

Racial discrimination in the United States is a product of the colonialist and imperialist system. The contradiction between the Black masses in the United States and U.S. ruling circles is a class contradiction. Only by overthrowing the reactionary rule of the U.S. monopoly capitalist class and destroying the colonialist and imperialist system can the Black people in the United States win complete emancipation.

— MAO TSE-TUNG

Afro-American Struggle Against Violent Repression Developing Vigorously

Chairman Mao's great statement points out direction of struggle
for the Black people in the United States

FIVE years ago, on August 8, 1963, our great leader Chairman Mao Tse-tung issued his "Statement Supporting the Afro-Americans in Their Just Struggle Against Racial Discrimination by U.S. Imperialism." This statement of Chairman Mao's, which is of great historic importance, is an expression of his deep concern and resolute support for the broad masses of struggling Afro-Americans and all the exploited and oppressed people in the United States. It provides a powerful ideological and theoretical weapon for their revolutionary struggle, points out the direction and the road of their advance and gives immense inspiration to Afro-Americans and revolutionary people throughout the world.

This statement of Chairman Mao's issued five years ago points out that "the evil system of colonialism and imperialism arose and thrived with the enslavement of Negroes and the trade in Negroes, and it will surely come to its end with the complete emancipation of the Black people." The vigorous development of the Afro-American struggle against violent repression and the revolutionary struggles of the people throughout the world in the past five years have increasingly proved that this great prediction and wise conclusion by Chairman Mao will become a shining reality.

The Afro-American struggle for freedom and emancipation in the past five years, like a roaring

volcano which erupts ever more furiously year by year, rocked the United States and violently shook the reactionary rule of U.S. imperialism at home. It brings into bold relief the sharpening class and national contradictions in the United States and the grave political and economic crises confronting U.S. imperialism today. It fully demonstrates the extremely powerful revolutionary force latent in the more than 20 million Afro-Americans.

Increasingly Heightened Political Consciousness, Stronger Resistance

A marked characteristic displayed by the Afro-Americans in their struggles in the past five years is that they have become increasingly conscious of the need to fight for their own emancipation. They have steadily and resolutely done away with "non-violence." They are waging a violent struggle against racial oppression—a struggle which is growing wider and wider in scale and becoming ever fiercer.

The "freedom march" against racial discrimination by about 250,000 Afro-Americans in Washington in 1963 belonged to the category of "non-violence." The struggle by Afro-Americans in the Harlem District of New York City, in July 1964, when they fought thousands of troops and police with rocks, clubs and incendiary

bottles for six days and nights on end marked the beginning of the large-scale violent struggle of Afro-Americans against racial oppression. From then on, the Afro-American violent struggle spread like a prairie fire all over the United States. According to the greatly minimized statistics of the U.S. bourgeois press, the Afro-American struggle by violence broke out in 15 cities in 1964 and 9 cities in 1965. It rapidly spread to 38 cities in 1966, to as many as 128 cities in 1967, and to 131 cities in the first half of 1968. Of these, the struggles by violent means which occurred in the Watts District of Los Angeles in 1965, in Chicago in 1966, and in Newark and Detroit in 1967 were on a comparatively large scale. In these struggles, the Black people shouted: "It is better to fight on your feet than to live on your knees!" This has fully shown the Afro-Americans' dauntless militant spirit.

Afro-American clergyman Martin Luther King, an advocate of non-violence, was murdered by the U.S. imperialists in April 1968. This served as a further profound lesson to the broad masses of Black people in the United States, and set off a new storm of struggle against violent repression, which swept more than a hundred American cities. Shouting "It's time to get our guns and go out into the streets," the Afro-Americans attacked the fascist troops and policemen, set fire to shops of white racists, and completely upset the reactionary social order. Big cities such as Washington, Chicago, Los Angeles, Detroit and Baltimore were thrown into great confusion. Alarmed by the vigorous development of the Afro-American violent struggle, the Western bourgeois press more than once admitted that "non-violence is finished."

