

DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 15 OF 16

FOLDER 3

BLACK ISSUES NEGRO NATION
DAY FLYER

NEGRO NATION DAY

June 22 * Chandler Park * 12-4 * Pot Luck * Entertainment * Beer Sold

On June 19, 1862, the Congress passed an act abolishing slavery in the territories of the United States. This historic date has long been the rallying point to celebrate the end of legal slavery and further to demand real freedom and democratic rights for the Negro people. Known as "Juneteenth", this holiday is still celebrated in many parts of the Negro Nation.

Unlike other holidays which commemorate or pay tribute to individuals, "Juneteenth" is a salute to the thousands and thousands of Negro people who have died struggling for their democratic rights and the independence of the Negro Nation.

There are very few holidays in this country which reflect our history --the vibrant history of a struggling working class, determined to fight for its survival, and willing to die for its freedom. Some historic moments are "noted" in books, but the most important were lost in the channels of history. One of these was the history of the Negro Nation.

For decades, the Negro people have been denied a clear and precise picture of their history by not only the "educational" classrooms, but also by the popularity of such distorted notions as "Lincoln freed the slaves" without giving a step by step political analysis of the historical events which led to this development.

The people of the Negro Nation are quite distinct from their African and European ancestors. All the Africans brought over to be used as slaves were from different tribes. Each tribe was at a different stage of economic development, had different cultural backgrounds, language, gods, etc. Because of the system of chattel slavery (system where slaves were bought and sold like cattle), the present Negro people are a mixture of these tribal groupings with the Indian and "white" strains very noticeable because of the wholesale rape of the Negro women. The term "Negro" is used as opposed to "Black" or "Afro-American" because it speaks accurately and exclusively to the historic roots of all the people, of a common nationality emerging in a particular area, forged by centuries of chattel slavery.

The Negro Nation is an historically evolved community of English speaking "black and white" people who live in the Black Belt area of the Southern United States of North America (USNA) plus the area surrounding it which is economically dependent upon the Black Belt. This area has basic characteristics which make it outstandingly different from other parts of the USA--the north, the east and the southwest. These features which are products of a long historical development are a common territory, language, economic life, traits, feelings, actions, and attributes, made visible through a vibrant community of culture.

The common culture and the resultant emphases on color makes it plain that the root and base of the Negro Nation is the ex-slave. Bound together in a special way by common experience of the exploitation and oppression, the Negro was excluded from the culture of the Anglo-American Nation (the North) and forced to create his own culture. The original diversity of the tribal culture which his forefathers brought over was mostly stamped out under the fierce pressures of slavery, although some traces still persist.

Negro Nation customs such as the national cuisine (soul food) and religious life are very distinct from that in the North. "Soul", this substance which is considered a special "coolness" is nothing more than the national characteristic of the Negro Nation.

We are celebrating Negro Nation Day in support of our fellow working class brothers and sisters in the Negro Nation, in their fight for their democratic rights, and a humanitarian society which has been denied them historically. It is only through our unity here, and our carrying out of our struggles in the north that we can give them and the other national liberation struggles around the world in Angola, Mozambique, Vietnam, etc., our fullest support.

INDEPENDENCE FOR THE NEGRO NATION!

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF THE WORLD UNITE!

