Party's general strategy, which is one of the major documents which supplements the general Party program. They are laid out in greater detail and with a rational explanation and scientific basis in the Party's pamphlet, "Tactics and Strategy for Black Liberation in the U.S." This pamphlet can be purchased for \$1.50 from Burning Spear Publications. All Party members should have a copy of this pamphlet and study it thoroughly for a better understanding of each of the seven elements of the Party's General strategy.

The Party's General Strategy, along with our General Program, arms Party members with the ongoing bases for explaining the aims and methods of the struggle to our people. It is a very serious component of the Party's strong organization, for without a general strategy that is reflected in a program, not only would we be unable to provide the people with leadership through all the twists and turns of the struggle, not only would we be unable to explain the aims and methods of the struggle to our people, but we too would be rudderless, simply floundering around without any direction. Therefore, it should be clear that a genuine revolutionary Party will be guided by a general strategy and program. Indeed, the presence of such a strategy and program is one of the factors which distinguishes the APSP as a real revolutionary Party, and differentiates it from the various sects which pose as parties.

### **The People Are Schooled Through Their Own Struggles**

An important factor leading to the absolute need for a Party program is the need to win the majority of African people to the Revolution and to the Party. However, this cannot be done by a program alone. A program, and the leadership of the advanced elements

of the people organized into a revolutionary Party, is extremely important, but this is not enough to convince the majority of people that revolution is necessary and that membership in the African People's Socialist Party, the only Party capable of leading the revolution, is also necessary.

The African People's Socialist Party can only do this by becoming the trusted vanguard, the beloved organizer, and leader of the struggles of our class and our people. Agitation and propaganda alone are not enough. Something more is needed to convince the masses of our people of the need for the revolutionary overthrow of U.S. domestic colonialism.

In order for this to happen, the people must be schooled through their own struggles under the leadership of the African People's Socialist Party. The oppressed colonized African people learn through their own experiences that only through stubborn struggle can they snatch any meaningful concessions from the capitalist-colonialist ruling class. They learn the nature of bourgeois or ruling-class democracy and colonialist dictatorship of the whole African people. They learn the relationship of classes and the difference in the class struggle occurring between the primary classes within the U.S. North American society, and the struggle of black people for political independence through self-liberation.

In other words, African people through their own experiences, learn that we have enemies-enemies who attack and exploit us as working people, but whose primary attacks on our people stem from our powerlessness as a whole people. They learn the role of the puppets and henchmen of our class and national enemy; they learn the role of the reformist leaders, of pacifists, collaborating black organizations. They learn that there is only one way out of the imposed misery, the police murders in the streets, the massive unemployment, and humiliation of our whole people, the way of a revolutionary struggle for political independence through self-liberation, the way of successful struggle to throw off our colonial masters and the assumption of power over our own lives.

These experiences of our oppressed and colonized people will be learned in the day-to-day struggles for decent housing, freedom of speech and assembly, jobs and economic security, an end to the massive black prison population, free daycare for our children, a decent and liberating education, etc. The masses will learn who their enemies are through these struggles. They will see the cops with their guns and clubs come out to protect the slumlords during tenant strikes; they will see the National Guard come out with tanks, gas and automatic weapons to put down rebellions in our colonized communities. They will see vicious politicians break promise after promise.

The people will also recognize the other weapons of the capitalist-colonialist ruling class for what they are. They will see the poisonous anti-black venom printed in the bourgeois media; they will see forces like the Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan attack the people in order to stifle our righteous struggle to better our condition and throw off our foreign and alien bosses.

African people learn through their own experiences that we must have a revolutionary Party, which leads us in our struggles, which draws the correct conclusions from the struggles, and which, in the preparation for, and in the midst of, the struggles, continuously exposes every move of the enemy and teaches the working African masses the lessons which could be learned in their struggles. The African People's Socialist Party, part and parcel of the laboring African masses, has only one interest: a better life for our colonized African people and an end to all human exploitation.

While the African People's Socialist Party knows that hunger, genocide, and misery cannot be finally abolished under the capitalist-colonialist system, it leads and organizes the fight of the masses for better conditions now because the interests of the impoverished, laboring masses are its interests and because it knows that these day-to-day struggles heighten the fighting capacity of the masses and develop the people for their final task—the overthrow of the capitalist-colonialist system.

### **Who are the Party Members?**

The membership of the African People's Socialist Party consists of the most advanced segment of the general African population. These are people whose social and political consciousness have placed them at the disposal of African people through their organized, disciplined involvement in the struggle for national liberation. African People's Socialist Party members are people who have voluntarily agreed to adhere to the strict discipline of the African People's Socialist Party based on their agreement with the Party's program, and their understanding of our need for a Party that is united in action.

A person who comes into the African People's Socialist Party must abandon all the selfish individualism promoted by the ruling class colonial bosses and become a member of the African People's Socialist Party national liberation offensive, where all personal and individual interests are subordinated to the interests of African people as represented by the African People's Socialist Party. The solidarity of members of the African People's Socialist Party is not based on feelings, beliefs, personal friendships, etc. The unity of the members of our Party is based on the decision by members to unselfishly serve the cause of African liberation through active and conscious application of the scientific principles of African Internationalism.

It is a great thing to become a member of the African People's Socialist Party, to join with the millions of African and other oppressed peoples throughout the world on this historic march to freedom and human dignity. Such a great march demands real discipline and unity of action from all Party members. Members of the African People's Socialist Party, which is the most advanced and courageous segment of the African colony, willingly and zealously make the sacrifices demanded by our great tasks.

One of the first guidelines in our standards of Party life is the acceptance and understanding of the theory of African Internationalism. It is only with full understanding

and acceptance of our theory and ideology that we can develop the foresightedness and patience necessary to make us into totally committed African freedom fighters. Education provided through Party literature, political education classes and accompanying suggested reading, and *The Burning Spear*, aids us in understanding our theory, history, present condition, thus giving us proper and practical information to allow us the ability to make correct analyses of ours and other peoples' struggles domestically and internationally.

Therefore, education—that of self-education and that which is provided by the Party—is an essential part of Party life, and is a daily task that an African Internationalist must carry out.