Opposing Racial Oppression and the War of Aggression Against Vietnam

An important indication of the Afro-Americans' rapid political awakening is that more and more of them are now linking up their struggle for emancipation with the struggle against the U.S. imperialist policy of aggression abroad. Some of the more advanced elements among the Black people have begun to realize that Afro-Americans can never win complete emancipation unless the imperialist system is smashed.

In their struggles during the past few years, Afro-Americans have fought against racial discrimination and racial oppression with unprecedented fury. Shouting the slogan "Black power," they have unmistakably made clear their determination to win their own emancipation. At the same time, they are taking an active part in the American people's struggle against the war of aggression in Vietnam, thereby hitting directly at U.S. imperialism's policy of aggression. In order to develop this struggle in an organized way, the Black people in various parts of the country have set up

organizations against the war of aggression in Vietnam. Last March, Black people set up the "National Black Anti-War, Anti-Draft Union." The Black masses' anti-war demonstrations have gained ever greater momentum. Their slogan was: "End the dirty war in Vietnam!"

The Afro-Americans' strong opposition to U.S. imperialism's aggressive war against Vietnam was sharply highlighted by the refusal of many young Afro-Americans to be drafted. They burnt their draft cards and drove away draft officials who went to colleges or universities for Afro-Americans to collect cannon-fodder. In their anti-draft struggle, Black students shouted: "Our battlefield is right here in the United States!" Among those Black youths who have been drafted, not a few have defied the U.S. imperialists' "military laws" and refused to serve as their instrument of murder. A number of Black soldiers stationed in Texas distributed leaflets, publicizing the idea that what the Black people should do is to oppose aggression and rise in revolution. Many Black soldiers brought to the Vietnam battlefield refused to carry out combat orders. They are also giving active support to their brothers at home in their struggle against violent repression by constantly sending back guns and ammunition to arm their comrades-in-arms. It was reported that some of the weapons used by the Black people in the recent struggle against violent repression in Cleveland were sent back by Black soldiers from Vietnam.

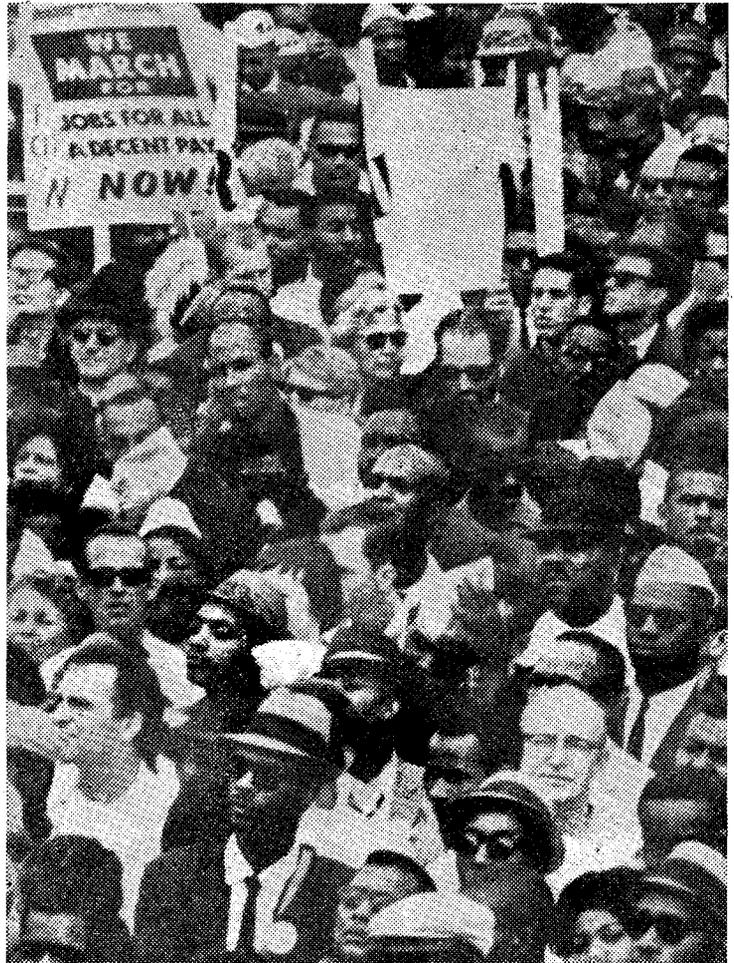
Undaunted in Face of Racist Violence, Invulnerable to Deception

