

"By struggling through our disagreement and
doubts We shall build our NAWO"

"Towards the Constructive Transformation of NAWO"

After much struggle and discussion among ourselves and our comrades
We feel it is necessary to document the attached critique. It should
be understood that this critique is written in the spirit of unity and
not for the purpose of dividing and/or malice.

We in New York take a certain amount of responsibility for allowing
those things that We criticize to happen and it is in light of our
liberalism that We feel compelled to rectify those things We feel to be
incorrect. We do this so We can collectively build our new organization
(NAWO) on a firm and sound foundation.

Free The Land!

TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTIVE
TRANSFORMATION OF NAWO

Our goals as New Afrikan women are to strengthen ourselves, our movement and our people for victory. Towards that end we must consciously transform our old ways of relating and thinking into new bonds and ideologies that truly represent the best interest and aspirations of our people. The way that we do this is through criticism and self-criticism.

By struggling through our disagreements and doubts, we shall build our NAWO. As we proceed in this process, we must constantly re-evaluate that unity, as we are dialectical materialists and know that conditions change. Otherwise, the basis for coming together becomes superficial.

When we struggle with individuals or organizations, we do so based on a political analysis that tells us we have a basis for coming together, i.e., we define our principles of agreement. As New Afrikan women we welcome change. We know that we could not have made the achievements we have made without a scientific understanding that the world, our movement for national independence is in a continuous state of change. Failure to see the world as a place of continuous change only makes us see ourselves as unchanging. How then does change come about?

Change is caused by contradiction. One of the important principles of materialist dialectics tells us that change comes primarily from the development of contradictions inside a person, often influenced by external forces. Everyone of us

is full of contradictions. There is the part of our make-up as sisters that wants to preserve peace at any price, then there is the part of us as revolutionary Black Women that is courageous, wanting to bring out the differences, discuss the bones of contention, and move forward in revolutionary spirit. Though the period of confronting contradictions is often times difficult and demanding, we must each one of us contribute our commitment to revolutionary principles. We must not become demoralized but rather understand that the process of moving from one stage to another is not smooth or steady, and our progress is similar to the progress within our movement.

We have come through a liberal period within our ranks. We now see the need to be considerate of each others strengths and weaknesses, combating each one of our tendencies to be liberal. Identifying and understanding these aspects of our personalities and our movement, will promise that the qualitative transformation that NAWO is presently undergoing will be surely repeated again and again.

Our responses come from our social experiences as Black women in America. We, as a result of bare survival, name calling and labeling in our early days, came to resent the implications of being criticised in this society. Thus our defensiveness at criticism has its social origins in the myths perpetrated in this culture that perfection was next to godliness and to admit error, is to admit failure. We must understand the roots of

these reactions as we transform into New Afrikan women

"in the general framework of our daily struggle,
this battle against ourselves, against our
weaknesses is the most difficult of all....." Amilcar
Cabral

We should encourage argument and criticism between people who have different views. We are not afraid of wrong views but must allow freedom for criticism and self-criticism. We are not desirous of suppressing wrong views but must convince people by reasoning with them and persuading them.

While the political content of a criticism is definitely primary, how we give criticism directly influences how well the content gets across. It should never be our purpose to punish when giving criticism, but to politically educate. Therefore our intentions should always be with the good of the whole primary, keeping in mind the levels of development within the ranks. Now that we see the need to combat liberalism, we must adhere to revolutionary guidelines in giving concrete criticism, fully prepared to principally engage in discourse if our intentions become misunderstood. Therefore, the form of the criticism is equally as important as the political content.

As women, we must consider tendencies to put our feelings in command. As New Afrikan women we are expected to always be in control of our emotions not allowing feelings of being aggrieved to mean that all business should cease. On the other hand we must not become so mechanical to the feelings of each other that we ignore expressions of love & respect we all need