A second guideline in our standard of Party life is the total submission to our Party Constitution. The Constitution provides us with basic guidelines in the functioning of the whole Party—setting restrictions, regulations and rewards, which are vitally necessary for the effective functioning of the Party as a whole. The Party Constitution provides for a Party unified by specific principles and objectives. Total submission to our Party Constitution is necessary in order to provide the cohesion necessary to maintain a democratic-centralist Party, a Party which provides for democracy under centralized leadership. It also keeps us free of dishonest and disruptive elements.

Central to this, the most important criterion of loyalty to our Party and African freedom is the active fight for Party policy. In order to achieve this, it is an absolute responsibility of Party members to take part in discussion of Party policy, be involved in self-criticism and criticism, and adhere to the Rules of Party Discipline. In doing so, education plays a very instrumental part, in that it allows for an educated membership capable of intelligently fighting for Party policy.

Party members, African Internationalists, must adhere to Party Democratic Centralism. Centralism means that our Party has one program and unified rules. Democracy is the ability to vote on Party policy and leadership. An important element of democratic centralism and Party discipline is the unconditional subordination of the minority to the majority and of lower Party organizations to the higher ones.

A Party member uses criticism and self-criticism only as a constructive means of correcting errors in order to strengthen the Party. Never is criticism and self-criticism used as an excuse mechanism which does not correct, but allows occurrence of the same backward errors in an attempt to pull the Party down to the level of the same type of backwardness.

An African Internationalist must not implement policy mechanically but with great political maturity. **STUDY NEVER ENDS AND POLITICAL GROWTH IS INFINITE.**

Discipline is also a very important aspect of Party Life. It is a voluntary process dependent upon your commitment. The process of criticism and self-criticism helps in achieving and maintaining discipline, however, discipline cannot be forced discipline.

The responsibility for living up to Party discipline is dependent on the individual's commitment to adhere to the General Party Program and to learn from her/his mistakes.

The Party is a voluntary self-sustaining organization. Therefore, a third function of Party life is the timely payment of membership dues. Everyone who joins the Party must regularly pay Party dues, thereby providing material aid for the orderly functioning of the Party. The payment of membership dues appears at first sight to be only an elementary duty of a Party member. However, it has fundamental significance. If a person does not pay dues regularly, it means they do not have respect for the Party and lack discipline.

A good Party member must be creative, have initiative, innovation and be flexible enough to meet changing situations.

AN AFRICAN INTERNATIONALIST UNDERSTANDS his/her historical responsibility to the Party in its fight for a free, united, socialist nation of African people. To be an African Internationalist is a great thing, it is not for everyone to be. African Internationalists are the politically astute people of our dispersed nation. The disciplined soldiers of freedom, the energetic, the selfless fighters, the builders of a new society, the leaders of the African masses, these are the necessary qualities of African Internationalists.

The Party is the leader and teacher of the masses. It elaborates the correct political line, defines tasks and directions of the practical work of institutions, coordinates their work and strengthens them with leading personnel. Only the Party's leadership is capable of directing the work of struggle against U.S. colonialism and imperialism.

The Party must guard against choking the Party with unstable elements and unsuitable people. A member of the African People's Socialist Party must have such qualities as theoretical development, knowledge of historical conditions, and the ability to analyze situations and conditions. Party members must be the most advanced sector of the African masses which pushes forward all other Africans.

The information in the following pages will give specific information in, helping to build and develop the African People's Socialist Party. Read and study it carefully.

***STRUGGLE TO LEARN, LEARN TO STRUGGLE!  
ONE PEOPLE, ONE AIM, ONE PARTY!  
STRIKE A THOUSAND BLOWS FOR INDEPENDENCE!***

## I. PARTY ORGANIZATIONS

The local Unit and Local Party Organization are the basic organizational structures of the African People's Socialist Party. They are the only organizational forms that all members are required to belong to and through which the status of their Party membership is determined. It is through these basic Party organizations that the widest contact with the African masses is possible, thereby gaining a continuous knowledge of

the problems of our people. They are the widest and most important forms through which the Party can reach the African masses to influence their thinking and motivate them into becoming active in the African Liberation struggle.

The revolutionary experience and thinking of the basic organizations must be the starting point for all policies of higher Party organs. It must also be the concluding point of policies and decisions, for it is here with the basic organization of the Party that policies must receive the widest test of application. There can be no approach, therefore, to building the African People's Socialist Party that does not focus on building and strengthening the basic organizations of the Party.

In implementing this position in the total system of organization, the Party Constitution establishes certain rights and responsibilities. Individual members and basic Party organization have the right and responsibilities to express themselves in Party meetings and publications prior to adoption of decisions, or during Party Congresses at any level on all policies and work of the Party. They also have the right to appeal a decision to leading Party bodies or to ask for review of a decision by the decision-making body. Each Party organ and its individual members, once a decision is made and even if a review or appeal is pending, has the right and responsibility to carry out all decisions. This is a principle of democratic centralism.

## II. THE PURPOSE OF BASIC PARTY ORGANIZATIONS

The basic Party organizations have the responsibility of organizing, initiating, and participating in the African Independence struggle for our needs and aspirations according to the policy of the Party. The basic Party organizations have the responsibility of supporting and working with non-African organizations whose aims are to crush colonialist, capitalist, and imperialist monsters according to the policy of the Party. Our ultimate responsibility is to win the masses of black people into supporting the Party's policies, our struggle for independence and socialism. The basic Party organizations have the responsibility to build the Party among the people while at the same time develop African Internationalist qualities among our membership to the maximum.

## III. BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PARTY ORGANIZATION

The African People's Socialist Party is distinguishable from other parties and organizations by its strict observance of revolutionary principles and its insistence on a disciplined Party membership. Our Party is not a Party of dogma but a Party of scientific analysis of the material forces affecting African people. All principles, programs, activities, and campaigns of the African People's Socialist Party are guided by our theory. To deviate from the Party's principles would be to deviate from the cause of African people.

Parties and organizations not guided by the theory of African Internationalism cannot demand strict adherence to revolutionary principles, and when they attempt to do so,

create dogmatic monsters instead. Parties and organizations not guided by African Internationalism tend to vacillate with the ever-changing political current. They do not understand the interconnectedness of the worldwide struggle African people are involved in, and they limit their efforts to struggle having its political and geographical boundaries determined by philosophy alien to the needs and aspirations of African people.