The mighty storm of the Afro-American struggle in the past few years took place in the very heartland of the U.S. ruling circles at a time when U.S. imperialism was beset with difficulties at home and abroad. It has thus dealt the U.S. imperialists a very hard blow politically and economically. Badly mauled, the U.S. rulers have stepped up their counter-revolutionary two-faced tactics of violent suppression and political deception in an attempt to put out the raging flames of the Afro-American struggle. But the Black people have become stronger than ever in the struggle; they refuse to submit to racist violence or to be taken in by deception. This is a striking manifestation of the revolutionary spirit of the Black masses, of their heroism and perseverance.

Under the heavy blows of the Afro-American struggle, reactionary U.S. ruling circles have frequently called out the National Guardsmen to suppress the Black people. At the peak of the Black people's nationwide struggle against violent repression in April this year, the Johnson Administration called out more than 70,000 men from the army and the National Guards

The Afro-American struggle is not only a struggle waged by the exploited and oppressed Black people for freedom and emancipation, it is also a new clarion call to all the exploited and oppressed people of the United States to fight against the barbarous rule of the monopoly capitalist class.

— MAO TSE-TUNG



Quarter of a million people stage Freedom March on Washington in August 1963 against racial discrimination.

Angry Black youths defy fully armed National Guards in Pittsburgh.

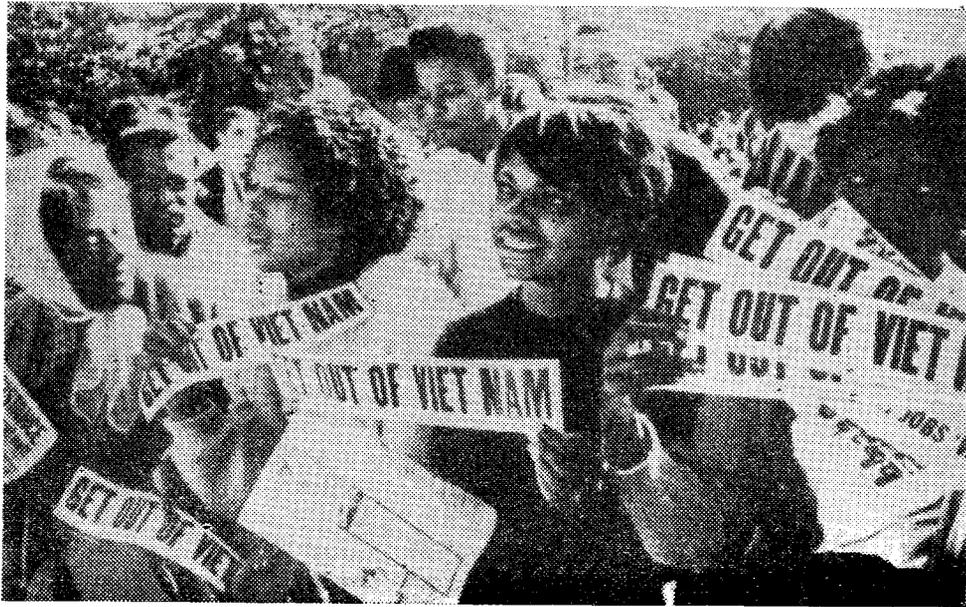


The flames of the Afro-American struggle rage in Washington, D.C.





Mass resistance to police repression in Detroit.



West Coast Afro-American women demonstrate against U.S. war of aggression in Vietnam,



Down with U.S. imperialism! — that's the slogan of New York's Harlem Black protest marchers.

to carry out a vicious suppression. Even the Associated Press had to admit that this was "apparently the largest military deployment for a civil emergency in American history." In late April, the U.S. Defence Department set up a "special command" to control "riots" and established units in active service responsible for directing the suppression of the Black people's struggle against violent repression. The U.S. army has increased the number of its "special force" units charged with the task of suppressing the people's struggle from seven to twelve.

