

THE FUSE

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Number 8

(Formerly STATEVILLE RAPS)
NEW AFRIKAN PRISONER ORGANIZATION

April, 1978

TOWARDS A NEW ORDER

"Divide and conquer" is a strategy that is rooted in antiquity, dating back to the erection of the first oppressive state. It is one of the principal strategies the enemy uses to maintain his racist and oppressive rule. Its effectiveness is vividly demonstrated today by our muteness when agents of the state maim, murder, and exile brothers and sisters who are not directly related to us by kinship or friendship. This lack of concern, this it-ain't-none-of-my-business attitude, is partly responsible for occupying forces being able to terrorize and rape our communities with seeming impunity.

The potential for violence against the enemy is more menacing in prison than in the so-called "free society" because, in here, few escape the undisguised oppression. In addition, kamp pigs, because they are generally untrained and unarmed, are more vulnerable to ambushes and other forms of retaliation. The desperate need for the enemy to keep organizations, races, and individuals "at each other's throat", then, while no more urgent than out there, is seen much clearer in here.

Consequently, the efforts which several progressive brothers have undertaken to bridge the gap of disunity that currently exists between

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WAR FOR THE CITIES Part III

The war for the cities of amerikkka should be looked upon as a "means to an end", and not as an "end" itself.

The cities are the "nerve centers" for the amerikkkan nation, and act in ways similar to the nerves and blood vessels of the human body. The cities pump life into the nation; many cities are combined to form nations/states.

In modern societies, the city is the center of trade, commerce, and industry. The life-blood of a nation passes thru the cities similar to the way blood passes thru the heart.

The modern city is the center of communication, culture -- the brain and its nerves sending messages and impulses to the other parts of the body, making it possible for the body to move, breathe, feed itself, find shelter, and

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A CALL FOR A TASK FORCE ON CLASS X

House Bill 1500, or Class "X" as Governor Thompson has called it, has come under criticism from a number of quarters -- jurists, prisoners, lawyers, and even the legislators who passed it.

Although the bill when it was proposed was hailed as one of the most progressive the state has ever produced, the implementation of the bill (law) has shown it to be one of the worst relative to the invidious discrimination which results from it.

Not only does the law create two classes of prisoners, those who can avail themselves of it and those who are excluded from it, it also perpetuates the same kind of inequality which it was supposed to eradicate.

A case in point would be that of three prisoners who recently went before the Prisoner Review Board. All had served their minimums. All were going to the board for the first time. All got different discharge dates.

Normally there would be nothing extraordinary about this fact as one would expect men with different time to receive different dates for release. But what's unique in this instance is that the range of sentences were 2 yrs. to 6 yrs., 4 yrs. to 12 yrs., and 6 yrs. and 8 mo. to 20 years.

The prisoner with the lesser sentence received an out-date for August, 1978, and the prisoner with the longer sentence received an out-date for October, 1978.

Therefore, the question which need be raised is "What uniform criteria is being used in the determination process?"

Another element which may be worth considering is that the prisoner with the 2 to 6 years was black while the other two prisoners were white.

In addition, there has been some question about Class "X" and its racial implications -- few if any of the black legislators voted for its passage.

There is also the proposition that the large influx of black politicized prisoners has created a problem of control within prisons across the country. Especially those prisons in states where there is a large Urban Black population.

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ARMED STRUGGLE and NATIONAL LIBERATION



In analyzing the conditions of the Afrikan/Black colony under u.s. domination, we are faced with the dilemma of the most effective means/methods of struggle to obtain National Liberation. What will be the role of armed struggle in the Black Liberation Movement?

There are many forms of struggle that Black people will have to employ on the long and tedious path to independence and self-determination for the Black colony. Few will argue that without some form of struggle there

will be no progress. "Power concedes nothing without demand, it never has and never will."

Violence is not a thing to want or a thing not to want. It cannot be called into being or wished-out of existence. Violence is a part of the everyday lives of our people. We are subjected to police murders and shootings of Black youth in particular and Black folks in general, bad food, indecent housing, and inadequate medical care. Up to this point most of the violence has been directed against the Black colony. The u.s. state and its armed detachments have always used murder as an instrument of repression/suppression for those who resist.

We must have the capacity to use violence against a system that has been unmerciful in its use of violence against the Black colony. Armed struggle is not the only method of struggle that is needed, but it is central and essential in a serious national liberation movement. Armed struggle is an extension of political struggle (marches, rallies, strikes, boycotts). The liberation of the Black colony requires that political and armed struggle be developed concurrently.