Such philosophies take many and diverse forms, but all of them are alien philosophies and cannot provide strict, principled leadership, because their basis is not founded in historical experiences .and objective conditions of African people. Parties and organizations relying on such philosophies are therefore constantly in frantic motion, first in one direction and then another, in a helter-skelter, vain attempt to make the conditions of African people fit an alien philosophy rather *than* have a philosophy that springs from the conditions of the people. The parties and their members which support such philosophies become dogmatic and their message has the hollow, unconvincing ring of the false prophet who does not understand nor believe his own sermons. The resulting dogmatism is the inevitable consequence of an impractical, unrealistic theory unable to withstand the practical tests requiring a unity of practice and theory, and relying instead upon the ability of its advocates to quote its nonsense regardless of its practical weaknesses.

The African People's Socialist Party remains strictly true to its principles which are constantly being tested and checked through practical application to concrete conditions of struggle.

The oppressed and exploited colonized African people need a revolutionary political Party with a revolutionary political theory. The people need a Party of strict principles and disciplined Party members. The capitalist- colonialist enemies of African people are represented by one of the most vicious State organizations to ever confront humanity. Its revolutionary opposition must be well disciplined and organized. The capitalist-colonialist State apparatus cannot be resisted and defeated by a Party of undisciplined, leaderless individuals.

The African People's Socialist Party is a Party of discipline resulting from vigilant political study and criticism and self-criticism. Study provides our Party with scientific analysis of the day-to-day twists and turns of the ever-shifting political scene and the flexibility in applying Party politics and principles; and criticism and self-criticism, the discipline to carry out our *daily* tasks, no matter how small or how great. The discipline and strict adherence to the politics and principles of the Party prevents us from becoming a crisis Party, capable of responding only when our oppressor has demonstrated another wanton, overt act of violence and terror against African people, and keeps us true to our chartered course of total African liberation and that allows us to take advantage of any overt ac of colonialist violence.

Everyday the international contradictions are becoming sharper. The peoples of the world that have been dispossessed by imperialism are waging an unrelenting struggle for repossession of their land labor resources liberty and human dignity.

The historic forces giving power to imperialism are dying. The steel and concrete edifices which once bespoke their glory are fast becoming their tombstones as the forces creating the power of the slave are on the ascendancy. The struggle being waged by African people represents a part of the material forces affecting the ascendancy of the slave. The African People's Socialist Party, through its steeled discipline, will aid and lead the struggle of African people by enhancing the condition., which contribute to the creation of the new historical forces of the slave. Our party, disciplined, and remaining ever-true to the theory of African Internationalism and anti-colonialist politics, will be as the midwife, carefully assisting the birth of the revolutionary conditions that will surely break the bond of slavery and place the destiny of African people firmly in our hands again.

### **Democratic Centralism**

Democratic centralism is the system according to which:

1. All leading committees of the Party, from the Unit Bureaus up to the highest committees, are elected by the membership or delegates of the given Party organizations.
2. Every elected Party committee must report regularly on its activity to its Party organization. It must give an account of its work.
3. The lower Party committees and all Party members of the given Party organization have the duty of carrying out the decisions of the higher Party committees and of the Central Committee. In other words, decisions of the Central Committee and the higher Party committees are binding upon the lower bodies.
4. Party discipline is observed by the Party members and Party organizations because only those who agree with the program of the African People's Socialist Party, its Rules of Discipline, and its Constitution can become members of the Party.
5. The minority carries out the decisions of the majority (subordination of the minority to the majority). Party questions are discussed by the members of the Party and by the Party organization until such time as a decision is made by the Party committee or organization. After a decision has been made by the leading committees, by the Central Committee of the Party, or by the Party's National Congress, this decision must be unreservedly carried out, even if a minority of the Party organization is in disagreement with it.
6. The Party organizations, Units, Local Party Organizations, and Regions, have the full initiative, right and duty to decide on local questions within the limits of the general policies, and decisions of the Party.

## Decisions of Higher Bodies Binding on Lower Bodies

On the basis of democratic centralism, all lower Party organizations are subordinate to the higher bodies: Regional Organizations are subordinated to the Central Committee; District Organizations are subordinated to the Regional Committee; Party Units (block, shop, town) are subordinated to the Local Party Bureau and Local Party Bureaus are subordinated to the District Committee.

**All** decisions of the Central Committee must be fulfilled by the whole Party; all decisions of the Regional Conventions and the Regional Committee must be fulfilled by the Regional organizations of that region; all decisions of the District Convention and Committee are binding on the street, shop, and Local Party Organization, of that District.

A Party committee or Unit Bureau, throughout the whole of its activity from Convention to Convention, from Conference to Conference, from Unit meeting to Unit meeting, is not only under the control of the higher Party committees, but also under the control of the whole Party membership in the given organization. In cases where the elected Party committee is not capable of carrying out its tasks and the correct Party line, this Committee can be changed through the calling of an extraordinary Conference by decision of the higher committees, or by the initiative of the lower organization with the approval of the higher committees.

The African People's Socialist Party puts the interest of the poor and impoverished laboring African masses and the Party above everything. The Party subordinates all forms of Party organization to these interests. From this it follows that one form of organization is suitable for legal existence of the Party, and another for the conditions of underground secret existence. Under conditions where there is no possibility of holding open elections or broad Conventions, the form of democratic centralism necessarily has to be changed.

In such a situation, it is inevitable that co-optation be used as well as election. That means that in such a situation the higher committees will appoint the lower committees (for example, the Central Committee may appoint the Regional Committee; the Regional Committee may appoint the District Committee, etc.)

But even in the most difficult situation, the Party finds means and ways of holding elections. The Conventions or Conferences under such conditions will necessarily be smaller. The organization will be tighter so as to eliminate as far as possible the danger of the exposure of delegates to the class enemy and national oppressor. Under such conditions of extreme terror, open elections of committees would endanger the elected leaders and **make** it possible for the capitalist-colonialist bourgeoisie and its police agents to capture the leaders of the Party, and in this way cripple the revolutionary movement. Therefore, such a method is used by the Party in electing leading Committees during such a period which eliminates the danger of exposure.

