

# POLYNESIAN PANTHER PARTY WORKS FOR HUMANE SOCIETY

Last week, the Black Panther Party received a very warm and sincere message of solidarity from the Polynesian Panther Party based in Auckland New Zealand. (See letters to the Editor, page 2.) Accompanying that letter were informational materials, including the following interview, describing the ongoing organizing efforts on the part of the Polynesian Panther Party to transform their society into one which meets the needs and desires of the Polynesian community.

The following interview was conducted by Brothers Will Iholahia and Billy Bates of the Polynesian Panther Party.

## PART I

Q: How long has the Polynesian Panther Party been in existence?

PPP: Two years last Saturday (June 16th).

Q: How is the Party administered?

PPP: We have a Central Committee, who purely administer, but the real power of the group is in the people themselves. We also have community program coordinators, a full time office service and a full time social worker.

Q: What are your relations with the public like?

PPP: Generally we feel that some Pakehas are against us because they do not understand what we are doing, many do not see that racism exists in New Zealand. The relations with the Polynesian community are pretty good.

Q: Why did the PPP start?

PPP: Because of the problems Polynesians are facing—racism, landlords, employers, etc.

Q: Why did you choose the name "Panthers"?

PPP: One of the reasons is derived from the definition of the Panther animal — it never attacks except when cornered by an aggressor, it will attack and completely, wholly, and absolutely wipe out the aggressor.

Q: What methods do the Panthers use to fight back?

PPP: We're doing community programs to help and to mobilize the people. For example, education, food, legal-aid programs.

Q: What does the food program involve?

PPP: We work with the People's Union. It involves collecting money from the people and buying the food in bulk and then distributing it to those who ordered them.



People protesting the lack of recreational facilities for young Polynesians in Auckland suburbs.

Q: And the legal-aid program?

PPP: That involves our going into the courts, assisting the Polynesians with bail and getting legal assistance.

Q: And Education?

PPP: Twice a week young Poly-

nesians go to the homework center and do homework. There they feel free to discuss their work with teachers whereas they do not at school.

Q: Are all these programs restricted to Polynesians?

PPP: Only the legal-aid program.

Q: What success have you had with the programs?

PPP: They have been pretty successful. For example, education — most of the children have passed exams, whereas if they had not gone they would not have passed.

Q: Why is the legal-aid program needed?

PPP: Because 50-80% of prisoners are Polynesians yet we are only 9% of the New Zealand population. It costs \$2,000 a year to keep each prisoner in jail, so we suggest that if people are economically minded, they should realize we could save them a lot of money, if we solve the problem before getting these guys in.

TO BE CONTINUED



Ethiopian students marching in support of civilian rule.

## ETHIOPIAN STUDENTS DEMAND RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE

(Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) Demonstrations in the Ethiopian capital here have centered around the demand for a return to civilian government to replace the military one which recently removed Emperor Haile Selassie and ended centuries of feudal rule in this east African country.

The demonstrators were primarily university students, who also demanded a speedy court-martial and conviction of the deposed Emperor. Students, trade unions and professionals, once strong allies of the new military government, are now criticizing it for the first time since the estimated 80-member Armed Forces Coordinating Committee seized power in a remarkable bloodless coup d'etat, earlier this year.

The discontent of the Ethiopian population was reportedly touched off by the Committee's recent proclamation of the creation of a Provisional Military Government, while it failed to name a date on which it intends to hand power to a civilian government. The Committee promised when it took power that it would turn the country over to a civilian government within a short time.

There has been no official announcement about a court-martial for the Emperor, although the Coordinating Committee is rumored to be against such a trial. The military is reportedly bent on maintaining a deliberately slow pace in the belief that this is the only way to keep the country peaceful. The government.

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## AFRICA IN FOCUS



### SOUTH AFRICA

For the first time in history, the South African delegation to the United Nations General Assembly includes non-White members. Rather than a softening of the strict, hard-line doctrine of apartheid practiced in South Africa, the move is seen by observers to be a "slight-of-hand" tactic used by the Vorster government to ease the country past the U.N.'s credentials committee. Many Third World countries in the U.N. want to have the credentials committee not accept the South African delegation as a show of world protest against the strict racial segregation openly practiced against the Black African population.

### GUINEA-BISSAU

The west African Republic of Guinea-Bissau, recently proclaimed formally independent after 500 years of Portuguese colonial rule — the last 10 years of which were spent in bloody combat ending in a victory for the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands (PAIGC) — along with the Black South African country of Grenada and Bangladesh, were admitted to the United Nations last Tuesday, September 17. The three nations became the 136th, 137th and 138th members of the U.N.

### ENGLAND

The British government last week denounced the sale by Jordan of British-made Centurion tanks and land-to-air missiles to South Africa. "We have left Jordan in no doubt about our strong feelings that British arms... found their way to South Africa," an official government source told the press. The Foreign Office said that the clandestine deal was at first repeatedly denied by the Jordanian government.