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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.

— MAO TSETUNG

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# The Just Struggle of the Afro-Americans Is Sure to Win

— Commemorating first anniversary of Chairman Mao's Statement in  
Support of the Afro-American Struggle Against Violent Repression

ON April 16 a year ago, our great leader Chairman Mao issued his Statement in Support of the Afro-American Struggle Against Violent Repression. This statement is another glorious Marxist-Leninist document on the Afro-American struggle following the "Statement Supporting the Afro-Americans in Their Just Struggle Against Racial Discrimination by U.S. imperialism" made by Chairman Mao in 1963.

Chairman Mao pointed out in his statement last year: "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." The development in depth of the Afro-American struggle and the new upsurge of the revolutionary mass movement of all the American people in the past year have vividly borne out this scientific thesis of Chairman Mao's.

Following the Black people's struggle against violent repression which swept more than 160 American cities on an unprecedented scale last spring, new waves of struggles against violent suppression raged one after another in Cleveland and dozens of other cities. Meanwhile, the workers' movement in the United States developed tremendously. There was a total of 4,950 strikes by American workers in 1968. Students in more than 100 American universities and colleges took part in strikes and demonstrations to strongly oppose the aggressive war against Vietnam, racial discrimination and the decadent bourgeois educational system. The Afro-American struggle, the workers' movement and

the progressive student movement, which echo and are interwoven with one another, have dealt the reactionary rule of the U.S. monopoly capitalist class a telling blow.

Chairman Mao pointed out in his statement: "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." With the daily sharpening of the class struggle and the development in depth of the Afro-American struggle in the United States, this truth has been understood by more and more Afro-American people.

The system of racial discrimination in the United States is one of the mainstays by which U.S. imperialism maintains its reactionary rule. The U.S. monopoly capitalist class uses racial discrimination as an important means to grab super-profits and divide the broad labouring masses. So long as the capitalist system exists in the United States, U.S. ruling circles will never forsake their policy of racial discrimination; on the contrary, they will only intensify the racial oppression and class oppression of the broad Afro-American masses. Inheriting the mantle of previous U.S. governments, Richard Nixon has employed counter-revolutionary dual tactics against the Black Americans. On the one hand, he emphasizes "law" and "order" and has intensified the violent suppression of the Black people. What is especially pernicious in this respect is his policy of

using Black people to fight the Black people by recruiting Black Americans into the police force. On the other hand, he is unscrupulously engaged in political deception by advocating the "development of Black capitalism," pretending to be concerned over the Black people's welfare. This trick of Nixon's is most ridiculous. The root cause of the sufferings of the Afro-Americans lies precisely in capitalism. The so-called "development of Black capitalism" simply means fostering a handful of Black capitalists while subjugating the broad masses of Afro-Americans and making them eternal slaves of capital. How can such a clumsy trick deceive anybody? From the practice of their own struggle, the Afro-American masses have come to understand more and more clearly that to win complete emancipation, they must unite with the broad masses of the white working people, merge their struggle with the workers' movement and use revolutionary violence to overthrow the criminal rule of the U.S. monopoly capitalist class.

In his statement, Chairman Mao has made a great 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!"** The tide of the great struggle now being waged by the proletariat and the broad masses of the

people throughout the world against U.S. imperialism and Soviet revisionism is rising vigorously. That the Afro-American struggle is taking place in the very heart of the world's counter-revolutionary forces — the United States — is of great international significance. This struggle is a component part of the great struggle by all the people of the world against U.S. imperialism and Soviet revisionism, and a component part of the world revolutionary movement in our era. **The valiant struggle of the Black people in the United States is a powerful support to the people of other countries fighting against U.S. imperialism, while the anti-U.S. struggles of the people of all countries are a support to the revolutionary struggle of the Afro-Americans. All these revolutionary struggles which support one another have converged into a huge torrent of the world revolutionary movement in the present era, and are pounding vigorously at the entire old world. It can be said with certainty that, with the support of the revolutionary people who comprise over 90 per cent of the world population, the Afro-American struggle and the revolutionary struggle of all the American people will inevitably sweep the whole country like a raging fire and reduce U.S. imperialism to ashes.**

*("Renmin Ribao" editorial, April 17)*

## Afro-American Struggle Developing in Depth

**O**UR great leader Chairman Mao issued his Statement in Support of the Afro-American Struggle Against Violent Repression on April 16, 1968. With its incontrovertible truth, this statement greatly inspires the broad masses of the Afro-American people in their just struggle to win freedom and emancipation. During the past year, the Afro-American struggle has been surging ahead wave upon wave and developing in depth daily. The trend of this struggle to merge with the workers' movement has become more and more obvious. Its spearhead is clearly directed at the criminal rule of the U.S. monopoly capitalist groups. An ever fiercer and greater storm of the revolutionary struggle of the Afro-Americans is bound to come.