Democratic Centralism therefore represents a flexible system of Party organization which guarantees all the conditions for combining the conscience and active participation of the whole Party membership in the Party life together with the best forms of centralized leadership in the activity and struggles of the Party and the poor, and impoverished laboring masses.

### **Party Discipline and Freedom of Criticism**

The free discussion on questions of Party policy in individual Party organizations or in the Party as a whole is the fundamental right and responsibility of every Party member as a principal point of Party democracy. Only on the basis of internal Party democracy is it possible to develop African Internationalist self-criticism and to strengthen Party discipline, which must be conscious and not mechanical. There is complete freedom of discussion in the Party until a majority decision has been made by the Unit or the leading committee, after which discussion must cease and the decision be carried out by every organization and individual member of the Party.

It is clear, however, that basic principles and decisions, such as for example, the theory of African Internationalism and the program of the African People's Socialist Party, cannot be questioned by the Party.

We cannot imagine a discussion, for example, questioning the correctness of the leading role of the laboring masses in the struggle against colonialism, or the necessity of the leadership of the African Independence Movement in the struggle for socialism. We do not question the theory of the revolutionary overthrow of colonialism and the total destruction of the imperialist ruling class. We do not question the correctness of the revolutionary theory of the international class struggle as laid down by the theory of African Internationalism.

We do not question the political correctness of the decisions, resolutions, etc. of the Party Congresses or the Central Committee after they are ratified. Otherwise, every undercover agent of the capitalist-colonialist bourgeoisie and every sympathizer of the Ideological Imperialists would have an opportunity to continually raise their counter-revolutionary theories in the Units Districts, etc., and make the members spend time and energy in discussion such questions, thus not only disrupting the work of the Party, but also creating confusion among the less experienced and trained elements in the Party. (As a matter of fact, this is a favorite tactic of enemies of the Party, who are always disrupting and causing confusion in the name of "democracy.")

However, that does not mean that the problems dealt with in such decisions and how best to apply these decisions-are not to be clarified in the Party organizations by discussion. On the contrary, a most thorough discussion for the purpose of making every Party member understand these resolutions and decisions and how to apply them is essential for effective Party work.

### **Party Discipline**

Party discipline is based upon African Internationalism the class and national consciousness of its members; upon the conviction that without the minority accepting and carrying out the decisions of the majority, without the subordination of the lower Party organizations to the higher committees, there can be no strong, solid, steeled Party able to lead the poor, impoverished masses. This discipline is based upon the acceptance of the Party Program and Rules of Discipline, and in the confidence-of the membership in the Central Committee.

There can be no discipline in the Party if there is no conscious and voluntary submission on the basis of a thorough understanding of the General Party Program and the decisions of the Party. Only conscious discipline can be truly iron discipline. To assist in the discipline in the Party the following explicit rules of discipline were adopted by the Party in 1974.

### **RULES OF PARTY DISCIPLINE**

*At the June 2, J-974 Central Committee meeting the following rules here drafted so that party members would have a guide to develop and strengthen our discipline.*

#### **ANY PARTY MEMBER WHO:**

1. Does not consciously strive to elevate his or her political understanding has broken Party discipline;
2. Does not strive to unite our Party with the masses has broken Party discipline;
3. Reveals Party business without authorization has broken Party discipline;
4. Discusses a Party member negatively to non-Party members has broken Party discipline;
5. Exploits or oppresses African women through action or statement has broken Party discipline;
6. Exploits or oppresses African people through action or statement has broken Party discipline;
7. Fails to initiate constructive criticism or self-criticism has broken Party discipline;
8. Uses words or actions to divide the Party has broken Party discipline;
9. Refuses to recognize and follow Party leadership through words or actions has broken Party discipline;
10. Discards or weakens Party leadership as opposed to strengthening Party leadership has broken Party discipline;
11. Helps to divide and circumvent international African unity through words or actions has broken Party discipline;
12. Uses criticism to divide and not unite the Party has broken Party discipline;
13. Uses criticism or self-criticism on a personal level and not a political level has broken Party discipline;
14. Uses criticism or self-criticism to hide her or his own shortcomings has broken Party discipline;
15. Does not carry himself worthy of emulation by the masses has broken Party discipline;
16. Displays arrogance through actions or words has broken Party discipline;

17. Displays negativism and reluctance in carrying out Party tasks has broken Party discipline;
18. Does not strive to bring more Africans into the Party or Party organizations has broken Party discipline;
19. Engages in adventurous and individualistic acts has broken Party discipline;
20. Fails to carry out Party policy as manifested by the Party constitution, Party documents, and the Central Committee has broken Party discipline.

*-From the Central Office*

***BUILD TO WIN INDEPENDENCE IN OUR LIFETIME!  
ONE PEOPLE! ONE CAUSE! ONCE PARTY!***

### **Why Do African Internationalists Attach So Much Importance To Discipline?**

Because without discipline there can be no unity of will, no unity in action. Our Party is the organized and most advanced section of the poor, impoverished laboring African masses as well as the general struggle for socialism within the U.S. The Party is the vanguard of the toiling masses in the international class war. In this international class war there is the international imperialist class with its henchmen and helpers, the pacifist, reformist leaders like the NAACP, SCLC, PUSH, etc., on one side, and the toiling masses and our allies, on the other. The international class war is bitter. The enemy is powerful; it has all the means of deceit and suppression (armed forces National Guard, police, courts, movies, televisions, radio, press, schools, churches, etc.).

In order to combat and defeat this powerful enemy, the army of the poor and impoverished laboring African masses must have a highly skilled, trained General Staff (the African People's Socialist Party), which is united in action and has one will.

How can an army fight against the army of the enemy if every soldier in the army is allowed to question and even disobey orders of superior officers? What would happen in a war, if, for example, the General Staff orders an attack and one section decides to obey and go into battle; another thinks that it is wrong to attack the enemy at this time and stays away from the battle; and a third section decides to quit the trenches and retreat to another position instead of going forward?

