

## Text of Mao Statement

Peking NCNA in English to Asia and Europe 1837 GMT 8 August 1963--W

(Text) Peking, 8 August--Chairman Mao Tse-tung made a statement here today calling on the people of the world to unite against the racial discrimination by U.S. imperialism and to support the American Negroes in their struggle against it. The statement reads in full as follows:

Statement calling upon the people of the world to unite against racial discrimination by U.S. imperialism and to support the American Negroes in their struggle against racial discrimination. (Signed) Mao Tse-tung, 8 August 1963.

An American Negro leader now taking refuge in Cuba, Robert Williams,<sup>X</sup> the former president of the Monroe, North Carolina chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has twice this year asked me for a statement in support of the American Negroes' struggle against racial discrimination. I wish to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Chinese people, to express our resolute support of the American Negroes in their struggle against racial discrimination and for freedom and equal rights.

There are more than 19 million Negroes in the United States, or about 11 percent of the total population. Their position in society is one of enslavement, oppression, and discrimination. The overwhelming majority of the Negroes are deprived of their right to vote. On the whole it is only the most back-breaking and despised jobs that are open to them. Their average wages are only from a third to a half of those of the white people. The ratio of unemployment among them is the highest. In many states they are forbidden to go to the same school, eat at the same table, or travel in the same section of a bus or train with the white people. Negroes are frequently and arbitrarily arrested, beaten up and murdered by U.S. authorities at various levels, by members of the KKK and other racists. About half of the American Negroes are concentrated in 11 states in the south of the United States, where the discrimination and persecution they suffer are especially shocking.

The American Negroes are awakening and their resistance is growing ever stronger. In recent years the mass struggle of the American Negroes against racial discrimination and for freedom and equal rights has been constantly developing. In 1957, the Negro people in Little Rock, Arkansas, waged a fight against the barring of their children from public schools. The authorities used armed force against them, and there resulted the Little Rock affair which shocked the world.



In 1960, Negroes in more than 20 states held "sit in" demonstrations in protest against racial segregation in local restaurants, shops, and other public places. In 1961, the Negroes launched a campaign of "freedom rides" to oppose racial segregation in transport, a campaign which rapidly extended to many states. In 1962, the Negroes in Mississippi fought for the equal right to enroll in colleges and were greeted by the authorities with a blood bath.

The struggle of the American Negroes this year started in early April in Birmingham, Alabama. Unarmed, bare-handed Negro masses were subjected to wholesale arrests and the most barbarous suppression, merely because they were holding meetings and parades against racial discrimination. On 12 June, Medgar Evers, a leader of the Negro people in Mississippi, was murdered in cold blood. These Negro masses, aroused to indignation and defying brutal suppression, carried on their struggle even more courageously and quickly won the support of Negroes and all sections of the people throughout the United States. A gigantic and vigorous nationwide struggle is going on in nearly every state and city in the United States; and the struggle keeps mounting. American Negro organizations have decided to start a freedom march on Washington 28 August in which 250,000 people will take part.

The speedy development of the struggle of the American Negroes is a manifestation of the sharpening of class struggle and national struggles within the United States; it has been increasingly arousing the anxiety of the U.S. ruling circles. The Kennedy administration has resorted to cunning two-faced tactics. On the one hand, it continues to connive at and engage in the discrimination against and persecution of Negroes, including their suppression with armed force. On the other hand, it is parading as an advocate of the "defense of human rights" and "the protection of the civil rights of Negroes, is calling upon the Negro people to exercise "restraint," is proposing to Congress the so-called "civil rights legislation," in an attempt to lull the fighting will of the Negro people and deceive the masses throughout the country. However, these tactics of the Kennedy administration are being seen through by more and more of the Negroes. The fascist atrocities committed by the U.S. imperialists against the Negro people have laid bare the true nature of the so-called democracy and freedom in the United States and revealed the inner link between the reactionary policies pursued by the U.S. Government at home and its policies of aggression abroad.