The Afro-American struggle in the past year has developed on the basis of the violent resistance against racial discrimination started five years ago. On August 8, 1963, Chairman Mao issued his "Statement Supporting the Afro-Americans in Their Just Struggle Against Racial Discrimination by U.S. Imperialism." Chairman Mao's brilliant thinking has rapidly raised the political consciousness of the Black Americans. Breaking the shackles of "non-violence," they launched one large-scale violent struggle after another against bloody repression by fascist troops and police in Har-

lem (New York) in 1964, in Watts (Los Angeles) in 1965, in Chicago in 1966 and in Newark and Detroit in 1967.

The Afro-American struggle in 1968 developed a step further and brought about a new situation. In early April, in only a week's time, the flames of this struggle against violent repression spread over the country to more than 160 cities and towns. Even Washington, the ruling centre of the U.S. monopoly groups, became a battlefield where the Afro-Americans fought tenaciously. This powerful storm dealt the U.S. reactionary ruling circles a stunning blow. Alarmed, they said that it was the "most serious internal crisis" in the United States in the last 100 years. All this fully illustrates the rapid awakening of the Afro-Americans and, **"it shows that an extremely powerful revolutionary force is latent in the more than 20 million Black Americans."**

### Black Workers' Increasingly Prominent Fighting Role

Black workers have played an increasingly prominent fighting role in the Afro-American struggle during the past year. This is a marked characteristic showing that the struggle is developing in depth. In the stormy nationwide actions of the Afro-Americans

against violent repression, the Black workers took the lead in starting spontaneous strikes everywhere, forcing many factories to stop production. Noteworthy is the fact that in many industrial cities, the Black workers have begun to form caucuses which by breaking the control of the scab union bosses have directly led the strikes, giving a powerful impetus to the strike struggle of the American workers as a whole. The strikes by the Memphis sanitation workers and Chicago's public transport workers and the whole series of strikes in many Detroit auto plants were all held by Black workers with the support of white workers by breaking through the obstruction and disruptive activities of the monopoly capitalist class and the scab unions.

Apart from raising economic demands, the Afro-American workers have put forward clear-cut political demands in the struggle, directing the spearhead of their struggle at the monopoly capitalist groups and their agents. Although the monopoly capitalist class and the scab union bosses have racked their brains and tried in every way possible to control, strangle and undermine the Afro-American workers' struggle, the Black workers have steadily increased their activities to get rid of the control of the scab unions and organize themselves in the fight since last year.

Under the impact of the Afro-American struggle against violent repression and with the Black workers playing an influential role, the militancy of the broad masses of the workers in the United States has steadily increased. Their struggle against the control by the bosses of the scab unions is further developing. Last year, for instance, at least 25 spontaneous strikes took place in the iron and steel industry against the wishes of the scab union bosses, and there was a large number of rank and file committees organized by the masses of workers themselves.

The militant role played by the Afro-American workers has far-reaching significance for the Afro-American struggle and the American workers' movement. More and more Black workers have gone into some U.S. basic industries in recent years, and their position in American society has become increasingly important. For instance, Black workers in the automobile industry make up 35 to 50 per cent of all American auto workers. In important industrial cities such as Chicago, Detroit and Newark, they make up 40-50 per cent of all the workers there. Suffering from all kinds of political discrimination and oppression and ruthless economic exploitation, the Afro-American workers are most resolute and courageous in the struggle. As the Black workers in the United States mount on the political stage of the country still further, the Afro-American struggle is bound to merge further with the U.S. workers' movement to hasten the end of the criminal rule of the U.S. monopoly capitalist class.