### **IV. BASIC ORGANIZATIONS AS ORGANIZERS AND LEADERS OF MASS STRUGGLE**

The African People's Socialist Party exists to organize and to guide to liberation the masses of black people around our daily needs and for socialism. The test of a good basic Party organization therefore, is its role in mass struggle. To be able to organize and lead communities, to win the masses to the policies of the Party, the basic Party

organizations must have ever-growing mass ties and connections and very good knowledge of its area of responsibility.

A. **THE NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE:** The following are the kinds of knowledge required.

1. **EXTENT OF AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY:** For a local unit—the community, campus, prisons, factory, a particular city. For a Local Party Organization—the entire city within which the Units function.
2. **THE PEOPLE WITHIN THE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY:** This includes the size of population, class, nationality, race and age composition, Party affiliations, organizational affiliations, religious beliefs, number of registered voters—“people of color,” as well as North Americans—and union connections.
3. **ORGANIZATIONS:** This includes size makeup, character of activities, leadership, political trends of all the organizations in the city, factory or industry such as rank and file movements, union committees, political groups, societies, fraternities and nationality organizations, civic and social clubs, PTA's, youth groups, women's clubs, churches, movement organizations, etc.
4. **ISSUES:** What objectively are the most important issues facing the workers in the factories, industry and communities? Which issues are they most agitated by? What is happening on these issues? Which forces have a positive position and which have a negative position on these issues?
5. **POLITICAL ACTION:** Basic Party organs should know the various election districts, the electoral calendar, the particular character of political parties and electoral formations in the area.  
Obtaining such information is possible through both research and activity.

## **B. ORGANIZATION OF THE AFRICAN MASSES**

1. **STRATEGY:** very basic Party organization should have a strategic aim and Party line for its area of responsibility according to Party policy. This will be a concrete application of the strategic line of the General Party Program and the policies adopted at the National Party Congress. For a Local Unit this might be to unite the workers in its area by demanding more jobs, higher wages, better working conditions. This can be done only by organizing the workers. If the strategic aim of uniting the workers in said area is successful, capitalism is dealt a blow, because to the degree that the capitalists promised, the capitalists lost some of their control.
2. **ISSUES OF STRUGGLE:** A careful study of the area of responsibility is necessary before selecting the issue or issues upon which we will organize. We must know which issues are objectively most important for our particular area. One way this can be determined is by finding what issues the masses are most agitated about and what they will move on most easily. What is true on a state level might not be true on a local level. Or for that matter what is true in one city might not be true in another. For example, a migrant area may not respond

enthusiastically to a maid strike, while on the other hand in an area where the service industry is predominant, the response to a maid strike may be good. The practical possibilities of a basic Party organization must be considered in the selection of issues, such as: resources, number of Party cadres, and connections.

The way in which issues are interrelated in the course of struggle should also reflect the consideration of these different aspects of the national and local picture. The daily issues of struggle and organization are tactical questions which may be valid for some time or change rapidly in the pursuit of the strategic aim. When the focus of struggle is a national issue, the Party organizations should try to link it with a related burning local issue, to link it with the central national struggles. Attentiveness to seemingly small issues that agitate the masses is important. Struggle, motion once begun, opens up many new possibilities. Failure to initiate activities around the central national or state issues, or a tendency to ignore them and not link them with existing local issues, would be to dissipate the efforts of the Party and limit the value of a democratic centralist organization. It would reflect local sectionalism, a major enemy in the total liberation of our people wherever we are. Action on every national issue without strong links to issues developing out of local circumstances would be mechanical and would rob the total African struggle and the Party of the necessary building up of grass roots ties.

The struggle to end brutal aggression by the U.S. imperialists becomes a key issue, affecting the solution of all issues. Similarly, any particular issue of struggle that assumes central objective importance to the total national balance of forces at a given moment should be related by every Party organ and every member to her or his work in some way.

Among the many issues that U.S. capitalism/colonialism imposes on the people around which the Party can organize are:

- a) U.S. imperialist aggression, threatening National Liberation struggles and political and economic independence of subject or formerly subject peoples.
  - b) Colonialism—seen in greater unemployment, harder, dirtier, less safe jobs, lower pay and job classification, failure to upgrade black-controlled quality education as a means of suppressing national culture, lack of community control, bad housing, police brutality, job insecurity, low wages and bad working conditions, little to no health and retirement plans, etc.
  - c) Repression of progressive black organizations and of the entire African colony.
3. **BASIC CONCENTRATION:** No matter what the issue or the organizational instruments, a primary aim should be to reach workers and draw them into the struggle and into its leadership. This can best be done by linking the particular issue with the immediate needs of the workers, as expressed and manifested primarily within the dispersed colony itself, as well as at the point of production, and the work place.

The plan should include developing the Party's ability to influence the

programs and policies of existing influential groups.

### **C. THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:**

The general membership should meet once every week within the unit and once a month within the Local Party Organization. There may be emergency periods when a different interval is required.

The General Membership Meeting, except in special emergencies or circumstances, should last 1 1/2 to 3 hours, more likely 2 to 2 1/2 hours. Shorter meetings indicate that there is a lack of feeling that the Party is needed to give collective leadership to the African masses and to change the course of history.

Longer meetings indicate either rigid, mechanical approaches. trying to predetermine every detail of mass activity, or an unhealthy situation of inner struggle, or an inability to decide priorities, or notions that the Revolution is coming tomorrow and therefore everything must be decided on at one meeting. There should be a regular meeting time so that it can be planned. Attendance at all Party meetings is very important for all members. The meeting time should therefore be set to insure maximum attendance, and not to test the revolutionary zeal of all members.

Every General Membership Meeting should follow the Standard Party's agenda. The person who chairs the meeting will be the Chairman or Chairwoman.

#### **•••BASIC PARTY ORGANIZATIONS MEETING AGENDA •••**

1. "Educational" political discussion.
2. *Recruiting* and discussion of individual contact.
3. The most important general campaigns of the Party at the time.
4. Check up on campaigns previously initiated and assignments previously made.
5. The most important activities specific to the Unit or Local Party Organization.
6. Routine activity and check-up: Party press, literature, finances, etc.

