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New York, N.Y. 10014  
January 28, 1976

TO ORGANIZERS AND ANTIRACIST WORK DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

The National Black Assembly has set March 17-21 as the dates for the third national Black political convention. It is to be held in Cincinnati, Ohio. Attached is a January 9 news release announcing the convention and tentative agenda.

The purpose of this convention, as explained by NBA national chairperson Ron Daniels, is "to establish the National Black Political Assembly as a progressive popular Black alternative (pre-party) to the existing major parties."

According to the release, "the highlight and most historic moment of the Convention will come on Saturday, March 19 (sic), when the delegates will be asked to ratify the 1976 Black Political Strategy, adopt the 1976 Black Political Platform, and nominate an independent Black Candidate for President of the United States."

Since the NBA was established at the 1972 Gary Black political convention it has organized very little activity where it does exist. However, since the NBA has announced its intentions to run an independent Black candidate the major Black media in particular, but other media as well, have given it significant news coverage. (Attached are two articles dated January 22. One is from the New York Times and the other is from Jet magazine.) It is not improbably that 1500 to 2000 people will come to Cincinnati.

We are planning to organize a major participation of the party at the convention -- Militant sales, distribution of campaign literature, etc. As many Black comrades as possible are encouraged to attend the convention, including comrades running for public office.

Once we gather more information on the convention -- its cost, etc. -- we will let branches know. According to the news release NBA chapters are planning to elect delegates to the national convention in January and February. These meetings are also supposed to discuss 1976 strategy and develop planks for the 1976 presidential candidate. If these meetings are actually organized it will be important for us to participate in them. It will allow us the opportunity to discuss important political issues facing the Black community such as busing, unemployment, discriminatory layoffs, ERA, and Angola. Because the leaders of the NBA plan to discuss running an independent Black candidate, we will also be able to discuss our views on this and the need for an independent Black party and how it can be built. Once we learn more about the convention and its character, a fuller perspectives report will be sent to the branches.

Any information gathered on NBA chapters should be forwarded to the national office.

Comradely,

*Malik Miah*

Malik Miah  
SWP National Office

COPY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Friday, January 9, 1976

'76 BLACK POLITICAL CONVENTION PLANS SET

The National Black Political Assembly has completed the format and schedule for what may be one of the most significant national meetings in the long history of Black people in America. Some 6,000 delegates and observers are expected in Cincinnati, Ohio for the Third Bi-Annual National Black Political Convention, March 17-21, 1976. The first convention was held in Gary, Indiana in 1972. The theme for the 1976 Black Convention is "Which Way Black Nation; Towards a '76 Political Strategy." The convention will focus on the building of a mass based independent Black political movement for 1976 and beyond.

After preliminary Convention Committee meetings and Platform Hearings on Wednesday, March 17, the Convention activities will formally begin on Thursday, March 18, with a Testimonial Luncheon hosted by the Cincinnati Chapter of the National Assembly. The Testimonial will be a "Salute to Theodore M. Berry," veteran Civil Rights freedom fighter, a past Deputy Director of O.E.O. and former Mayor of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Opening Session of the Convention and the Official Seating of the Delegates will take place on Thursday evening at the Cincinnati Convention Center. Among those who have been invited to participate in the Opening Session are: Lerone Bennet, Author-Lecturer and Senior Editor of Ebony Magazine; Congressman Ronald V. Dellums of California; and, former D.C. School superintendant and long-time community activist, Barbara Sizemore. A broad cross-section of National Black Leaders and representatives of African nations have also been invited to be present at Opening Session as Official Platform Guests.

Convention activities on March 19, will consist of a series of 14 Information and Issue Oriented Open Forums with panels of experts from the National Black Community dealing with a wide range of topics from the Concerns of Black Women, Youth and Senior Citizens to issues in Economic Development, Politics and Education. The Open Forums will be followed by a series of concurrent Skill Development Workshops which will be designed to provide information and skills in the areas of Voter Registration, Campaign Organization and Building Black Assemblies. A day-long Political and Organizational Development Institute will also be held on the 19th to provide intensive training for NBA state and local organizers.

The Convention is also slated to hear and discuss presentations from three key NBA Officials. NBA Political and Organizational Development Chairperson, Mtangulizi Sanyika (formerly Haywood Henry) will discuss the National Black Assembly's 1976 Political Strategy; National Co-Chairperson, Mashariki Kurudisha will present the 1976 Black Political Platform; and National Chairperson, Ron D. Daniels will outline the Goals and Future Direction of the National Black Assembly.

The highlight and most historic moment of the Convention will come on Saturday, March 19, when the delegates will be asked to ratify the 1976 Black Political Strategy, adopt the 1976 Black Political Platform, and nominate an independent Black Candidate for President of the United States. Though the NBA has yet to decide who is to be recommended to the Convention, Convention planners are hopeful that the prospective candidate once determined, will be present at the Convention to make an acceptance speech.

