

Appendix

A 1992 DIRECT ACTION PLAN

This appendix contains the second newsletter of *The Kemit Report* not published in my first book. Originally written in 1992, it is in resolution form and was submitted to the AME Zion Church in the same year for its consideration. As members of the church, our faith and study of scripture represent our moral/spiritual inspiration to do good deeds toward ourselves and others.

I still agree with many of the recommendations it contains, and I have incorporated many of them within my own life practices. Based upon my commitment to and study of the objectives of Pan-Africanism through the Pan-African Liberation Organization (PALO), I would make one main correction, which was best articulated in 1957 by Kwame Nkrumah, the first president of Ghana and one of the founders of Pan-Africanism: **Seek Ye the Political Kingdom!** By political, I do not mean electoral politics but the unity of our thoughts that will direct our actions toward the liberation and advancement of African people. Since all men and women everywhere in the world have their origins in Africa, liberating Africa is the same as liberating humanity from all forms of exploitation.

Although Africans scattered around the world are among the poorest people on earth, I do not believe that the solution to our problems is economic. As Nkrumah states:

The basis of colonial territorial dependence is economic, but the basis of the solution of the problem is political. Hence political

independence is an indispensable step towards securing economic emancipation.⁶⁰

Political independence is necessary to overcome not just colonial dependence but any form of exploitation. Consequently, my first recommendation is that each of us should join an organization fighting for our people, whether it is social, political or religious/spiritual in its mission. The chosen organization should hold as one of its objectives the eradication of one or more forms of exploitation, i.e., racism, sexism, classism. We must have unity of our organizations to maximize our resources. There are those who, based upon their understanding of history, are afraid to join an organization for fear of being targeted by the enemies of our people. However, this should not be an excuse not to join with others to fight against oppression. The organization can be above ground or underground. The most important fact is that each of us should join one fighting for our people.

Additionally, we must design social programs predicated upon the belief that all give according to their ability and receive according to their need. We must begin to consider and implement non-Western methods of solving today's problems. For example, the AME Zion Church is working with medical students at Howard University to develop the People Before Profit Community Healthcare Project (see Appendix B).

With these statements in mind, I submit my 1992 resolution.

An Appeal to the Black Church In America!
(As printed in May 1992 issue of The Kemit Report)

In 1829, David Walker, a free Negro who had moved from North Carolina to Boston, issued one of the most important appeals in the

⁶⁰ Nkrumah, *Towards Colonial Freedom* (London: Heinemann, 1962) 15.

*anti-slavery era: David Walker's Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World. His appeal stressed the need for the slaves to revolt against their slave masters because "they want us for their slaves, and think nothing of murdering us in order to subject us to that wretched condition—therefore, if there is an attempt made by us, kill or be killed."*⁶¹

In honor of one of our greatest freedom fighters, I present this appeal, in resolution form, to the black churches of America to rise up against the evil thrust of white supremacy and domination, and to develop this Direct Action Plan (or one similar to it) in order that we may control the destiny of our own communities. We must rise up against the continued monopoly control of all major resources in the world, against the social and economic deterioration and decay in the Black community, and most importantly, against the ever-increasing military seizure of urban communities as witnessed in Los Angeles, CA, and other cities around the nation.

As a member of the AME Zion Church, I will present this appeal this year to the church body during its Annual Conference in Washington, DC, and General Conference in Atlanta, GA. I would like to encourage the reader, whether a member of a church or not, to pass this appeal on to other congregations. Although this appeal is issued specifically to black churches, it can be developed by other organizations and individuals as well. We are at war! Consequently, we must make preparations to fight the fierce battle that started long before we arrived here and may last long after we are gone. But we must continue to fight for righteousness and to bring about God's just society.