The Party's meeting agenda helps prevent disorganization in General Membership meetings because it flows in a sequential process. The six categories of the agenda make it difficult for something to be forgotten because the categories in the agenda include everything that Basic Party Organs are involved in.

THE "EDUCATIONAL" POLITICAL CLASS AND DISCUSSION is most often theoretical in character. The political education class and discussion is the only guarantee that every member receives some Party education aimed at development of the memberships' commitment to the cause of the Party. This also assures a common ideological base, African Internationalism, for political work to start from. The local unit or LPO Agitprop Director is responsible for the political education class and discussion.

#### **RECRUITING AND DISCUSSION OF INDIVIDUAL CONTACTS**

provides an ongoing process of recruiting members. This agenda category provides a functional recruiting process even when the entire Party is not involved in a Membership Drive. It reminds Party members of the continuous necessity to educate and win the masses into the Party, thus building our strength and enhancing our struggle for political independence.

THE MOST IMPORTANT GENERAL CAMPAIGNS OF THE PARTY at the time is the organizing and campaigning around an issue that all Party organizations are involved in. It could be campaigns that take on national aspects or issues. General campaigns are decided upon at the National Party Congress and by the Central Committee, for action at all levels of the Party. An example of general campaigns could be voter registration and electoral politics to win a popular initiative which strengthens the black working class at the expense of domestic colonialism and the capitalist social system, a demand for reparations to be paid to African people for centuries of our free labor, or it could be raising funds for weapons and other resource material for African warriors on the Continent, a Membership Drive, or working to free a political prisoner.

CHECK-UP ON CAMPAIGNS PREVIOUSLY INITIATED AND ASSIGNMENTS PREVIOUSLY MADE allows basic Party organizations to stay abreast of campaigns already initiated, and lessens the possibility of older campaigns and programs fading away. Such a campaign could be a blood bank or research paper on an area of political interest.

THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES SPECIFIC TO THE UNIT is based on the concrete conditions of each basic Party organization's location. In an area where migrants are abundant the most important activity may be organizing migrants; of in an area where drugs are a great menace and prevent the Party's ability to organize, an anti-drug campaign might be one of the important activities of that Party organ.

Other examples of specific important activities as determined by concrete conditions might be "the "integration" problem in schools, police repression, tenant organizing, and organizing welfare mothers, etc.

ROUTINE ACTIVITY AND CHECK-UP distribution of the Party's newspaper, *The Burning Spear*, subscription sales, distribution of literature or special bulletins, fundraising activities, etc.

#### **D. ELECTION OF LEADERSHIP**

The outgoing leadership should make recommendations on the structure of leadership and on personnel. Consideration should be given to what particular functions of leadership are required and who can best perform the particular functions. Election procedures and a timetable are provided in the Party Constitution for officers.

#### **E. THE LOCAL UNIT OF LOCAL PARTY ORGANIZATION (L.P.O.)**

The Local Unit Bureau or Local Party Bureau is not a separate Party body but rather is a committee of the Basic Party Organization elected to provide leadership to the work of the Party. It follows the agenda at General Membership Meetings\_ and insures that the decisions of the Party are carried out. It coordinates the Party organization's activities. It sets an example of political development and revolutionary commitment to the rest of the Party's membership.

The Bureaus should be able to take up and act on questions that arise between intervals of General Membership Meetings. All actions of the Local Unit Bureau or Local Party Bureau are subject to approval or reversal at the General Membership Meeting. Each member or the Bureau must have a specific function.

## **F. OFFICERS**

The Officers of the Unit Bureau are the Unit Organizer, Financial Secretary, Agitation-Propaganda Director, Literature Director, and Burning Spear Agent. The Officers of the Local Party Bureau are the Local Party Organizer, the Organizational (Financial) Secretary, the Agitation and Propaganda Director, the Burning Spear Agent, the Literature Committee Director, and the Membership Director.

1. **CHAIRPERSON.** Every local unit and General Branch must have a political leader, the Party organizer, usually called the Chairperson. The Chairperson will be concerned with the overall political direction of the Party organ and, in conjunction with the overall political direction of the Party organ and, in conjunction with the officers directly responsible for ideological and organizational work, with major problems in these areas. The Chairperson chairs the Party Bureau and general Membership meeting. Between General Membership meeting and Bureau Meeting, the Chairperson can act when necessary on behalf of the Party organization or Bureau, subject to their approval. The Chairperson may or may not be the Party organization's representative with higher bodies, according to her or his available time and the Party organization's needs.
2. **FINANCIAL SECRETARY (ORGANIZATIONAL SECRETARY IN THE LOCAL PARTY BUREAU).** In a Basic Party Organization, the second officer should be the Financial/Organizational Secretary. The Secretary is in charge of the membership department. making sure of full attendance at meetings, recording the General Membership meeting and Party finances and bookkeeping. The Financial/Organizational Secretary should coordinate, aid and supervise the work in all areas and should play a considerable role along with the Chairperson in seeking that the mass political line of the Party is carried out and should work closely with the membership. She or he has a considerable role along with the Chairperson in seeing that the mass political line of the Party is carried out and should work closely with the membership.
3. **DIRECTOR OF AGITATION AND PROPOGANDA.** The Agitprop Director is responsible for organizing political education classes and discussion at General Membership Meetings, and all other education work of the Party organ, such as community forums, study group, new member classes, etc. The Agitprop Director

should keep in mind that the purpose of education is to enhance revolutionary commitment and aid the Party in our work. The Agitprop Director will also act as Press Director and is responsible for public relations of the Party organization. It may be through press conferences or press releases, leaflets, church announcements, etc.

