

STATEMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
DEMONSTRATION
BY JUDY CLARK

Happy International Women's Day. This is a glorious holiday, for it is a day when we dedicate ourselves to the profoundly revolutionary goal of the liberation of women worldwide. Such a goal is inseparable from the liberation of human kind from the grip of imperialist class society. This is a revolutionary holiday calling for the destruction of imperialism, the liberation of oppressed nations from colonialism and neo-colonialism, and the struggle toward socialism. International Women's Day is celebrated all over the world. It puts internationalism in the forefront.

The commonality of our goals and aspirations as revolutionaries, and the fervent militancy of our fight is manifested in concrete deeds. For instance, Russian women marching on March 8th demanding peace, bread, and freedom were a spark to the first socialist revolution. In the 1970s, revolutionaries in Uruguay celebrated International Women's Day by accomplishing a daring action of liberating over 20 women political prisoners. Women combatants in VietNam and Zimbabwe staged key guerrilla raids to mark International Women's Day. Last year, as this year, anti-imperialist women in Europe and here have confronted the war makers and repressive imperialist apparatus. So, as we celebrate IWD, let us think of the thousands of combatants, militants and struggling masses to whom we are joined in battle by our common enemy, US-led imperialism, and our common goals.

Today, sparked by the advance of national liberation struggles internationally and by the escalation of imperialist war, there is a significant upsurge of movement among North Americans. Women are in the forefront of much of this activity and in turn this is creating a more progressive and anti-imperialist approach to building a women's movement.

For these movements to become a significant force, people must move from merely protesting specific government policies or responding to each imperialist escalation to actively resisting and combatting the US war machine.

In the midst of the upsurge of the anti-imperialist movement, there is a development of armed clandestine organizations. Their actions, such as the bombing of the Capitol after the US invasion of Grenada, are an empowering challenge. They reveal the vulnerabilities of the enemy and the potential power of the struggling movement, even when it is young and small, if it is clear in its anti-imperialist strategies and principles. This same international combativeness must be massified. The movement we built in the 60's was one that physically drove war recruiters off our campuses, that burned the Banks of America, and that fought the police and produced small scale guerrilla activity by thousands of people. By building such a movement today, we can make a significant contribution in solidarity with national liberation struggles by actively combatting the war machine from within. At the same time we develop a consciousness and experience that can advance our own revolutionary movement, for it is in the actual practice of struggle against the enemy that people gain an understanding of the

nature of our enemy, the system we are fighting to overturn and the nature of our goals and strategy.

In a climate of intense repression and attacks on Third World people in the U.S., there are forces today calling for a rainbow coalition to become a potent force in elections and reform campaigns. But everyone knows that rainbows are an illusion. This concept of a rainbow coalition is but another version of the myth of America as a melting pot democracy. America is an illegitimate empire built on stolen land, labor, and people. It has been the struggles of oppressed nations within the U.S. borders that has most sharply exposed the nature of this system and provided leadership to our movement in recognizing the need for revolutionary strategy. We must build unity with Third World struggles; but principled unity that is based in our recognizing the right to self-determination of oppressed nations and their right to wage armed struggle, supporting the struggles for human rights by oppressed people, and fighting white supremacy.

Today there are a growing number of political prisoners and prisoners of war from all the national liberation movements and the revolutionary anti-imperialist movement. This is a product of the intensified repression and counterinsurgency by the U.S.; but it is also a positive sign, because it reflects the fact that people are emerging from the midst of the struggles who are dedicating themselves to creating revolutionary strategy. Today there are New Afrikan, Puerto Rican, and Native American freedom fighters who have proclaimed themselves Prisoners of War and have tied their destiny to the advancement of their nation's struggles.

I am an anti-imperialist freedom fighter, imprisoned for my participation in armed struggle, waged alongside and in solidarity with New Afrikan revolutionaries fighting for land and independence for their people. I did not choose such a course of action because I like violence or sought a short-cut to avoid the long process of revolution. I saw and experienced the impact of imperialism's two-pronged strategy -- of repression and cooptation -- on our movement over the last decade. How fear and survivalism eats out the militant spirit; how white supremacy and individualism corral people into the system; how spontaneity, narrowness and disorganization lead to reformism and despair.

Revolutionary boldness, tenacity and principles are the only cure for such diseases. Proletarian internationalism must be the cornerstone of the movements we build. Greater resistance and new combative forms of struggle must be our response to repression. In the words of the Armed Resistance Unit, "We need to resist and fight as people all over the world are doing, with principles, consistency, and determination." That is how we can carry on the legacy of those women workers who, in struggling for "bread and roses" first inspired the International Communist Movement to proclaim March 8th as International Women's Day. And that is how we become part of the tremendous force of women around the world today who are seizing hold of their destiny by waging wars for national liberation and for socialism.

WOMEN-CONFRONT THE U.S. WAR MACHINE!