WHEREAS, in this year of nineteen hundred and ninety-two, in the midst of great technological advances and scientific achievements,

⁶¹ David Walker, *David Walker's Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World*, 1829, quoted in Floyd B. Barbour, *The Black Power Revolt* (Boston: Collier Books, 1969) 12.

we, the African American (black) community find ourselves in a continual social, spiritual, economic and psychological decay and degeneration; and,

WHEREAS, the black church, representing over 65,000 churches and over six million people in the United States and abroad, has the necessary resources to take back economic, social and moral control of the black community; and

WHEREAS, the black church has been silent concerning the issues of injustice and inequality affecting the majority of the people of the earth; and

WHEREAS, blacks throughout the world have been stripped of the original principles and practices developed and cultivated in Africa, which are the basis for all religion, mathematics, astrology and science; and

WHEREAS, Africa is the birthplace of the three main world religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam; and

WHEREAS, Jesus came to free his people from the oppression of the white Roman empire, which sought to control the resources of the world; and

WHEREAS, it was not until 300 years after the death of Jesus that the oppressive Roman government adopted "Christianity" as its official state religion in order to strengthen its political and economic leverage over the people of the world; and

WHEREAS, Africans and those of African descent have always been looked upon by the oppressor as tools for making profit and wealth for the minority on the earth; and

WHEREAS, over 100 million Africans lost their lives in the Middle Passage (the transportation of Africans into foreign lands to be slaves); and

WHEREAS, we have allowed the black community to become dependent upon and controlled by a global white minority, which represents less than 10 percent of the world's population but controls over 80 percent of its resources; and

WHEREAS, the European Community, representing the 12 wealthiest European nations in the world, has made plans to establish a **UNITED STATES OF EUROPE** which will establish a single European currency, a central bank, and a united defense (military) policy; and

WHEREAS, the top 1 percent of American families gained 60 percent of the growth in after-tax income between 1977 and 1989,⁶² and the number of billionaires doubled during the same time period; and

WHEREAS, the United States uses over 60 percent of the world's natural resources (the majority from Africa) but is the home of less than 7 percent of the world's people,⁶³ and Western monopolies dominate about 80 percent of the volume of African trade;⁶⁴ and

WHEREAS, in 1991, the average salary for Chief Executive Officers (CEO's) of America's public companies reached \$1 million or more, despite massive cutbacks and layoffs;⁶⁵ and

⁶² Sylvia Nasar, "Even Among the Well-Off, the Richest Get Richer," *New York Times*, March 5, 1992, A1.

⁶³ Haki R. Madhubuti, *Black Men: Obsolete, Single, Dangerous?* (Chicago: Third World Press, 1990) 237.

⁶⁴ Nkrumah, *Class Struggle in Africa*, 70.

⁶⁵ "Forbes 800", *Forbes*, May 27, 1991.

WHEREAS, the means of production (resources that are essential to the lives of the people of the world such as food, minerals, natural energy, land, etc.) are becoming increasingly concentrated in the hands of fewer and fewer people, to the extent that 80 percent of the media in the world is controlled by five individuals,⁶⁶ and three families control close to 50 percent of the distribution of food throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the future of the black community rests upon the social, educational and physical development of our children and youth; and

WHEREAS, the number of blacks living in poverty increased by 49 percent in the 1980's;⁶⁷ and

WHEREAS, one-half of all black families are headed by females and receive only 25 percent of the total black family income;⁶⁸ and

WHEREAS, blacks make up roughly 13 percent of the U.S. population, but black men make up over 50 percent of the prison population, and the chance of a black man being murdered is 1 in 21 as opposed to 1 in 333 for white men of the same age group;⁶⁹ and

WHEREAS, one-fourth of African American children repeated a grade, and less than 60 percent of black high school graduates

⁶⁶ Ben H. Bagdikian, "Lords of the Global Village," *The Nation*, June 12, 1989, 54-58.

⁶⁷ "Black Economic Disparity Deepens During 1980's", *Washington Post*, August 9, 1991, A17.