4. LITERATURE DIRECTOR. The Literature Director works in close collaboration with the Unit Bureau and the Agitprop Director in planning the distribution of literature (what, when, where, how much, by whom). The Literature Director is responsible for the sale and/or distribution of the Party's literature at political functions, public meetings, the general public, local book stores, and at Party functions. The Literature Director must familiarize himself /herself with Party literature and be prepared to convince Party members of the importance of reading and distributing each piece of literature. The Literature Director is also responsible for developing means to sell and distribute Party literature.
5. THE BURNING SPEAR AGENT. The Burning Spear Agent should be one of the Unit Officers. He/She should attend all Bureau meetings in order to make it possible to participate in making plans for the spreading of *The Burning Spear* in all activities of the Basic Party Organization. The tasks of The Burning Spear Agent must be considered as an important political function, which includes:
  - Mobilization of the Party membership to sell *The Burning Spear* every day in the Basic Party Organization's area of responsibility; to mobilize sympathizers around the Basic Party Unit and make them enthusiastic distributors of *The Burning Spear*; to organize a group of Burning Spear Builders from Party members and sympathizers; check up on whether individual members are getting new readers for *The Burning Spear* in the mass organizations, unions, campus, or other groups they belong to; to determine whether members of the Basic Party Organization read each issue of *The Burning Spear*, and to organize occasional discussions within the Basic Party Organization meeting concerning the experiences of individual members in selling *The Burning Spear*.

## THE PARTY FRACTION.

In addition to the basic organizations of the Party, the Unit and the Local Party Organization, another instrument in the hands of the Party through which we can influence the broadest strata of the poor, oppressed, laboring masses of our people is the Fraction.

The Fraction is an instrument in the hands of the Party through which the policy of the Party is brought to the organized masses and through which the Party gives leadership to members of mass organizations. Fractions are built in all the mass organizations of the laboring masses; in all cultural, fraternal, civil rights, and unemployed organizations of the African working class; in all conventions and conferences of such organizations where there are at least three African Internationalists, a Party fraction must be organized.

The Party Fraction in the neighborhood organizations, campus student groups, shop committees, etc., are under the jurisdiction of the corresponding Party organization. The

Fraction in a shop is under the jurisdiction of the Shop Unit. The Fraction in campus student organizations is under the jurisdiction of the Campus Unit, etc. A Fraction in organizations of the city are under the jurisdiction of the Local Party Bureau. Thus the organization continues throughout the entire Party structure.

In all questions in which there is a decision of the corresponding Party organization, the Fractions must carry out these decisions. The policy for a mass organization is made in the Party Bureau, but before the decisions are made on any basic question concerning the mass organization, the Party Bureau invites the representative of the given Fraction to participate in the discussion. The Fraction has a consultative role at this meeting. After the discussion, the decision is made by the Party Bureau. The Party Bureau can decide that the Fraction members express their *opinion* on the problem through consultative voting. The *decision*, however, is made by the majority vote of the members of the *Party Bureau*.

## **LEADING FRACTIONS**

The Leading Fraction of a Fraction in a given organization is composed of those Party members who are elected by the members of this organization to the leading committee. For example: An organization with 100 members may elect an executive committee of twelve. Among those twelve, there are three Party members. These three Party members compose the Leading Fraction of the organization.

These Fractions are under the control of the corresponding Party Committee or Local Party Bureau to which they must report regularly. At the same time, this Leading Fraction also has the duty of reporting to the general Fraction of the mass organization about their activities. The candidates for election in a mass organization are selected by the general Fraction, *but must be approved by the corresponding Party Committee* before they are proposed to the general membership meeting of the organization. In all detailed questions of the inner life and the daily work of the mass organizations and unions, the Fraction acts independently on the basis of the policy of the Party.

The Party Committee should check up on the daily work of the Fraction. But this should be done in such a way that it helps to develop ability to act independently. In cases of a basic controversy between the Party Fraction and the Party Committee on a question which otherwise is decided by the Fraction, a joint meeting of the Party Committee and representatives of the Fraction should be arranged at which the question should be clarified and a decision made by the Party Committee. This decision must be carried out unreservedly by the Party Fraction.

On problems which will be decided by the general membership meeting of the organization, the Fraction of this organization must take a stand. Every individual member of the Fraction must carry out the decisions of the Fraction at the membership meeting whether they are in agreement or not. At the present period it is especially important to organize the Fractions and make them work correctly in the African National Reparations Organization.

The Units and the Party Committees must take the responsibility for this basic Party task. It must be emphasized that without good working fractions, revolutionary mass work is impossible.

### **HOW DOES THE FRACTION FUNCTION?**

The Party Fraction in a branch of a mass organization or union meets regularly before the meeting of this organization. At this meeting the members of the Party Fraction discuss and decide how to apply the policy of the Party in the organization; how to introduce the Party campaigns; how to recruit new Party members from the organization; how to get new readers for *The Burning Spear*; and what things can be done to improve the conditions of the members of the organization. The decisions are made by vote on the various questions, and the minority must enthusiastically help to carry out the decisions. No Party member has the right to speak or act in the mass organization or union against the decisions of the Fraction.

The Party members must always act as a solid unit in the mass organizations. The masses look upon the Party as a disciplined body. If they should see that the Party members come to a meeting with different opinions on certain questions they will lose confidence in the ability of our Party to give them leadership. They will inevitably raise the question: "How can the Party claim to be a disciplined organizational leader of the masses if they cannot unite their own members on certain issues?"

If certain members of the Fraction do not agree with the decision of the majority, they can bring the problem to the Party committee and ask for a discussion, but this appeal cannot keep back the minority from its responsibility of carrying out the decision if the mass organization meeting happens to take place before the Party Committee can act on this appeal.

### **WHAT IS THE FUNCTION OF THE FRACTION SECRETARY?**

The members of a Fraction elect one comrade as secretary. Her /his work is as follows:

1. To maintain connections between Party Committee and Fraction.
2. To be personally responsible to the Party Committee for the proper functioning of the Fraction.
3. To check up and see to it that the Party members function in the Fraction.
4. To watch the behavior of the Party members in the mass organization.
5. To see to it that the Party campaigns are brought into the mass organization.

### **G. REPORTS.**

Reports should be filed with the National Director of Organizations on schedule. They must be read and discussed before the general membership, then approved, before being submitted.

### **H. PARTY MEMBERS MUST BE KNOWN AS FIGHTERS.**

In order to gain results the organization as a whole and every individual member of the organization, must be known by the masses in the neighborhood or city as fearless, unrelenting fighters in the interests of the oppressed colonized African masses and the international laboring class. In the daily work of the Unit and Local Party Organization, we should systematically gather all relevant information about the oppressed colonized African community and other sections of the population in the block or city.