The ability to carry-out armed actions in harmony with legal, political struggle is a necessity for our fight to obtain independence for New Afrika (i.e., Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia
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MENARD: A CONSTANT REIGN OF TERROR

Menard is a little-known prison kamp located deep in klan valley (Chester), in southern Illinois. The kamp is structurally very old with a diverse composition of captives. Blacks (or Afrikans), Puerto Ricans and other Third World prisoners are mostly from the larger urban areas of Chicago, Rockford, and East St. Louis, while there is a large score of whites from the surrounding communities on the southern tip of the state. The prison is likewise staffed with guards from the surrounding towns and counties, where a black face is likely to cause mass hysteria, so one can easily picture the state of things here for the Afrikan prisoner.

For the Afrikan captives here in Menard, life is a struggle for survival, and the white reaction to this survival effort is the cause of a constant reign of terror. This reign of terror against the Afrikan prisoner was initiated long-ago by the administrators of the kamp here and is now taken up by the white supremacist, self-styled nazi and ku klux klan members of these inmate cliques. The collaboration between the kamp administrators in general and certain klan elements within the administration, in particular, with the racist white prisoner, is the source of the murder and mayhem of countless Afrikan prisoners here since the prison's construction. N.A.P.O. will give a chronology of the events and racist attacks against the Afrikan captives here in Menard since May, 1973. The reason that this chronology only goes back five years is because this is the

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WAR FOR THE CITIES -- PART THREE (continued)

protect itself from harmful, negative elements.

Those who rule amerikkka are locked in battle with us, in a war for the cities. This war will decide amerikkka's fate -- and our own. Amerikkka seeks to maintain control of the cities so that it can maintain its life. We seek control of the cities to use them in making a new life for ourselves. Amerikkka wants to remain a nation, and we want to build a nation. Amerikkka wants to suppress the new life, the creativity and independence which stirs within us. We intend to destroy the u.s. as a nation which oppresses and exploits others, because this is the only way we can survive the present, and grow beyond survival to develop new ways of life.

"The question I've asked myself over the years runs this way: Who has done most of the dying? Most of the work? Most of the time in prison (on Max Row)? Who is the hindmost in every aspect of social, political and economic life? Who has the least short-term interest -- or no interest at all -- in the survival of the present state? In this condition, how could we believe in the possibility of a new generation of enlightened fascists who would dismantle the bases of their hierarchy?

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TOWARD A NEW ORDER (continued)

the various organizations here are to be commended. It is our sincere hope, however, that their labor transcends the backward practice of apportioning prison vice to the building of a genuine united front to combat the protrusive racism that stifles and impedes our normal development. Otherwise we will be doing the enemy's job for him, which is tantamount to fratricide: niggahs killing niggahs!

Our survival as a people demands that we return to our communities with no less than a sense of unity. This means that we must begin right now to build the type of climate in here in which we can better understand the nature of our oppression and the absolute need for national liberation. It means that "We begin with ourselves, with study and practice, the result of which will be that advanced elements in each prison will come together, will organize themselves in preparation for their part in organizing the people."

Build To Win!!

WAR FOR THE CITIES -- PART
THREE (continued)

"Just how many Amerikans are willing to accept the physical destruction of some parts of their fatherland so that the rest of the land and the world might survive in good health? How can the black industrial worker be induced to carry out a valid worker's revolutionary policy? What and who will guide him? The commune! The central city-wide revolutionary culture. But who will build the commune that will guide people into a significant challenge to property rights? Carving out a commune in the central city will involve claiming certain rights as our own -- out front. Rights that have not been respected to now. Property rights. It will involve building a political,

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POISONED ORANGE JUICE

On March , 1978, several Afrikan prisoners, after drinking orange juice that was served with breakfast, took ill and had to be rushed to the hospital. It was later learned that Stalker, the pig assigned to the dining room, had spiced the orange juice with disinfectant.

It was a premeditated act! For one thing, it is impossible for anyone short of a moron to mistake disinfectant for orange juice. Each exudes a distinct odor and has its name written in bold letters across the container in which it is stored. For another, Stalker's job was to insure that the line did not run-out of food during serving and that the dining room stayed clean -- not to handle any food himself. Moreover, Stalker is a known racist who has often been heard to say that "Niggahs need to be dead."

