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Editor's Notes

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EDITORIAL NOTES

Contemporary African literature concerns itself with the African socio-political experience. It should be a literature of struggle aiming at the total liberation of Africa. This issue of Ufahamu examines some of the most outspoken voices in African literature. These writers' commitment to African liberation is well known. Through their literary endeavors and their political activities, they continue to help push the struggle forward. Thus, this issue presents articles on the prose writings of Zegoua Nokan, Ayi Kwei Armah and Wole Soyinka on the one hand, and on the poetry of Dennis Brutus and Tchicaya U Tamsi on the other hand. It also introduces readers to Somali Women's subtle and strong poetry as it captures their daily experience.

Our next Ufahamu issue will be a Special Anniversary Issue commemorating ten years of struggle of our journal to support liberation movements in Africa. In it our readers will find writings by past African freedom fighters who remain alive in our memories, thoughts and actions. For the first time there will be an issue bringing together a ten-year harvest of the best of Ufahamu, featuring speeches, articles and interviews by Amílcar Cabral, Steve Biko, Agostino Neto, Walter Rodney and H.B.M. Chipembere.

It is our pleasure to announce the Third Annual Conference of the African Activist Association on the Total Liberation of Africa scheduled for May 13, 14 and 15 at UCLA. This year's conference will focus on South Africa and Namibia. It will also include panel discussions on Central America, Asia and the Middle East in order to show the development of anti-imperialist struggles around the world. Several prominent representatives of various anti-imperialist organizations will attend the conference. Among them are John Makatini of the African National Congress (ANC), Theo Ben Gurirab of the South West African Peoples' Organization (SWAPO) and Andrew Lukhele of the Black Consciousness Movement (BCM) as well as a representative of Zimbabwe at the United Nations.

As this issue is going to press we learn that the U.S. government intends to ask Congress to cancel the Clark Amendment which bans covert assistance to rebel forces in Angola. The action of the Reagan Administration seeks congressional authorization to lift this ban which would permit arms sales to Savimbi's UNITA. This would help the racist regime of Pretoria to destabilize both the SWAPO and the Angolan government. As we all know, at the recently convened UN Conference on Namibia, the Pretoria regime refused to countenance a ceasefire and free elections. Such efforts constitute a well-known colonialist gimmick intending to

slow down all liberation processes. As it has failed in Zimbabwe it will fail in Azania. For when a people speaking in one voice say Pamberi Ne Chimurenga--forward with the armed struggle--no terrorist gimmick can stop it. We demand that the present U.S. government reconsiders its policy towards Southern Africa as recommended by many African governments.

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We would like to express our warmest condolences to the relatives of the 22 Atlanta children who have recently been slain. Such a series of crimes must be stopped immediately. We hope that the authorities in Atlanta will intensify their efforts to bring this matter to a rapid end.

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SPECIAL CALL FOR ARTICLES ON WALTER RODNEY: The Editorial Board of Ufahamu plans to devote an issue, in the near future, to the life and works of Walter Rodney. Please submit manuscripts to Editor-in-Chief, Ufahamu, African Studies Center, UCLA, Los Angeles, California 90024.

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Thinker
Hezbon Edward Owiti