While intensifying fascist suppression, the reactionary U.S. ruling circles have resorted to political tricks with redoubled efforts. In the last few years, the U.S. authorities signed one or two "civil rights bills" in the White House with a big fanfare every year to hold out some empty promises or a little bit of economic bait in order to hoodwink the Black masses and make them give up their struggle. At the same time, the reactionary U.S. ruling circles have also picked out a few reactionary stooges from among the Black people and made them judges, congressmen, and even generals or mayors so as to put up a facade to gain the confidence of the people on the one hand and, on the other, to sabotage the Afro-American struggle directly.

But neither violent suppression nor political deception can stop the advance of the tidal waves of the Afro-American struggle against racial oppression. Not long after the powerful struggle swept more than 120 U.S. cities in April, gunfire against racial oppression was sounded again in Cleveland and other cities this summer. And it is precisely in Cleveland and Gary where the U.S. reactionary ruling group has installed Black mayors that the Black people's struggle for emancipation has been the most powerful. Armed with machine-guns and other weapons, the Black masses in Cleveland fought a fierce battle for a whole night, killing 3 reactionary policemen and wounding 19 others. This shows that the Black people are continuously making rapid progress in their struggle against violent repression.

New Clarion Call for American People's Struggle

As the political and economic crises of U.S. imperialism go from bad to worse, the mounting struggle of the Afro-Americans is giving a more powerful impetus to the struggle of the American people in other fields, particularly the struggle of the progressive students. In the American student movement, the Black students are the most courageous and resolute, and they stand in the forefront of the struggle. Almost all of the U.S. progressive students' struggles against the reactionary authorities have first developed in colleges for Afro-Americans or were sparked by Black students. Thanks to the stimulus given by the Black students, the progressive student movement in the United States has had a rapid development in the last few years. Strikes and demonstrations took place in more than 100 American colleges in the first five months of this year. The

large-scale strike which occurred at Columbia University in New York in May against racial discrimination, the U.S. aggressive war in Vietnam and political persecution lasted over a month and shook the whole country. Fighting shoulder to shoulder, Black and white students of this university occupied a number of school buildings several times. They hoisted red flags, detained the dean, searched the office of the president, and on several occasions fought fiercely against the several thousand fascist police sent to suppress them.

While the struggle of the Afro-Americans has dealt hard blows at the reactionary rule of the U.S. monopoly capitalist class, the workers' movement in the United States has also been gaining momentum. Strike struggles have been surging forward one after another since last year and have reached the highest level in the past 15 years in both momentum and magnitude. It should be noted that since more and more Afro-Americans have been compelled to move to cities or towns, the majority of the Black people have now become workers or unemployed workers. Many have taken an active part in the struggle against racial oppression, thus bringing the militancy of this struggle into the workers' movement. In July last year, the strike called by about 200 Afro-American workers in the transportation department of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in protest against overtime work imposed by the capitalists rapidly developed into a large-scale company-wide strike involving 20,000 Black and white workers in the shipyard. The strikers engaged the fascist troops and policemen in a fierce fight. Also in July last year when the Afro-American struggle against racial oppression broke out in Detroit, a large number of poor white workers there actively joined the struggle. All this shows that the struggle of the Black people in the United States is bound to step by step embark on the correct road of merging with the American workers' movement.

At the crucial moment when the struggle of the Black people in the United States was surging ahead and the struggle of the other American working people was also gaining momentum, our great leader Chairman Mao on April 16 this year issued a statement in support of the Afro-American struggle against violent repression. Chairman Mao pointed out: **"The struggle of the Black people in the United States is bound to merge with the American workers' movement, and this will eventually end the criminal rule of the U.S. monopoly capitalist class."** Chairman Mao issued the great militant call: **"People of the whole world, unite still more closely and launch a sustained and vigorous offensive against our common enemy, U.S. imperialism, and against its accomplices!"** During the past five years, the waves of the Black people's struggle for emancipation in the United States have been surging ahead mightily. The raging flames of the world's people's struggle against U.S. imperialism are burning brighter and brighter with each passing day. It is certain that the reactionary rule of U.S. imperialism will not last long.