Our lives are in constant peril. Stalker obviously wasn't satisfied that the garbage they feed us, the poor medical care, and the beatings were killing us off quick enough. He had to take matters into his own hand.

It is time to stop bickering among ourselves and meet this latest racist act head-on!

MENARD: A CONSTANT REIGN OF TERROR (continued)

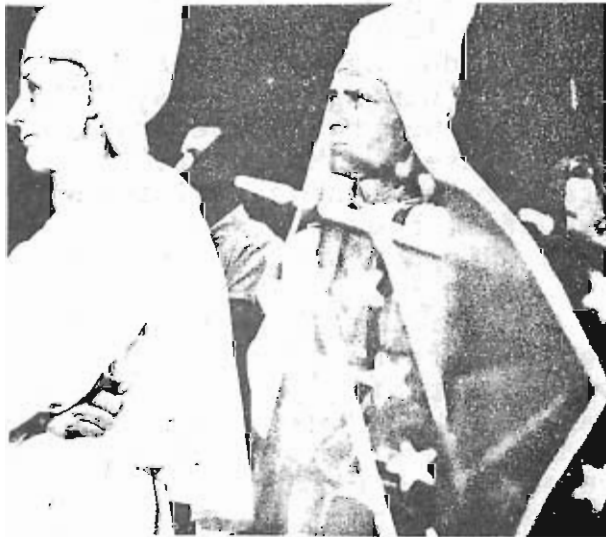
period in which only certain information can be factually ascertained, and this is by no means a complete list of happenings here within the past five years.

May, 1973, Afrikan prisoner, Lawrence Lampkin, murdered by prison guards after being accused of attacking parole and pardon board.

June, 1973, Afrikan prisoners gassed and beaten in segregation unit. These attacks stem from the pigs' reaction to a rebellion by Afrikan prisoners who took-over the inmate commissary in April of that year, demanding an end to the harassment and brutality of Afrikan prisoners.

March, 1974, white and Afrikan prisoners have confrontation in East Cell House. In the aftermath Afrikan prisoners beaten, gassed and given long-term segregation sentences.

April, 1974, white racists attack a group of Afrikan prisoners on one gallery, East House. When the fighting was over, one Afrikan prisoner was indicted for assault on an officer; many more were taken to segregation, others transferred to other prisons throughout the state.



May, 1974, known inmate klan leader stabbed after he attacked Afrikan prisoner. Afrikan prisoner, Arthur Vesey, charged and subsequently does eighteen months in segregation for defending himself. White prisoner never charged.

June to September, 1974, Afrikan prisoners constantly gassed, beaten and water-hosed in their segregation cells for protesting inhuman living conditions. Throughout these months protests by Afrikan captives were continuous.

February, 1975, Officer Reese, who was later fired for promoting klan activities throughout the prison, let open a gallery of whites to attack Afrikan prisoners. Five were stabbed; none seriously.

March, 1975, white inmates attacked a group of Afrikan prisoners in the dining room with kitchen knives. Prison guards stood by watching the melee until it seemed as if the Afrikan prisoners were gaining the upper hand. Afrikan shot in the face with tear gas canister.

March 7, 1975, Afrikan prisoners again attacked when prison guards opened up all of their cells and let white racists attack at will. One-hundred and fifty or more whites against an estimated
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ARMED STRUGGLE AND NATIONAL LIBERATION (continued)

and South Carolina). Armed actions are not premature at this stage in our struggle because our movement must have the capacity to counteract the violence of the oppressor with righteous revolutionary violence.

We have to begin now to prepare ourselves for a protracted fight. Armed detachments and guerrillas will not spring full-grown once the fight has begun. The Liberation Army must be weathered under conditions of actual fighting. "Without a Liberation Army, Black people have nothing." It is a serious error to wait and not prepare for an armed conflict.

Successful armed-actions carried-out against carefully selected political targets will increase the awareness and consciousness of the colonized. Black masses. Successful armed-actions will decrease the fear our people have of the oppressor. A correct analysis of the conditions within the u.s. and the process of national liberation will reveal that armed struggle is essential.

Seize The Time!

Newton Is Back

Newton is the big, hulking, niggah goon who -- while a stooge for the racist Brierton/Cartwright/Coons-mob, all of whom are suspected klansmen -- was chosen as the scapegoat and subsequently fired a year-or-so ago for particularly brutal assaults against Afrikan Prisoners in B-House (segregation).