In preparation for the '76 National Convention, NBA State and local chapters throughout the nation are actively gearing up with a series of State and Local Conventions during January and February to elect delegates to the National Convention; develop planks for the 1976 Platform; and review the NBA 1976 Black Political Strategy. Persons who are not presently affiliated with the National Black Assembly are being actively encouraged to attend the Convention as observers. A concentrated effort is also underway in the South to reactivate a number of delegations which have been inactive over the past 18 months. NBA organizers report that they are finding an enthusiastic reception in many quarters since the group restructured and elected new officers in Dayton, Ohio last November. Many observers believe that the results of the Dayton meeting have set the stage for a successful '76 Convention and '76 Black Political Strategy.

Ron Daniels, Chairperson for the National Black Assembly said that, "the 1976 Black Political Convention and the 1976 Strategy will serve [as] a major vehicle to popularize the NEW BLACK POLITICS among the masses of Black people and to establish the National Black Assembly as a progressive Black alternative (pre-party) to the existing major parties." "The existing parties only represent different faces of the same power structure," Daniels continued. "The Republican and Democratic Parties reflect and represent the interests of the rich and the super-rich under the present vicious system of institutional racism and monopoly capitalism. A new society based on the principles and realization of Economic Democracy must be borne, and in 1976, starting with the National Black Political Convention, we intend for Black people to take the leadership in forging a new national movement to bring a new society into existence."

## BLACKS URGE JULIAN BOND AS PRESIDENT

(Article in New York Times, January 22, 1976, by Thomas A. Johnson)

Leaders of the National Black Political Assembly announced yesterday that they intended to draft State Senator Julian S. Bond of Georgia as an independent candidate for President of the United States.

This marks the first attempt to form an independent political organization by the amalgamation that grew out of the First National Black Political Convention in Gary, Ind., in March 1972.

It also puts the group in conflict with black elected officials who are under strong pressure to support their parties' political choice. Many of these officials were among the assembly's strongest supporters years ago.

The assembly's leaders said that Mr. Bond best represented the assembly's campaign to create "a society based on humanism, democracy and self-determination, free of oppression and exploitation of humans by other humans; an end to racism, sexism, militarism, imperialism, and all the insane derivations of monopoly capitalism."

Mr. Bond's reaction to the assembly move was to say he was "flattered," but that he had no plans to involve himself in national politics "until the 1976 legislative session is over in March."

At a news conference at the offices of District 1199, Drug and Hospital Workers Union, Mtangulizi Sanyika, chairman of the assembly's political and organizational development, said the group was "entering Presidential politics as independents with no intention of compromising or negotiating with the Democratic or Republican parties."

He said the effort would offer "our people and the American public a choice, a human agenda" so they "will

not be forced to choose between the lesser of two evils."

Mr. Sanyika, a Boston-based political activists whose name was formerly Hayward Henry, said that Mr. Bond had been chosen out of a field of five blacks. The other four under consideration were Democratic Representatives John Conyers Jr. of Michigan and Ronald V. Dellums of California; the Mayor of Gary, Ind., Richard G. Hatcher, and Dick Gregory, the comedian and social activist.

The assembly's co-chairman, Mashariki Kurudisha, said that the group would have chosen a woman candidate had they found one "better able to carry these issues."

Ron Daniels, the assembly chairman, who lives in Youngstown, Ohio, said that the organization would also assist in the convening of the first National Committee for People's Politics in Washington, D.C., Feb. 20-22. The committee, he said, will attempt to unite "black, third world and white groups and persons" with similar interests.

The assembly, with support of the committee, will then seek "ballot status for the candidate in 25 to 30 states," he said.

The assembly's own third National Black Political Convention is scheduled for Cincinnati March 17-21.

The group's first convention in 1972 attracted some 8,000 black Americans of diverse political interests to Gary. Many of the elected officials and civil rights people dropped out of the organization after nationalists pushed through resolutions calling for the "dismantling of Israel" and an end to school busing to achieve racial integration.

Fewer than 2,000 attended the group's second convention in Little Rock, Ark., in April 1974.

## NBPA's '76 STRATEGY: RUN BLACK FOR PRESIDENT

(article from Jet Magazine, January 22, 1976)

The Black highlight of Presidential campaign year 1976 will probably be the "'76 Strategy" of the National Black Political Assembly.

Under the leadership of NBPA chairman Ron Daniels, the group plans to take a serious shot at the Presidency by running a viable Black candidate, and hopes to capture 10 million votes.

As 1976 commenced, the assembly was in the process of selecting a candidate from a field of five possible choices: Rep. Ron Dellums (D., Calif.), Georgia state Sen. Julian Bond, social activist Dick Gregory, Rep. John Conyers (D., Mich.) and Gary, Ind., Mayor Richard G. Hatcher.

The NBPA is in the process of setting up a national support network for its candidate and plans to raise at least \$3

million in campaign funds through mass rallies and other money-raising efforts held throughout the U. S.

The first three months of the campaign, which will begin in February or March, will focus on voter registration. The remainder will focus on such issues as employment and the poor sharing more of the nation's wealth.

NBPA hopes to influence the two major U. S. political parties into actually adopting at least part of the NBPA platform as part of their own.

Some observers frankly have said they hoped the NBPA would select either Julian Bond or Ron Dellums as its candidate, Bond because of his very high visibility and Dellums because of his overwhelming charisma.

Daniels said he hopes to form coalitions of other Black groups outside the assembly to support its candidate, and observers have pointed out that possibility would increase immediately with a name like Bond's or build quickly with the charisma of a Dellums.