

DOCUMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Journal of African Marxists

This is to invite you to participate in the launching of the Journal of African Marxists. The necessity for such a journal has long been apparent, and the undersigned are taking the initiative in the firm belief that our efforts to create an organ for the development of Marxist thought will be widely supported. We include a statement of objectives and of policy. We would welcome your criticism and comment. We hope that you will find yourself in broad agreement with these statements in which event, let us know immediately. Also, please advise us of any other persons who may be interested. We are presently building a list of possible contacts and contributors and anyone who might be willing to help us in any way would be very welcome.

The Journal is being published in London for reasons of convenience, but we are establishing local organizing committees in various regions on our continent who will do the main work. While we have not yet fully worked out the roles of local organizing committees, it is planned that they should be the main source of articles and other contributions and also bear some responsibility for distribution, mobilization of local support and so on. Thus far, we have only one local organizing committee based in Zambia. It is undertaking the task, together with other individuals elsewhere, of establishing a continent-wide editorial board and regional correspondents.

We hope that you will be willing to send us additional ideas on how we can strengthen our organizational framework. Finally, we wish to stress that the Journal is wholly independent and is not associated with any political movement or organized political tendency. It is our hope that we will bring together a wide spectrum of opinion to further the development of Marxist thought in Africa. We look forward to hearing from you.

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Journal of African Marxists--Objectives:

1. To provide a forum for the exposition of the fundamentals of Marxism in the conditions of Africa.

2. To encourage thoroughgoing analysis of the problems of development in Africa from a Marxist perspective.
3. To discuss the various versions of Marxism current in Africa and subject them to scientific and constructive criticism.
4. To facilitate the emergence of a systematic and coherent Marxist body of thought illuminating conditions in Africa.
5. To serve as an instrument for the creation of Marxism discussion groups which shall develop alternative policies for Africa based on scientific socialism.

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From The Socialist Forum Committee, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

The Cowardly and Despicable Murder of Comrade Walter Rodney--Scholar, Statesman and Revolutionary

It was with the greatest shock that we learnt of the death of Dr. Walter Rodney on Saturday, June 14, 1980. On the previous day, Friday, June 13, Walter Rodney, a man of great knowledge, wisdom, compassion and deep commitment to the cause of the oppressed and exploited everywhere, was silenced forever by the hired assassins of Forbes Burnham in Georgetown, Guyana.

By this and other acts of murder, harrasment and intimidation, Burnham and the thugs of the Peoples National Congress (PNC) intend to crush the Working Peoples Alliance (WPA) and other progressive and patriotic forces in Guyana. Walter Rodney's murder was the third such crime committed by Burnham's agents against WPA leaders and activists in the last seven months. These were apart from the wanton arrests of several WPA members who have been falsely accused and subjected to all sorts of physical and psychological torture.

Walter Rodney's assassination soon after the adjournment till August 1980 of court proceedings in a fabricated case of arson against him and two other WPA leaders (Rupert Roopnarine and Omowale) is a clear testimony to the desperate circumstances of Forbes Burnham and his PNC government. They are finding the method of trumping up charges against their political opponents and the whole judicial process extremely cumbersome and seriously damaging to the credibility and survival of their shaky fascist regime. Consequently, they are resorting more and more to the quick, final and irreversible solution of political assassination.

In expressing our unshakeable solidarity with the WPA, the Guyanese working people and the entire progressive humanity in this our common hour of grief and darkness, we wish to affirm that no amount of bombs, bullets and treachery can detract one jot from the great and liberating work of intellectual and organizational combativeness that Walter Rodney has done among us.

We believe very firmly that what our fallen comrades of the WPA would most wish us to do in their memory is not to mourn them in helpless sorrow and despondency. They would rather want

us to get mobilized, strengthen our resolve and sharpen our organizational and combative readiness until total victory is won against the forces of mindless terror and repression.

Death to Burnham and his assassin squads!

Long live the WPA and the Guyanese Working People!

Long live the solidarity of all the Working People of the world!

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From the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (South Africa)

Children Detained Under the 'Terrorism Act'

Black children under the age of sixteen have been in detention for three months now in a racist prison in Cape Town. They are all kept under section six of the 'Terrorism Act.' Their detention follows the unrest in August at the famous Crossroads.

The names of the children, whose mothers have suffered great distress, are: 1. Nancy Gaika, 14 years old; 2. Carol Plaatjies, 14 years old; 3. Nokuzola Daniso, 15 years old; 4. Mildred Maxhama, 15 years old; 5. Ethel Mdladlana, 15 years old. The Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, calls on all peace-loving people to condemn the continued detention of these children; we also call upon the international community to condemn outright the NAZI practice of placing young children under detention by the brutal and inhuman NAZI regime of racist South Africa.

At a time like this it is well to renew the call those governments in the West who in spite of the blatant violation of human rights, on the part of South Africa, continue to strengthen that government through economic aid, trade, political support and military collaboration. It is distressing to see such relations been continued with the Nazi regime by countries that set great store by their own children's well being; countries who emphasizes love, health and security for their own children. We are looking forward to the day when Black children will mean something too to the Western world.

*Ngila Michael Muendane
Chief Representative*

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Urgent: U.S. Firms Plan to Dump Industrial Wastes On Africa

We cite here, as a matter of urgency, an article that appeared in the *Washington Post* on January 26, 1980. The essence of this article is that some African leaders(s) have accepted the dumping of chemical wastes on Africa, in exchange for \$25 milli

The entire African student body here, vehemently oppose the entertainment of the despicable idea of dumping any form of waste on any part of the continent. We also submit that such an act would be a violation of human decency beyond imagination, and sets a most dangerous precedent for which all African peoples cannot afford to ignore.