The racist kamp keepers have once again shown their ill-concern for us by not only rehiring Newton, but reassigning him to B-House. And based on Newton's remark to several prisoners on his first day back at work that he is "gonna take-up where I left-off", we can only assume that more brothers will be maimed and killed.

WAR FOR THE CITIES -- PART THREE (continued)

social and economic infrastructure, capable of filling the vacuum that has been left by the establishment ruling class and pushing the occupying forces of the enemy culture from our midst. The implementation of this new social, political and economic program will feed and comfort all the people on at least a subsistence level, and force the 'owners' of the enemy bourgeois culture either to tie their whole fortunes to the communes and the people or to leave the land, the tools and the market behind. If he will not leave voluntarily, we will expel him -- we will use the shotgun and anti-tank rocket launcher." Comrade/Brother George Jackson, Blood In My Eye

We begin with the fact that there is a "vacuum" which has been created by the absence of "goods and services" in our communities. This "vacuum" serves to weaken our areas, and to weaken us as peoples/nations, to lessen our powers of resistance.

Those who rule amerikkka have deliberately gone about the business of making us dependent upon its "boards of education", its "kourts of Just-Us", its welfare agencies, city housing authorities, etc. Amerikkka has broken the sense of community that used to abound in our neighborhoods, and in this way makes people feel isolated from each other, and dependent upon the state to solve all problems and satisfy all needs, and to define all wants.

People on the block used to stick together. The neighbor-
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A CALL FOR A TASK FORCE ON CLASS "X" (continued)

Farther, it has been suggested that the life options for black youthful males are those of death, jail, or the military service. Since there is no war at present and black youthful male unemployment is nearly twice that of white youthful males, then it follows that the prison population will be over-represented by black youths. The mean age for the prison population has dropped from 30.5 years to 24.2 years.

Therefore the question of control becomes increasingly important to white prison administrators, and as a consequence every state with a significant black population in its prisons has sought to pass a similar bill as House Bill 1500 -- with emphasis on some kind of day-to-day provisions as a means of control.



Thus, because of the many problems envisioned in understanding and implementing the law, prisoners across the state have begun to prepare challenges to it. As a result of these efforts there is an urgent need for prisoners, lawyers, and their supporters to share ideas and information as well as coordinate their efforts for the most effective results.

Hence, we proposed that an Illinois Task Force on House Bill 1500 (Class "X") litigation be formed by prisoners with the assistance of their lawyers and supporters.

Presently, we are attempting to develop a central location for prisoners in the various prisons across the state to funnel information to and receive information from with regards to pending litigation and its progress. At this point we have one promising prospect which we will keep you informed of in future editions of THE FUSE.

Build To Win! OKUFU

WAR FOR THE CITIES -- PART THREE (continued)

hood was a big, "extended family". The children were the responsibility of the community, and all members of the community were responsible to and for each other.

Young black brothers and sisters should ask older bloods what our 'hoods were like in the '30s, '40s, '50s and even early '60s. We need to check our history, and give special attention to the "Northern Migrations", when we started moving to the southern cities, the northern cities, in the years following "emancipation", the first two decades of this century, the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. The more "urbanized" and "amerikkkanized" black people became, the more we abandoned each other, and the more shaky our family/social structure became. We came to

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MENARD: A CONSTANT REIGN OF TERROR (continued)

seventeen Afrikans in this official set-up. All escaped with their lives.

May, 1975, one of the bloodiest race wars in Menard's history. Unrest attributed to guards encouraging white inmates to attack Afrikan prisoners. Many seriously hurt. No deaths.

June, 1975, Afrikan prisoner, Shane, murdered by prison guards in segregation unit.

April, 1976, Afrikan prisoner's cell burned by klans. All personal property destroyed. Later, one of those involved in setting the fire was beaten nearly to death for his crime.

July, 1976, guards gas and beat Afrikan prisoners in segregation unit for protesting conditions.

December, 1976, guards brutally beat Afrikan prisoner, Charles Dye, for assaulting another guard. Guard who was said to have been assaulted is known for his racism and harassment of Afrikan prisoners.

February, 1977, a group of about 80 whites attack a small group of about 8 Afrikan prisoners after being locked in on a gallery by guards. A full ten minutes passed before guards returned to break-up the fight.

March, 1977, two Afrikan prisoners were beaten with steel bars and weights for supposedly using weights preserved for white inmates. One was severely injured.