We should know who is who and we should know not only those Africans who voluntarily gather around the activities of the Party organizations, but those who are inclined to be sympathetic as well as those who have been poisoned by the capitalist-colonialist propaganda of the enemies of African liberation and socialist revolution and by the Ideological Imperialist vermin. We should know those Africans who are members of the Ideological Imperialist organizations, as well as members of groups like the NAACP, SCLC, and PUSH and other organizations which are led and influenced by reformists, collaborators and reactionary leaders.

A Party Unit and/or Local Party Organization acquainted with the individuals in its area could formulate the correct, most compelling slogans and actions for the mobilization of the masses. Such a unit or Party organization would not have any great difficulties in taking its part in any General Party Campaign and carrying out the Party's general program and strategy.

In the General Party Campaigns, the different Party Units and organizations should be able to enlist all the sympathetic elements in the territory. A unit should know in advance who will contribute to or participate in a particular General Party Campaign and who is inclined to be against it, and should adjust its activities accordingly-not only in the general Party Campaigns, but also in personal contacts.

If the laboring and oppressed masses know through the Party organizations activity how bravely and uncompromisingly the Party fights for the interests of our people, and if at the same time the Party organization can convince the masses of the counter-revolutionary role of other parties-such an organization can gain tremendous influence and certain success in carrying out General Party Campaigns as well as other work important to the local organization.

Such an organization carrying on daily mass work (street and house meetings, house-to-house canvassing, distribution of *The Burning Spear*, publication of a neighborhood paper, etc.) during the General Party Campaigns, will not only show results for the campaigns, but will gain better conditions for the masses and win new recruits for the Party as well as new readers for *The Burning Spear*.

## THE PARTY AS AN ORGANIZATION OF POLITICAL ORGANIZERS

The African People's Socialist Party is an organization of political organizers; we are revolutionary politicians whose politics and organizing are in opposition to the politics and organizing of the capitalist-colonialist ruling class and its henchmen, lackies, and

political parrots. While the politics and organizing of the capitalist-colonialist ruling class are designed to maintain and reinforce colonialism, neo-colonialism and wage-slavery, all of which belong to the past and have been condemned by history and the awakening laboring masses of the world to a bloody death, the politics and organizing of the African People's Socialist Party are consistent with the needs and aspirations of the enslaved and exploited masses and represent the future of humanity.

As revolutionary politicians, as an organization of political organizers, every member of the African People's Socialist Party thoroughly understands the Party's general and ultimate aims as well as the chief strategic aim of the period. Every member of the Party is thoroughly familiar with and has complete understanding of the Party's general program and strategy.

The general and ultimate-aims of the Party, our General Party Program, are the essential elements of our Party which give us an identity of our own. These are the elements we must win the masses to and which guide our organizing efforts in every way. Therefore, to be successful in our tasks it is absolutely necessary for the entire Party membership in every Unit, City, and Party organization to have a thorough understanding of these elements.

Indeed, every Party member, political organizer, and revolutionary politician understands that as we do our day-to-day work, we are actively engaging the parties and organizations of the capitalist-colonialist ruling class in political struggle, the outcome of which will determine the immediate future of our people. Every Party member understands that we are in a political contest with the enemies of our people, with the counter-revolutionary politicians of the capitalist-colonialist ruling class, and that the outcome of our struggle will be determined by which of these forces is capable of winning and securing the loyalty of the broad masses of our people. As revolutionary politicians, Party members understand the need to make the ongoing struggle to win everyone possible to the Party's position and politics on every issue and question and to neutralize all those who cannot be won.

In order to win the people to issues and positions, the Party understands that it is absolutely necessary for the individual Party member to understand the basic fundamental elements of the Party's general and ultimate aims as put forward in our General Party Program as well as the issues and questions which may be involved during any particular campaign. This is thorough discussion occurs within every Party organization around these elements of the Party and around other issues and questions which the Party may be raising or which may be raised by the masses or the enemies of our liberation.

## **I. THE ALLIES OF THE LABORING COLONIZED AFRICAN MASSES.**

We are the African People's Socialist Party, the fighting Party of the laboring African masses, down to earth, working people's Party with a common sense line. The chief strategic aim of our Party is in the present period to win the vast majority of African

people to the struggle against U.S. domestic colonialism by realizing the programmatic and strategic objective of the Party and by recruiting the best of the African masses, those who display the greatest potential for fighting for the people and becoming African Internationalists, into the Party through one of the Party's program or committees.

This is the essential condition for victory over the capitalist colonialist ruling class within the U.S., and imperialism internationally, and for the preparing the laboring African masses for the decisive battles for the total destruction of imperialism in any of its forms. The revolutionary overthrow of the capitalist-colonialist system in the U.S. is the historic mission of the laboring African masses. However, the African masses will find it extremely difficult to realize their mission if they fail to win over the wide sections of the toiling and progressive masses within and outside the U.S. It is essential that the laboring African masses win to their cause all their allies, without which a successful revolution will be extremely difficult.

Who are the allies of the laboring colonized African masses within the U.S.? The Basic party line, a part of the General Party Program, which concisely explains the revolutionary outlook of the African People's Socialist Party, also deals with the questions of the allies of our people, both within the U.S. and internationally.

#### **J. APSP 14-POINT WORKING PLATFORM.**

The African People's Socialist Party explains to the laboring African masses that even those concessions which are won by them through hard-fought bloody battles will be taken back by the bourgeoisie, the U.S. capitalist-colonialist ruling class, unless the people build, support and strengthen their mass combat organizations such as the African National Reparations Organization. In these fights the masses will see their enemies, will realize their is only one Party they can trust, only one Party which fights uncompromisingly with them against all their enemies, the Party which is their flesh and blood, their Party-- The African People's Socialist Party. In this way, the African People's Socialist Party will win the confidence of the masses and become their recognized leader, their General Staff, their vanguard, which they will join and follow in the final battle to victory.

Toward this end the African People's Socialist Party has constructed a 14-point Working Platform which is a supplement to its general strategy and a part of of our General Party program, and which identifies various issues and needs to guide its day-to-day work and help the masses to develop general political unity with the Party and among themselves.