Carmichael calls for revolution

By Stephen Blatt

"Once we have the total liberation of the man under scientific socialism, the black man will have the greatest struggle he has in the world," according to Stokely Carmichael, who spoke Wednesday night at a meeting of the Black Student Union.

Carmichael, who was introduced as the man who "more than any other black man in America in modern times has strongly affected the political thought of African youths," explained that "revolutions must be run scientifically. When people move for their liberation, they must have precise objectives and crystal clear ideology." He said that "if the masses can't see the revolution then they can't fight for it," Carmichael told the audience of 100 people. He added that revolution "is a quantitative process -- we have to have quantity before we can have quality.

Noting that "today MIT has many more black students than in 1964," Carmichael said that "they tell you that the reason you are here is because you are intelligent, better than others, that now we've got money so you can come.

But the masses characterized these as "lies," explaining that "you're at this university only because you are black. The reason you are here is that people died for you -- in Chicago, Atlanta, Boston, Watts, Washington. In the 1960's our people had a spontaneous revolution which shocked the white man into making some concessions. You are the concessions." He added that "that ain't racism -- that's facts."

According to Carmichael, there are three problems facing the All African Peoples Revolutionary Party, "the base to which is Africa, the base of black problems. Our problems are lack of land, capitalism and racism. "Even in our homeland we control Africa, we will control the land" and racism in "our own land" is "ridiculous."

"Nationalism is a prerequisite for revolution," said Carmichael. "Malcolm is very important -- we must read and study him properly. He predicted that "within the next few years the greatest struggle we will have is what nationality we have, and that Malcolm X had defined the problem as "black nationalism vs. white nationalism."

"According to Carmichael, "the only struggle that will succeed is a just struggle. No matter how long it takes, a just struggle will win because justice is objective."

"Since "Africa is the only land the black man can claim justly," Carmichael said that the only nationalism for blacks is "Pan-Africanism.

"Many call themselves Afro-American, or Black-American," Carmichael said, "but few call themselves Africans." Yet "Africa is the richest continent in the world. When Africa is properly organized, it will be the most powerful nation on Earth."

Carmichael "hates America -- if I could tear it down today, I'd do it. But every day I work to tear it down." He added that "creating and building is what a revolution is all about, but in order to build, you must destroy."

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