⁶⁸ Madhubuti, viii.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, v.

in 1987 had completed courses considered basic academic requirements;⁷⁰ and

WHEREAS, 1 in 50 African American babies die before reaching their first birthday,⁷¹ 1 in 3 black children live in poverty as opposed to 1 in 33 for whites,⁷² and African American children are nearly four times more likely than white children to be infected with the HIV virus through their mothers;⁷³ and,

WHEREAS, the world produces enough food to feed all of the people on earth, but the strategy of starvation has been used to gain economic and political power over people of color to such an extent that over 30 million Africans face starvation;⁷⁴ and

WHEREAS, genocide and lack of human concern has been perpetuated against people of color throughout the world, from the deliberate planting of smallpox into blankets which were given as a “gift” to the Native American population, to the Tuskegee experiment, during which the United States Public Health Service, along with other government agencies and private physicians, deliberately withheld treatment for syphilis from more than 400 black men (and their families) between 1932 to 1972, using these humans as test animals without their knowledge or consent, in violation of medical, public and government policy;⁷⁵ and

⁷⁰ National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI), *The Status of African American Children: Twentieth Anniversary Report, 1970-1990* (Washington, DC: NBCDI, 1990) 6.

⁷¹ *Ibid.*, 50.

⁷² Madhubuti, viii.

⁷³ NBCDI, 50.

⁷⁴ *Executive Intelligence Review*, November 15, 1991, 30.

⁷⁵ Frances Cress Welsing, *The Isis Papers: The Keys To The Colors* (Chicago: Third World Press, 1991) 298-99.

WHEREAS, the United States has developed covert domestic programs that will allow the Constitution to be suspended and “militant negroes” to be rounded up and detained in concentration camps under programs such as the “Readiness Exercise 84” (Rex 84) sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Defense; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. urban areas are quickly being turned into military zones, directly controlled by those who do not live in these areas; and

WHEREAS, the United States designed a sabotage program entitled the “Counter Intelligence Program” (COINTELPRO), which was organized to “expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit or otherwise neutralize” black nationalist organizations, churches and individuals such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Assata Shakur and Stokeley Carmichael (Kwame Ture); and

WHEREAS, the top ten causes of death in the United States “are conditions greatly influenced by personal behavior”⁷⁶ resulting from bad eating, drinking and substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, black men are more likely to die from cancer than white men; black women are 2.5 times more likely to die from cancer than white women;⁷⁷ and

WHEREAS, rates for cancer of the esophagus, prostate, stomach and pancreas are 25 times higher for blacks than whites; the

⁷⁶ “Dr. Sullivan’s Task: Nurse America Back to Health,” *The Final Call*, July 22, 1991, 6.

⁷⁷ “Dying Young, Dying Often: Black Community a Health Care Casualty,” *The Final Call*, July 22, 1991, 3.

lung cancer rate among blacks is 45 percent higher than among whites; the death rate from cirrhosis of the liver for blacks is 92 percent greater than that of whites; and blacks are 25.1 percent to 37.7 percent more overweight than whites, all showing a direct relationship to a high intake of meat, sugar, tobacco, alcohol and drugs;⁷⁸ and

WHEREAS, black women, children and infants are the most AIDS-infected group in America, 2 million women in the sub-Saharan African region will die from AIDS within the next eight years,⁷⁹ and blacks represent 50 percent of all new AIDS victims in America;⁸⁰ and

WHEREAS, violent attacks against blacks living in Europe have increased over the last year (1992), during which 1000 acts of violence were reported, including four deaths;⁸¹ and

WHEREAS, a number of organizations exist within the black community that are geared toward solving the majority of the problems in our community and that seek the invitation of the black church to jointly embrace their projects of community building;

LET IT BE RESOLVED that this congregation of people, representing a part of the body of the black church, adopts the following action plan, or one similar to it, and will work toward the liberation of the black community from its state of social, political and economic decadence:

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ "AIDS: The Black Plague," *The Final Call*, July 22, 1991, 34.

⁸⁰ Terrance Jackson, *Putting it All Together: World Conquest, Global Genocide and African Liberation* (New York: Akasa Press, 1991) 6.

