

THE STATEMENT OF GUNNIE JAMES HASKINS ON THE DAY OF HIS SENTENCING

I know after sitting here and watching judge Lynch about to sentence us you're wondering--what's on our minds: How do we feel about it?

First of all, I know my comrades and I share the same feelings. After prior consideration we have agreed that if necessary, we would be willing to make whatever sacrifices...so to us we feel that this is merely the carrying out or making the mental the nominal of before into a reality. We also share mutual feelings regarding this trial as serving as another affirmation of the fact that - where there's struggle, there's sacrifice. Our being sentenced should serve to dispell the illusion that we can win with less than a total commitment: when you threaten capitalism and engage its proponent, your involvement calls for sacrifice. Court ain't nuthin.

The people of Guinea-Bissau waged struggle against capitalism for 13 years - making endless sacrifices yet sticking to the revolutionary road - and now today - they're reaping the fruits of their sacrifices. Our brothers in the Philippines, Vietnam, and the Middle East are waging or have waged struggle and made sacrifices in their efforts to break the capitalist stranglehold on the people.

I would like to express to the judges and the people--we share the same beliefs as these brothers. We also believe that in order to overthrow the monster, struggle and sacrifice are the prerequisites. We feel that being freedom fighters acknowledges that we have embraced those prerequisites.

When the judge says: "James Haskins, Harold Simmons, Michael Alston-- I sentence you--" he's saying that to give occasion the appearance of being other than what it really is. When he says, "I sentence you" in reality he'll be saying: Do we love our people and comrades. Considering that after the sentence, we won't have a chance to answer - I say now for all of us -

We love our people and comrades - and this love has no limit. We're not fair weather lovers, the kind that only show up during good weather and bright times. Our love is just the opposite - it's not confined to certain seasonal situations. You are our brothers and sisters and whatever should make you happy, also makes us happy. If something should sadden you, we share that sorrow. It is because of this kind of love that we're here today. We love every hair of you, every pound of you. Our love covers your entirety, mind, body and soul. When the beast (capitalism) threaten to diminish any part of this entirety, snuffing out your ambition- creating despair within you - or unleashing mad dog assassins to kill you;--if they threaten to diminish your entirety in any way, our love causes us to react bitterly, and to fiercely engage those who threaten you until the threat is eliminated. Our love knows no limit. We cannot stand by and be passive witnesses when we see you in harms way. We are compelled to act and if the threat is immediate then our action will reflect that fact. Whatever the intensity of the threat, we are compelled to act.

Even in defeat there is victory.

There are people here who are hard pressed when considering any gain in our actions. But that's alright and understandable. Not everybody is familiar with the ways of war. To them I say - even in defeat the loss of one battle - there is victory.

In war, there are many things that ultimately add up to the enemy's defeat. To cause him to devote even more money to his war efforts weighs heavily on his domestic financing stability. The more soldiers and police the people see, the more they are going to become aware that their tax money is being used against them. After the May 3rd assault, the police department in a number of cities in Connecticut and around the country increased

its ranks and stocked more weapons in their arsenal. The money spent for more troops and larger arsenals erodes their ability to engage in a successful war. I predict that May 3rd has cost the state a sum approaching the million mark, that's considering the extra personnel assigned to guard the exterior of our various jails-- and the helicopters, pilots and other military personnel who remain on 24 hour stand-by. In the private sector of the enemy's camp, banks have taken on numerous guards and other security personnel.

We, in the struggle realize, and our enemy realizes- that by us forcing him to employ more troops, that in itself is a victory, i.e. we have succeeded in depleting his financial store house. There's also victory on the ~~financial~~ psychological front. At one time, the enemy used to feel secure in knowing that no matter what or how much he did to the people they would not resist. The May 3rd assault served to shatter the enemy's sense of immunity. Not only did May 3rd act as a blade in the enemy's throat but the wound was accompanied by a fear of repeated assaults. Capitalist demagogues, the upper world thieves - fearing that the next assault might be directed against them have launched a campaign to equip their personal assassins with 357 magnums. May 3rd was successful because it forced the enemy to admit that he can no longer rely on fear and prestige to keep the people in check. His immediate reference to more lethal force testifies to that. The unveiling of his new weapons has also exposed his true intent. He desires to maintain the people in an exploitable position - and he intends to use every weaponry at his disposal to do it. We have succeeded in making capitalist intent more obvious and visual to the eye. So--even in defeat there is victory.

Their forced employment of more police, bank guards, and the expressed fear that accompany these moves--plus the nature of capitalism being made more obvious to the people - all this testifies to the victory of May 3rd.

May 3rd also served to affirm ~~and~~ truism common to revolutionary struggles, i.e. in order for capitalist to think about attempting to contain a revolution - just contain - they would have to employ at least 10 storm troopers to adequately contain just one revolutionary. Look around you and take a head count. Now add this figure to the ones you count down stairs and through the building. It should come out to about 10 to 1. This is not to our disadvantage, on the contrary -- the people far out-number the state's storm troopers. This is our source of strength - we know - and are firmly convinced that the people will overwhelm the monster. The state will run out of 10's before the people run out of ones.

Concrete analysis preclude despair. There are people who criticize us for being here, being captured. They attribute our presence here as the result of mistakes - flaws in our planning. To them I quote Carlos Marighella who said: "It is better to act mistakenly than to do nothing for fear of doing wrong. Marighella's profession should constantly haunt the minds of true revolutionist. I know it has crossed my mind and my comrades minds on numerous occasions. As a revolutionist, to do nothing, to not act--encourages the existence of a self-made illusion. A revolutionist is a doer - a man or woman in action for the people. To do nothing - not act - makes an accessory of you and earns you the title of co-conspirator, ally of the people's enemy. When you stand by and watch capitalists systematically destroy the people - your brothers and sisters - your non-action is really an act of assistance. Avoid the guilt and shame that accompanies non-action and its threat to your internal tranquility. If you are a revolutionist, then, be about action. Don't be afraid to do wrong. If you must have a fear, then let it be the fear of being classified as a non-action person - an illusionary revolutionist.

As a comrade of the New York Five, Brother Al Washington, eloquently prosed:.....in a poem called "All of us or None:"

Slave who fall, free you
Those in deepest darkness crying
Comrades, only slaves can free you
Only slaves can hear you crying.

Everything or nothing, all of us or none
Leave alone his lot can better. Either gun or fetter
Everything or nothing, all of us or none.

O wretched one, who shall dare it?

He would/can no longer bear it
Though the need, through time and sorrow
Counts the blows that arm his spirit
Strikes today and not tomorrow

Everything or nothing, all of us or none
Leave alone, his lot can better. Either gun or fetter
Everything or nothing, all of us or none.