May, 1977, whites again attack Afrikan prisoners with iron bars, weights and baseball bats. One severely injured; two slightly.

September, 1977, guards set-up Afrikan prisoner to be killed by white racist. Charles Williams was sent a call pass to the record office (signed by Capt. McDonough) where he was met by four or five knife-wielding white inmates. Another Afrikan prisoner came to his aid and was also injured, more severely than the brother aided. Guards made no attempt to stop the murder attempt until the two Afrikans gained the upper hand. No one was charged for this murder assault.

November, 1977, after a long train of abuses, Afrikan prisoners take the offensive. One guard is stabbed.

January 17, 1978, three Afrikan prisoners, George "Blast" Tucker, Willie "Lucky" Taylor and James Jenkins are accused of assault on a prison guard. All were severely beaten on several occasions for this alleged assault. However, it is widely known that the guards initiated this attack by opening one of the brothers' cell doors to do him harm. One of the brothers has been indicted for assault.

February 2, 1978, 18 Afrikan prisoners accused of the stabbing
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MENARD: A CONSTANT REIGN OF TERROR

of three klansmen. Of the 18 accused, 14 were given long term segregation sentences. One of the 14, Earl Johnson, has been indicted. Eyelle Thomas, Allen McNair, Richard Curry, Dedric Holmes, Marvin Jones, Anthony Hall, Robert Hunter, Gregory Martin, Larry Pittman, Al Green, Young, White and Harrison lost good time credit, demoted in grade, and placed in segregation. Over half of these brothers have absolutely no knowledge of this affair, but had the misfortune of being in the area where the incident took place.

March, 1978, Lt. Frazier beat an Afrikan prisoner, Robert Haskins, while he was in the medical unit seeking treatment. Haskins suffered a broken jaw from a kick in the face by Frazier.

March 5, 1978, prison guard Maurer came to cell of Bro. Al Green and made reference to the February 2nd incident and stated that the white inmate he is accused of stabbing sends his regards. This was taken as a direct threat upon brother Green's life from the inmate who sent the message and the officer who brought it. This guard has often reflected his solidarity with the white racist elements in this kamp.

The situation here in Menard is extremely severe, and unless outside pressure is placed upon those who control this kamp to stop brutalizing the Afrikan captives and to cease all klan activity here, "you have heard but the thunder before the fury of what is going to happen next."

Write letters of concern and protest to:

Gov. James Thompson
Capitol Building
Springfield, Illinois

Warden Michael P. Lane
Box 711
Menard, Illinois 62259

Charles J. Rowe, Director
Department of Corrections
201 Armory Building
Springfield, Illinois

WAR FOR THE CITIES -- PART THREE (continued)

depend less and less on each other, and to depend more and more on the oppressive state. Therefore, the first phase of our war for the cities must involve recreating a sense of community.

If black/non-white/poor people are to survive and have a future in amerikkka, we must become responsible to and for each other. We must have mutual respect, and we must come to depend on ourselves/each other, and break our dependence upon the enemy.

We must accept the fact that those who rule amerikkka are neither willing nor capable of satisfying our needs. It is not in their interest to have us employed, fed, clothed, properly housed, educated, and healthy.

Build To Win!!

BLACK LIBERATION CALENDAR

APRIL

2, 1949: Jim Mitchell, 65, and Irv Lee Parker, 18, lynched near Macon

2, 1969: N.Y. "21" BPP members arrested on conspiracy charges

3, 1950: Death of Carter G. Woodson, historian, in Washington, D.C.

4, 1899: Deward Kennedy "Duke" born, Washington, D.C.

4, 1968: Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

5, 1839: Birth of Robert Smalls, Reconstruction Congressman from South Carolina

6, 1931: First of Scottsboro Trials begin in Scottsboro, Alabama

6, 1968: Lil' Bobby Hutton murdered

7, 1712: Caromantees revolt in N.Y.; seized guns, swords, and hatchets and began setting fires and killing slavemasters. Kwako, one of the leaders, and 21 others were broken on the wheel and burnt at a slow fire.

