

THE SPEAR & SHIELD COLLECTIVE :AN INTRODUCTION

The Spear & Shield Collective is a cadre organization, founded by a nucleus of New Afrikans who inherit, guard, and continue the tradition of revolutionary nationalist and communist activity for the realization of national liberation revolution. We regard the organization not as a source of privileges, but as one of sacrifices; We place priority on the quality of our members, and not on the number of them.

Basic Principles

The Collective believes that Afrikan people in the U.S. constitute a nation which is subjugated and exploited by the U.S. empire. Together with other organized forces of the New Afrikan Independence Movement, the Collective struggles to achieve the complete independence of the nation, and to end all forms of oppression and exploitation in the new socialist society that We are building.

Upholding and promoting genuine revolutionary patriotism and opposing all forms of petty-bourgeois nationalism, the Collective strengthens itself and grows in the course of struggle against opportunist lines, whether of the right or of the left. Our cadres promote principled unity and not splits in the ranks of the nation's patriotic forces. We are open and aboveboard in all dealings, and We don't engage in intrigues and conspiracies. Our cadres must be good at distinguishing contradictions among the people from those between the people and our enemies, and must learn to correctly handle each kind. The sincere practice of criticism and self-criticism is a fundamental principle of the Collective, and a guarantee of success in all of its endeavors.

The Collective upholds and promotes Pan-Afrikanism. It firmly unites in solidarity with other oppressed nations and peoples, and with genuine revolutionary parties and organizations the world over, and fights together with them to oppose and overthrow capitalism and imperialism and to establish relations of solidarity on the basis of respect for national independence and sovereignty, equality and mutual benefit.

The lines and policies of the Spear & Shield Collective are developed to reflect the will and legitimate needs of New Afrikan people. The Collective must respect and develop the people's right to collective mastery, deeply mingle with and stay close to the masses, caring for their lives, and propagandize, educate, and motivate them to fulfill their responsibilities to the nation and its struggle for land, independence, and socialism.

The Collective must pay attention to organize its activities through the masses and to build and consolidate revolutionary mass organizations of all kinds (e.g., labor, women, youth, students, artists and other professionals), and to build:

- 1) a front for the liberation of New Afrika;
- 2) a national democratic front;
- 3) a solidarity front.

The Collective must encourage the activity and initiative of mass organizations in educating, motivating and organizing the masses to implement the Collective's line and to actively participate in building and practicing collective mastery.

The Collective regards the constant building and consolidation of its organization and the strengthening of its leadership as decisive tasks for the revolutionary cause. Cadres must strive to make the organization stable and strong, especially in the political, ideological and organizational fields. Ideological and organizational work must be closely combined with each other. Members must proceed in their work from the organization's political lines and tasks, and guarantee that these lines and tasks are correctly defined, thoroughly understood, and completely implemented. The Collective must — through the revolutionary movement of the masses and through the building of the masses' collective mastery — proceed with building the organization and organize the participation of the masses in building the organization, the movement, and actively participating in the fight for land, independence, and socialism. Attention must especially be given to improving both the quality and the capabilities of cadres, to assigning cadres in accordance with their capabilities and with the requirements of the tasks; to properly foster and coordinate the activity of cadres, and to link the improvement of cadres' quality with that of local Committees, Basic Units, and with the strengthening of leading organs and the consolidation of the organization at each level and in each Committee and Unit.

For its own sake, and because of the historic and continuing relationship between the oppression and exploitation of women, and the rise and perpetuation of class exploitation, capitalism and colonialism, the Spear & Shield Collective places special emphasis upon opposing all forms of gender-based oppression, and upon upholding and promoting the full emancipation of women and their rightful participation in the collective mastery of society.

The National Democratic Program

The Spear & Shield Collective believes that independence can be won only on the basis of a comprehensive national revolutionary democratic program — a program arising from the needs and aspirations of the masses as they struggle for improvement of their immediate livelihood, and for eventual control of our society's social and productive relations. There is no need for us to try to impose a program upon the masses. Our tasks are: 1) to join the people in their struggles, and 2) to help them raise and consolidate national and revolutionary consciousness.

- Go to the people
- Live among them
- Learn from them
- Love them
- Serve them
- Plan with them
- Start with what they know
- Build on what they have.

Spear & Shield Collective

Kwame Nkrumah