⁸¹ Bernie Grant (member of the British Parliament), "Racism and Fascism in Europe" (lecture), Howard University, Washington, February 12, 1992.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

WE MUST declare a **STATE OF EMERGENCY** in the black community, which will require us to focus 100 percent of our time and resources on correcting these atrocities.

WE MUST organize against the current military seizure of urban cities throughout the U.S., which has the objective of imprisoning and controlling the activities and movement of the black community.

WE MUST donate at least \$5 per person, per month to a community-based organization.

WE MUST organize watchdog committees and advisory groups that will speak to the issues of importance to the masses of our people.

WE MUST strive for the goal whereby every member in the black church (denomination by denomination) mentors at least one youth, 18 years or younger, in the black community.

FINANCIAL

WE MUST organize church money and place it into a single financial institution, i.e., black-owned and run schools, black-owned businesses, scholarships, etc.

WE MUST financially and morally support all black independent schools that seek to free the minds of black children, which will create a process or pathway leading to full liberation for the oppressed people of the world.

WE MUST establish our own independent credit unions, insurance companies, mortgage companies, etc.

WE MUST reduce our unnecessary consumption by 20-25 percent through effective saving.

WE MUST target a single area of business to control (on a community, church, or organizational level) instead of venturing into many different areas.

WE MUST commit and spend at least 30 percent of our income with black businesses.

WE MUST make sure that black businesses live up to our support by offering them constructive criticism, support and encouragement.

WE MUST call a moratorium on the construction of church sanctuaries (church schools and church/community recreational facilities excluded) during the declared STATE OF EMERGENCY until we get a grip on the problems that plague our community. All new building funds should be allocated toward:

1. establishing agricultural land banks for the purpose of controlling our own food supply, and
2. creating community facilities such as housing, recreation buildings, businesses, etc., utilizing businesses and organizations that have been specializing and thriving in these areas.

WE MUST utilize the already existing business directories established in our community that promote products and services created by black-owned businesses, such as *Success Guide*, *DEAL, Inc.* and the *Black Pages of America*.

ACADEMIC

WE MUST encourage each household to administer a study program of at least 1.5 hours each night.

WE MUST require our children to read at least two books a month (parents must set the example by reading with their children and on their own).

WE MUST place all children in a vocational or college track to ensure that they acquire marketable knowledge and skills.

WE MUST provide tutoring to support our children's academic success.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

WE MUST encourage families to live by the principles of Nguzo Saba,⁸² the Ten Commandments, or any other systems that lay the foundation of family, love and unity.

WE MUST allow no more than two hours of television per night (adults and children).

WE MUST advocate that families do at least one activity together each week.

WE MUST discourage the bearing and raising of children by teenage partners. We must encourage members of our community to refrain from having children until their late 20's or early 30's.

HEALTH

WE MUST explicitly denounce the use of cigarettes and alcohol in our community and work to decrease the use of these two substances.

⁸² The Nguzo Saba are the seven principles associated with the celebration of Kwanzaa: Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity) and Imani (Faith).

WE MUST encourage and educate our community to adopt healthier, more natural diets so that we can learn how to eat to live, not to die.

WE MUST refocus the consciousness of our community towards the serious issues that affect our community, such as heart disease, cancer, high blood pressure, obesity and other problems related to unhealthy substances being placed in the body.

WE MUST encourage and make available proper pre-natal care, thereby decreasing high infant mortality rates in our community.

NATIONAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

WE MUST organize an aggressive campaign that will monitor all media outlets for programs that contribute to negative behavior within our community and establish mass mailings of disapproval to these stations and their corporate sponsors.

WE MUST bring in local, national and international speakers who can give us a better understanding of the world around us.

WE MUST redirect the focus of our community so that our people fully comprehend the meaning and seriousness of a STATE OF EMERGENCY.

WE MUST increase our direct contact with the people of Africa, Latin America and other places where oppressed people reside, thus bettering their situation and linking people of color all over the world.

WE MUST identify and utilize the black media establishments that are already at our disposal and can be used toward the elevation of our people.