9, 1898: Birth of Paul Robeson

9, 1947: CORE sends first group of Freedom Riders through south

10, 1938: Death of Joe "King" Oliver in Savannah, Georgia

12, 1787: Free Afrikan Society organized for social and educational advancement of Blacks in Philadelphia by Absalom Jones and Richard Allen

12, 1864: Nathan Bedford Forrest carries out Fort Pillow, Tenn., massacre

13, 1873: Over 200 Afrikans massacred on Easter Sunday in Grant Parish, La., by white league

15, 1889: Birth of Asa Phillip Randolph, trade union and civil rights leader, in Crescent City, Florida.

15, 1960: Student Non-violent Coordination Committee (SNCC) organized on Shaw University campus

17, 1974: BLA "New Haven Three", Hodari Diablo (Harold Simmons), Ashanti (Michael Alston), and Gunnie (James Haskins) invade the Tombs in N.Y. to liberate POWs

18, 1818: Andrew Jackson suppresses Afrikans and Indians at Suwanee, ending First Seminole War

18, 1955: Bandung Conference opens in Indonesia

19, 1948: Almas Shaw is the third Black victim in 3 weeks of Birmingham, Alabama, police

25, 1977: Assata Shakur given additional consecutive 33-year sentence on assault and weapons charges

26, 1969: BPP office in Des Moines, Iowa, bombed

27, 1803: Death of Toussaint L'Ouverture, Basanian, France

28, Chimurenga (War of Liberation) Day, commemorating all Zimbabwean Freedom Fighters who have sacrificed their lives in the struggle

IT'S WORTH REPEATING

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

We have waited for more than 340 years for our constitutional and God-given rights. The nations of Asia and Africa are moving with jetlike speed toward gaining political independence, but we still creep at horse-and-buggy pace toward gaining a cup of coffee at a lunch counter. Perhaps it is easy for those who have never felt the stinging darts of segregation to say, "Wait." But when you have seen vicious mobs lynch your mothers and fathers at will and drown your sisters and brothers at whim; when you have seen hate-filled policemen curse, kick and even kill your black brothers and sisters; when you see the vast majority of your twenty million Negro brothers smothering in an airtight cage of poverty in the midst of an affluent society; when you suddenly find your tongue twisted and your speech stammering as you seek to explain to your six-year-old daughter why she can't go to the public amusement park that has just been advertised on television, and see tears welling up in her eyes when she is told that Funtown is closed to colored children, and see ominous clouds of inferiority beginning to form in her little mental sky, and see her beginning to distort her personality by developing an unconscious bitterness toward white people; when you have to concoct an answer for a five-year-old son who is asking: "Daddy, why do white people treat colored people so mean?"; when you take a cross-country drive and find it necessary to sleep night after night in the uncomfortable corners of your automobile because no motel will accept you; when you are humiliated day in and day out by nagging signs reading "white" and "colored"; when your first name be-



comes "nigger" your middle name becomes "boy" (however old you are) and your last becomes "John"; and your wife and mother are never given the respected title "Mrs."; when you are harried by day and haunted by night by the fact that you are a Negro, living constantly at tiptoe stance, never quite knowing what to expect next, and are plagued with inner fears and outer resentments; when you are forever fighting a degenerating sense of "nobodiness" -- then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait. There comes a time when the cup of endurance runs over, and men are no longer willing to be plunged into the abyss of despair.

Oppressed people cannot remain oppressed forever. The yearning for freedom eventually manifests itself, and that is what has happened to the American Negro. Something within has reminded him of his birthright of freedom, and something without has reminded him that it can be gained. Consciously or unconsciously, he has been caught up by the Zeitgeist, and with his black brothers of Africa and his brown and yellow brothers of Asia, South America and the Caribbean, the United States Negro is moving with a sense of great urgency toward the promised land of racial justice.

* taken from: Letter From Birmingham Jail

LT. KOON REHIRED THE SYSTEM WORKS: FOR RACISTS

A few years ago the Menard Kamp was exposed as being a place where the klu klux klan openly operated, organizing both white prisoners and guards. The then Director of KorreCTIONS, allyn sielaff, in an attempt to cover up the scandal and save face, fired a white guard and the white chaplain. Last may in Stateville the entire leadership staff, warden david brierton and assistant wardens kapture and wallenstein, were dismissed along with the chiefs of security, major cartwright, capt. john stokes and Lt. koon. In a move reminiscent of the events at Menard the state left the door open for one of the guards to be rehired.