### **Afro-American Struggle Directly Spurs Student Movement**

The Afro-American struggle has also directly spurred the student movement in the United States. In

the past year, the student movement has spread to nearly every university in the country and even large numbers of middle school students in many parts of the country have taken part in it. Standing in the forefront of this struggle are brave, unyielding and fearless Black students. Both the strike at Columbia University, which took place in spring last year and lasted for more than one month, and the four-month-old strike in San Francisco State College, California, which recently ended were set off by Black students and actively joined by white students. Last February, Black students and progressive white students in the University of California carried on a struggle against racial discrimination, in which several thousand students fiercely battled the police for two days on end. The strike by the Black students as well as the progressive white students in the University of Wisconsin gave the reactionary U.S. ruling circles such a bad fright that they sent 3,000 reactionary troops and police to the university to wildly suppress the students. Confronted by this vigorously rising student movement, some sections of the U.S. bourgeois press sounded the alarm, saying that it was an "academic revolution that has transformed the role of the colleges in the country."

Also inseparable from the development of the Afro-American struggle is the American people's struggle against the war of aggression in Vietnam. Not only have more and more young Black Americans opposed the draft, but growing numbers of Black soldiers have actively plunged into the struggle against this war of aggression. The struggle by young Black Americans and Black soldiers against the draft and against the U.S. imperialist war of aggression in Vietnam has inspired American people of different social strata to oppose this war of aggression. Mammoth demonstrations against this war of aggression took place again on April 5 and 6 in dozens of big cities, including New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Washington, in which hundreds of thousands of people took part.

Another characteristic of the development in depth of the Afro-American struggle is that more and more advanced Black Americans have begun a tit-for-tat struggle against the various fallacies spread by the monopoly capitalist class to sabotage the Black people's struggle. To suppress the Afro-American struggle which is developing vigorously, the monopoly capitalist class, in addition to stepping up counter-revolutionary violence, has tried in every conceivable way to deceive and hoodwink the Black people. Before and after coming to power, the new chieftain of U.S. imperialism Nixon energetically advocated "Black capitalism," vainly trying to foster a Black bourgeoisie under the wing of U.S. monopoly capital so as to control the Afro-American struggle. The advanced Black Americans have risen courageously in countering the attack by the monopoly capitalist class. They

pointed out that the "Black capitalism" trumpeted by Nixon and his like is nothing but a big plot to maintain the reactionary rule of monopoly capital and deceive and exploit the Black working class still further. They also repudiated the racialism the monopoly capitalist class spreads among the white working people as well as the "cultural nationalism" it spreads among the Black people. All this, they stressed, is a conspiracy of the monopoly capitalist class to split the unity between the Black people and the white working people and to lead the struggle of the Black people astray.

### **Studying and Disseminating Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought**

Some advanced Black people in the struggle have conscientiously studied and propagated Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought and summed up the experience and lessons in the Black people's struggle. Through this summing up, many of them have further pointed out that what the Afro-Americans really need is an end to the system of exploitation of man by man, a revolution to destroy the capitalist system, that only the working class can lead the Afro-American movement for emancipation to achieve this purpose and that only by integrating the universal truth of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought with the concrete conditions in the United States can the working class win victory. This struggle launched by the advanced Afro-Americans is helping the Black masses shake off still further all kinds of mental fetters imposed by the U.S. monopoly capitalist class, and advance rapidly along the road to emancipation.

### **Torrential Tide of Afro-American Struggle Is Irresistible**

The great teacher Chairman Mao has pointed out: "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 emancipa-

tion." In the face of the daily rising current of the Afro-American struggle, U.S. ruling circles are frantically resorting to counter-revolutionary dual tactics in an attempt to liquidate the Black people's revolution which has broken out in the heartland of U.S. imperialism.

But the upsurge of the Afro-American struggle is the inevitable product of the sharpening class contradictions in the United States and a striking manifestation of the entire political and economic crisis of U.S. imperialism. However desperately U.S. monopoly capital may struggle, it cannot stem this upsurge. At the same time, as U.S. imperialism steps up its policies of war and aggression abroad, it inevitably intensifies its political and economic onslaught against the people at home. And this has further worsened the position of the Afro-Americans. As a result, class contradictions between the broad masses of Afro-Americans and U.S. ruling circles have become ever sharper, and the struggle between them has been increasingly aggravated.

**"The Four Seas are rising, clouds and waters raging,**

**"The Five Continents are rocking, wind and thunder roaring."**

The great storm of the people's revolution in various countries of the world is now swiftly developing with the momentum of a landslide. The Afro-American struggle for freedom and emancipation is a component part of the revolutionary struggle of all the people of the world. It is a tremendous support for and encouragement to the struggle against U.S. imperialism waged by the people of all countries, and at the same time it wins the resolute support of the people the world over. Our great leader Chairman Mao has pointed out: "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." There is no doubt that the development of history will confirm this brilliant prediction.