

EDITORIAL NOTES

In recognition of the invaluable contribution made to the cause of African independence by Amilcar Cabral, who was brutally assassinated on January 20, 1973, the editors of UFAHAMU wish to dedicate this issue to him. It is true that Cabral has fought and died for Guinean and Cape Verdean independence from Portuguese colonialism but he belonged to all peace-loving mankind. His was a vision of human dignity and freedom, and he was one of the very few in our century in whom one found an amazingly effective blend of thought and action, theory and practice.

No doubt, the true nature and extent of Cabral's greatness will be recorded for posterity by better chroniclers than we are; but we not only wish to express our anguish at the loss of so great a man, we also hope to generate a more sensitive awareness of the things for which Cabral has laid down his life. In this sense, our tribute is also an expression of our abiding faith in the ultimate victory of the African Revolution.

On January 25, 1973, the African Activist Association, publishers of this journal, organized a memorial rally for Cabral, and some statements and poems read on that day are being carried in this issue. Readers will also recall that since its inception, this journal has consistently highlighted various aspects of the liberation struggle as interpreted by such insiders as Cabral himself, Gil Fernandez, Basil Davidson and Ben Magubane. In fact, in our Fall, 1971 issue, Magubane examines the evolution of Cabral's revolutionary thought, and concludes with prophetic insight:

Revolutionaries need to know the pre-existing structures of society in which they operate (this need is the same as that of imperialism which creates various institutes to study the colonized) in order to carry out the transformations necessary to abolish the prevailing exploitative forms. This can only be done if the leaders know how to handle correctly the contradictions in the consciousness of the peasant, in order to enhance those positive aspects which favor revolution. Any wonder that the Portuguese are after Cabral's life!

Needless to say, it will be mere wishful thinking for anyone to imagine that the death of Cabral will slow down, let

alone halt, the march towards inevitable Guinean independence from Portuguese oppression. In fact, as we go to press, news has reached us that the mantle of PAIGC leadership has fallen on Aristides Pereira who will be working with such other competent men as Luis Cabral, Nino Viera, and Victorio Monteiro. The message comes loud and clear: the struggle must go on to ultimate victory. We urge our readers to lend their support to the momentous struggle in any way they can. Nobody, least of all a demented assassin, can stop the inevitable course of history.

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Readers will recall that in our last issue we carried a major presentation by Dr. Walter Rodney on "Problems of Third World Development" in which he discusses the roots of African 'underdevelopment.' As expanded in his book, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, his thesis is that a search for the roots of Africa's present state of underdevelopment need go no farther than Western colonialism and imperialism. Since that article, many of our friends and readers have indicated lively interest in contributing to a debate on this crux in African economic history. In this issue, two well-known academics, Dr. Edward Alpers and Dr. Bernard Magubane, fire the first salvos. We consider Dr. Rodney's thesis a significant contribution to African historiography and we encourage our readers to join the debate in any manner their spirit moves them.

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As everyone knows, these are hard times indeed. The area studies centers in this country are facing a real threat of financial strangulation, and the good old dollar is experiencing one of its worst times in recent memory. What all this means to us is that we have been forced to take a long hard look at our *modus operandi* and have been compelled to adopt a few austerity measures to ensure our continued existence. One is that we have adopted new subscription rates which can be seen on the inside front cover. These rates will take effect from our next issue (Vol. IV, No. 1) but will not affect all those whose current subscriptions have not run out. We hope that all you good readers will understand why we have to do this, and appreciate what we have come to learn: that these days it is no small feat for a journal of our ideological persuasion to continue in operation. In fact (we might as well say it) we shall not mind generous donations from those of you who, in all honesty, share our kind of commitment. We are determined to continue to exist, even if we have to be fed intravenously.

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In our next issue, we are going to focus on African literature, creative and critical. We already have in the works, contributions from Chinua Achebe, Romanus Egudu, Omolara Leslie, Emmanuel Obiechina and John Povey. We still need more contributions, and those of you who have something exciting to say should stir up their Muses and get going.

— The Editors

Up to the end of 1972, about seventy countries had promised immediate recognition of the new State, fruit of the liberation struggle of the people of Guinea-Bissau over the past fifteen years, ten of which have been years of armed resistance to Portuguese colonial rule.... So we have to begin to think about the PAIGC and Guinea-Bissau not as a liberation movement fighting inside a colony, but, as Cabral says, "as an independent State, part of whose territory and whose capital are still in the hands of the enemy." [From sources close to the PAIGC.]
