



SNCC

International Affairs Commission

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TO THE STUDENTS OF MEXICO:

In 1960, Afro-American students in the southern United States launched a movement which has today become a national liberation struggle. Those students were not the first blacks to fight for freedom; our struggle is centuries old. But it was those students who gave us new impetus. Their efforts led to the emergence of new ideas, new forms of struggle, a new understanding of the enemy, and a new determination to accept nothing less than full liberation.

Since 1960, and particularly this year, the world has seen students of all colors and nationalities explode in rebellion against the forces of oppression. We in the black movement of the United States welcome the students' actions, for we know they are blows struck--directly or indirectly--against our own enemies: racism, colonialism and capitalism, as personified in the United States together with the foreign governments which it controls and maintains.

We of SNCC are heartened by your courageous struggle--the longest and bloodiest struggle waged this year by any group of students. You are children of an ancient conquest and of a longstanding colonialism--and so are we Afro-Americans. You belong to the "Third World" --as do we Afro-Americans. You too live under a government which maintains a facade of democracy, while using a combination of repression and co-optation to sustain its control. You too are a people who have been despised by the white man--the Yankee, the gringo--

for your color, your culture, your so-called ignorance, your poverty. The differences which exist between your people and ours are far less important than the common experiences which link us.

Our struggle is indivisible, no matter how much national patterns may vary. We do not want to proclaim a false unity; we know that unity is not merely a word but the product of much work and even sacrifice. But we recognize your actions as being significant and helpful to us. When one of you dies in battle, it is a loss to us. When hundreds of you are imprisoned, to face an unknown fate, it is part of our struggle--and an experience which we know ourselves all too well.

We send you our support and hopes. We salute your determination, persistence and bravery. Above all, we have pledged ourselves to continue our fight here--at whatever price and by any means necessary. We believe that the best help we can render is our own battle against the forces of racism, colonialism and capitalism. That is the message we send to you today.

James Forman
Director, International Affairs