Lt. koon has been rehired as a Lt. at the Stateville Koncentration Kamp. There are valuable lessons to be learned from this strange turn of events. One, the state under pressure will attempt to put up a facade of justice. Two, the state is always trying to retain credibility by proving that their system works. In the case at hand they have shown that their system works but it only works for racists who are guilty of brutal criminal acts against prisoners. Lt. koon should have not only been fired from his job but prosecuted by the local state's attorneys office.

In Menard we had documented evidence of klan organizing and klan supported and sponsored attacks on Afrikan prisoners. There was evidence found that the guard who was fired supplied racist prisoners with weapons and turned his back when white prisoners used these weapons to attack Afrikan prisoners.

The history of Lt. koon's activities at Stateville are as infamous as the events at the Menard Kamp. While he was assigned as a Lt. in B-house (most of 1975) he was personally responsible for the daily beatings and barbarous acts carried out against Afrikan prisoners. Lt. koon is also under suit for the murder of young Mark Joseph who was beaten to death in the Detention Hospital at Stateville in December of 1975.

There is no concrete proof at this time whether Lt. koon belongs to the klan or any similar white supremacist or racist group. What's important is that there are similarities between his actions and the activities of klan-type groups. Lt. koon is, however, not the only known racist or bootlicker who is now stalking the grounds of Stateville



waiting on an Afrikan prisoner to prey upon. There are others: Lt. frank moran, bootlicker Roosevelt Fleming, lt. simmons, lt. lazenby, and Lt. Hayes (Bootlicker), to name a few.

It's also become clearer that the entire state prison apparatus is overtly racist to the core. So while we see that Afrikan prisoners in Illinois Koncentration Kamps are routinely brutalized by klan-type guards and their black lackeys, the administrators in Springfield are covertly supporting their actions while publicly attempting to disavow them. We say to state korrektional officials "What you are speaks so loudly, We hardly hear anything you say."

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WHY ASSATA WAS CONVICTED

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation to those progressive forces that have aided in the defense and support effort around our comrade Assata Shakur. While we fully appreciate the efforts of individuals and groups who came forward to aid our sister in her struggles with the corrupt police-court system, we do not lose sight of the fact that it was the low level of political consciousness on the part of most revolutionary elements that set the stage for Assata's unjust conviction.

The failure of most revolutionary and progressive forces in general, and east coast activists in specific, to rally to the support of our captured comrades gave the capitalist state police agencies unhindered leeway in framing and convicting many of our principal cadres. This failure to grasp the repressive tactics of the oppressor state has kept the enemies of the working peoples on top. Because of this political blindness the movement lost its initiative, robbed itself of social vitality and handed victories to our enemy. To lose the initiative in struggle is to lose the struggle. Unless the loss of initiative is regained the struggle is soon lost. There has never been a struggle that has been won by a defensive strategy, indeed, the best defense is a good offense.

Because the entire movement failed to grasp the change in the enemy's tactics and strategy beginning in 1971, many of its active elements mistakenly thought they could continue to oppose the schemes of political repression in the old way. They failed to understand that the narrow "criminalization" of comrades engaged in building the armed front constituted a revised approach in destroying militant organization on ALL levels of struggle. What was good for saving comrades persecuted with conspiracy charges in the sixties was not necessarily good for saving comrades in the post-Watergate period beginning in 1971. Organizations and various bourgeois elements within the movement would rally to the support of a Joann Little but not to the support of Assata. They would support Ben Chavis but not Rap Brown, or support Rap Brown and not the comrades of the BLA. In truth all should have been supported but the dividing line was based on just how the enemy set the stage for its repression, instead of on how the movement viewed its position. The liberalism of the Communist Party helped determine who was a political prisoner and who was an adventurist unworthy of support. The fear of Black bourgeois leadership determined whether Joann Little or Assata Shaku was supported. In short, it was safe to defend some and unsafe to defend others. Only at the eleventh hour did the black liberals come forward to help Assata, and then it was too late.

Because the racist u.s. government lost face and ground as a result of their use of conspiracy laws and criminal charges against activists of the sixties, and because of the political divisions of u.s. ruling circles caused by the Watergate scandal, it became necessary for the government to criminalize and depoliticize the most radical activities of the Black movement specifically, and the left in general, in order to check their truly revolutionary development. An additional and important benefit to such an approach was the sympathy such "criminalization" of radicals would elicit for law enforcement, an essential obstacle in blocking full revelation of FBI, CIA, and law enforcement wrong doing. The reactionary government zeroed in on the developing armed front, because it knew the mass front of the entire radical spectrum would not support it, and in withholding its support, the entire movement doomed its own development.