We therefore need your strong support in the following series of actions:

Inform the general public of the country through the media about the proposed dumpings as thoroughly as the enclosed facts permit:

(a) The problem of waste dumping is a very crucial issue in the U.S. Earlier dumpings are now resulting in leakages that contaminate both surface and ground water sources. Such seepages have been found to contain various decaying organics, bacteria, viruses, heavy metals, and a myriad of toxic substances. Unless strictly monitored and controlled, these contaminants can migrate for considerable distances, causing widespread pollution.

(b) Studies have shown that heavy metals and other chemicals become concentrated in the biological food chain. In addition, some crops like rice and vegetables, absorb quantities of salts and nitrates in toxic concentrations. Drinking water from contaminated sources also poses serious health problems. Air pollution is yet another of the several negative effects of waste dumping.

(c) Investigations have linked the following health problems with waste dumping: extremely high rates of miscarriage and birth defects; very high rates of liver and skin cancer, hypertension; and various nervous disorders in children.

(d) No African country possesses either the financial or technical resources necessary to monitor and regulate the problems associated with waste dumping. And Africans cannot expect the U.S. government to protect them from the actions of U.S. firms. History has shown this to be true.

The people must keep a watchful eye on public or private officials who for selfish ends might be interested in such deals. We have to be aware of economic arguments like efficient resource use and employment creation. Since the dispersal of pollutants pays no respect to international boundaries, \$25 million will hardly compensate for later loss of life and related medical costs all over Africa. A pertinent question of course is: Why do U.S. firms not want to dump their wastes in their territory?

We urge you to get involved in a concerted effort to locate the countries where the dumping "processed or unprocessed," is to take place. Posterity will appreciate your cooperation.

--The African Students Association (UCLA)

Statement of the Memorial Symposium on Walter Rodney

Held at the University of Dar es Salaam

We, members of the University community and the general public assembled to participate in the Memorial Symposium on "Walter Rodney's contribution to the Revolution" at the University of Dar es Salaam on July 22, 1980, in honor of our fallen colleague and comrade,

Noting

1. his immense contribution to the development of this University as a progressive institution;
2. his immense contribution to the cause of liberation in the Third World;
3. his efforts at developing militant solidarity between the oppressed peoples of Africa and the Caribbean;
4. his unequivocal support for the anti-colonial struggles in the former Portuguese colonies and white racist regimes in Southern Africa;
5. his profound intellectual contribution in furthering an understanding of the nature of imperialist oppression through his work How Europe Underdeveloped Africa; and finally,
6. his intense commitment to struggle against the tyrannical Forbes Burnham regime;

Do hereby express our condolence to the family of Dr. Rodney and their friends for the terrible loss they have suffered, and to assure them that we continue to cherish the legacy and memory of our brother, Walter Rodney;

And resolve

1. to condemn the neocolonial Burnham regime for the systematic destruction of all democratic rights in Guyana, for unleashing a reign of terror culminating in the brutal and cowardly assassination of Dr. Rodney in a desperate attempt to hold back the tide of the revolution in Guyana;
2. to express our militant solidarity with the Working People's Alliance and the progressive forces in Guyana struggling against imperialism and the barbaric reactionary Burnham regime in Guyana;
3. to express our dismay at the incomprehensible silence of the authorities of the University of Dar es Salaam following the assassination of the most illustrious revolutionary intellectual to have taught at this University;
4. to call upon the University of Dar es Salaam to confer posthumously the honorary doctorate upon the late Dr. Rodney during this year's graduation ceremony;
5. to erect a memorial to Dr. Rodney at the Revolutionary Square of the University of Dar es Salaam and to this effect a fund be established.

UCLA DIVESTMENT*

On Friday, July 18, [1980], after years of controversy, the Associated Students of UCLA Board of Control voted in favor of the divestment of its funds from banks that loan money to or do business in South Africa. This, in effect, means that ASUCLA, which operates the country's largest on-campus store and all food services on the UCLA campus, will switch its more than \$25 million in accounts from Bank of America and Security Pacific Bank to another bank or banks which meet the criteria established for future banking relationships. The Board of Control decision entails that the Associated Students of UCLA shall not maintain a principal banking relationship with a financial institution which either:

1. maintains a principal banking relationship with a South African entity, or
2. holds as part of its investment portfolio securities issued by the South African government.

In addition, further action was taken at the meeting to ensure effective implementation of the Board policy; complete compliance must be met by March 31, 1981.

By adopting this policy, Associated Students of UCLA joins five other University of California campuses where Associated Students organizations have voted to move their funds: UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, UC Riverside, UC Santa Barbara and UC Davis. The Board of Control's decision clearly established the priority of social responsibility over monetary gain in the area of investments, for the transfer of accounts may cost Associated Students of UCLA an estimated \$40,000. The majority of the board members, however, decided that this material cost was of secondary importance. The Board of Control decision also categorically repudiates the notion of United States firms in South Africa acting as "forces of change," but rather points to the necessity of breaking all economic ties with South Africa as a means of ending the unjust apartheid regime.

In view of the national emergence of the divestment movement against United States economic links with the racist South Africa regime, the officers of the new Graduate Students Association administration see this action on divestment as a great moral victory which will also concretely contribute to the internationally supported struggle for freedom currently being waged by the oppressed people of South Africa.

* Reprinted from The Docket, UCLA School of Law