The u.s. government knew then (1971) as it knows now that the crisis of its order would grow worse and that if the movement for revolutionary change in the u.s. was to grow it would have to grow TOWARD armed struggle and not away from it, and that the masses of american people would increasingly accept the idea of overthrowing their rulers as such a crisis evolved. For the reactionaries the solution was simple: short circuit any wide

spread acceptance of revolutionary violence now and the entire movement would slow in its development. Thus while the police agencies of the government trained their lackeys to combat food riots and high unemployment rates, these same agencies carried forward their repression and programs of violence against the armed front of the movement. Of course the low level of politics on the mass front would not allow itself to support the armed front and therefore people in general would not become educated. In one stroke the racist government not only stalled the revolutionary development of the movement, but the movement itself helped them! The question never was whether or not leading elements for revolutionary change understood the objective dialectics of its own development and how it related to both the less political public and the crisis of u.s. capital. Obviously such understanding did not exist. The stage for Assata's conviction was set when the first BLA case ended in a conviction in 1971. In truth and in fact, Assata's conviction was ordained by the very movement she belonged to. When the first BLA related case went to trial and the Nationalist and Left forces did nothing they first and foremost compromised and weakened themselves and handed the initiative over to the forces of reaction. We have yet to regain this lost initiative.

We have begun to formulate a petition to the U.N. concerning political prisoners inside the u.s. as one of many possible "struggle programs" that can regain the movement's lost initiative. Organization around this issue can build concrete support for comrades such as Assata. In order for this move to be successful it must reach outside of the movement and gain popular support. The political means by which the U.N. petition gathers support is directly related to how well the entire nationalist and left movements marshal their forces, and how well the crimes of capitalist repression are linked to the issues of human rights, racism, poverty, genocide and chronic unemployment. The gathering of international support necessary in making such a petition meaningful will go a long way in strengthening the entire movement and weaken the forces of fascism and racism in the u.s. and abroad.

As long as the various liberation movements and the left are unprepared to struggle on all levels at once, legal and extra-legal, Assata's conviction will remain a defeat for the forces of freedom. Only when the lesson of her conviction is correctly understood will the movements for liberation and freedom become subjectively prepared for the next stage of struggle that lies ahead. We call upon all to learn the lesson of Assata's conviction and join us in seizing the initiative from our hated oppressor and enemy of the world's people.

BUILD TO WIN!!

Coordinating Committee

NYURBA

B.L.A.



NEW AFRIKAN PRISONER ORGANIZATION

N.A.P.O. IS A REVOLUTIONARY NATIONALIST CADRE ORGANIZATION. ITS MEMBERS ARE IMPRISONED NATIONALS OF THE COLONIZED NATION -- NEW AFRIKA. IT IS COMMITTED TO RAISING THE AWARENESS OF ALL OUR PEOPLE TOWARD THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIO-CULTURAL FORCES WHICH SERVE TO OPPRESS AND EXPLOIT US, AND WHICH SEEK TO MAINTAIN THE SUBJUGATION OF THE NATION.

N.A.P.O. IS COMMITTED TO PROMOTING A REVOLUTIONARY NATIONALIST CONSCIOUSNESS AMONG ALL OUR PEOPLE. IT IS COMMITTED TO PROMOTING UNITY AMONG ALL OUR PEOPLE. IT IS COMMITTED TO AGITATING, EDUCATING, ORGANIZING AND MOBILIZING OUR PEOPLE SO THAT WE CAN SUCCEED IN OUR PROTRACTED WAR FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND THE LAND UPON WHICH TO ESTABLISH THE NEW AFRIKAN PEOPLES SOCIALIST REPUBLIC.

N.A.P.O. ENCOURAGES AND WILL PROVIDE POLITICAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR THE RIGHTEOUS STRUGGLES OF ALL PRISONERS FOR HUMAN, POLITICAL AND LEGAL RIGHTS, AND WILL UNITE WITH ALL ORGANIZATIONS WHICH SEEK TO DO THE SAME.

N.A.P.O. WILL UNITE WITH AND SUPPORT ALL THIRD WORLD PRISONERS AND NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. IT WILL UNITE WITH AND SUPPORT ALL WHITE PRISONERS AND ORGANIZATION WHO ARE GENUINELY FIGHTING IN SOLIDARITY WITH NON-WHITE PRISONERS AND NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

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