

ADVANCE THE STRUGGLE
2nd ANNUAL TRIBUTE TO
GENERAL GORDON BAKER, JR.
DARE TO FIGHT! DARE TO WIN!



Saturday, September 19, 2015
2pm - 5pm

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History
General Motors Theater

Charles Ezra Ferrell (Introduction)

Special Video Presentation:

Maxwell C. Stanford, Jr. (Dr. Muhammad Ahmad)'s Interview of General Baker, Jr., 1992

Moderator:

Maureen Taylor

Panelists:

Valerie Baker

Dr. Charles Simmons, Esq.

Cassandra Bell

Dr. Luke Tripp

Darryl Mitchell (Waistline)

Q&A

Announcements For Activism

(Cover Photograph by Daymon J. Hartley)

General Gordon Baker, Jr. (September 6, 1941 – May 17, 2014) was an internationally renowned labor leader, organizer and human rights activist who has been called the most important 21st century American revolutionary.

He was a leader of the Detroit wildcat strikes in the 1960s, a founder of the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement (DRUM), the legendary League of Revolutionary Black Workers and the first American to refuse induction to fight in Vietnam. His case was a landmark in draft resistance, symbolizing the beginning of the anti-war movement. General, along with Luke Tripp and Charles Simmons, travelled to Cuba and met Che Guevara and religiously listened to Robert F. Williams' radio show, "Radio Free Dixie," broadcasted from Cuba.

In the book, *Detroit: I Do Mind Dying*- about the worker revolts of that era - General Gordon Baker, Jr. (Gen) is cited as the "soul of the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement (DRUM)." DRUM was the driving force behind the wildcat strikes. The ideas emanating from that period inspired Black autoworkers throughout America.

General Gordon Baker Jr.'s life-long commitment to the working class made him one of the country's most knowledgeable spokespersons for a new society where workers will finally receive the fruits of their labor. An autoworker for 30 years, Baker remained a champion of the unemployed and unorganized workers.



His other accomplishments included running in a Michigan campaign for political office; directing a state-wide campaign to support Detroit's homeless tent city, and being part of the North American delegation to the 7th Pan-African Congress in Uganda. Baker also addressed many other national and international gatherings, including Convener of the 1993 conference in Detroit commemorating Malcolm X and celebrating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers. General Baker, Jr. has been the featured

speaker at MIT, University of Illinois – Chicago, Cleveland State University, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, State University of New York at Binghamton, Carnegie Mellon Institute; and Howard University. He was chair of the Steering Committee of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America: <http://rallycomrades.lma.org/>

“We got a lot of struggling to do. But history is on our side.”

- General Gordon Baker, Jr.

<http://www.mediamobilizing.org/updates/remembering-general-baker>

About the Panelists

Maureen Taylor



Maureen D. Taylor is a lifelong soldier in the war against the poor. General Gordon Baker, Jr. was her mentor. When General made his transition from this life to the next, Maureen, with tears streaming from her eyes, stated, "I am going to continue to fight, that's what Gen would want me to do."

She has served as State Chair of the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization since 1993, and was elected Treasurer of the National Welfare Rights Union in 1994.

Ms. Taylor is dedicated community activist who represents public assistance recipients at Michigan Department of Human Service (DHS) offices over case disputes. Along with other welfare rights members, she conducts local and state DHS policy trainings and works with political leaders and corporations to draft policies and procedures that protect poor and low-income families.

Since 2002, MWRO has worked with thousands of concerned residents and organizations to stop water, gas, and electricity shut-offs for thousands of low-income households in Detroit. She has testified before Detroit City Council, in the Michigan State capitol, and before members of Congress and federal administrations on the plight of poor people, especially as safety net programs are removed without education or employment opportunities for low-income families.

Maureen earned her Bachelor of Social Work at Marygrove College in 1983, where she was also the distinguished Valedictorian of her graduating class. In 1994, she earned her Master of Social Work degree from Wayne State University. She has received many distinguished awards for her community organizing and leadership, and speaks at conferences and college campuses across the U.S. on poverty and safety net needs; changes in labor and the economy; civil rights history; and utility shutoffs and organizing. Maureen is a mother, educator and a member of local several boards and national community organizations.



Valerie Baker

Valerie (Val) Baker is the youngest of three sisters born to General Baker, Sr. and Clara Baker. Valerie attended Wayne State University where she focused in the social sciences. She currently works as a IT professional, providing product support in the cutting edge area of data analytics.

Val and Gen remained tightly connected throughout his life and she will impart unique perspectives of Gen and family dynamics unknown to the academic, activist and

larger community.

Photograph: General Gordon Baker, Jr. and Sister Val

Dr. Charles Simmons, Esq.

Professor Charles Simmons is Emeritus Professor of Journalism and Law at Eastern Michigan University, and serves on the Graduate Faculty of Social Justice at Marygrove College. He has also served on the faculties of Howard University and California State University, Los Angeles. He is a graduate of Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, where he was a Fellow in the Graduate School of International Affairs. He is also a graduate of Georgetown Law School. His commitment in service as a Human Rights Activist spans 50 years. His service spans the field of national journalism at the Associated Press in New York City, and International Journalism based at the United Nations.



Dr. Charles Simmons, Esq. with wife, Reverend Sandra Simmons

Appointed by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad as the International Correspondent for "Muhammad Speaks Newspaper", organized by Minister Malcolm X, Dr. Simmons has covered Decolonization Movements in Africa; the Vietnam Peace Talks and the Cold War in Europe. He has also reported on The Arab-Israeli Struggles in the greater Middle East; and political economy and Human Rights in South America.

Simmons is former Chair of the Washington D.C. Chapter of the National Alliance of Third World Journalists, and has served as a People-to-People ambassador for Witness for Peace and the interfaith Fellowship of Reconciliation in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Simmons was a social justice, peace and labor activist in the 1960s Civil Rights and Black Power Movements. He was a member of UHURU and The League of Revolutionary Black Workers. He has also worked with gang members in California. He contributes to local, national and international media. His topics include Environmental Journalism, Intellectual Property Law and Globalization for Justice. His *FaceBook* critiques are very popular. Professor Simmons is on the boards of many local and national organizations.

Professor Simmons' commendations include the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award with his wife, Rev. Sandra Simmons, from Wayne State University for Community Leadership; the Sierra Club for Environmental Reporting; and an Award for Online Journalism from the New York Association of Black Journalists. Email: charles.simmons@emich.edu

Cassandra Bell

Cassandra (Cass) Bell stated, "I got involved in the Black Student Movement when I was fourteen years old, the Union Movement at age 19 and the later, the Women's Movement. I was hired at the Cadillac Plant in 1974, the same year a law was enacted

that forced plants to have gender diversity. I worked at Cadillac for thirty years, through 2004.

During my tenure, I held numerous committee union jobs and was elected as Convention Delegate on three occasions and held positions of Alternate Safety Representative and Safety Trainer. Since retirement, I have been the Retiree Financial Secretary for Local 22 for two terms and I help launch, Retirees For Single Payer, a group of activist retirees who have been meeting every Monday for nearly seven years.” (See: <http://www.retireesforsphc.org> where Gen’s picture is featured).



“I first met General Baker at his home on Cortland, which was the headquarters for the student walkout at Highland Park Community College. I was 14, in the 9th grade of high school, and decided to walk in the picket line. We left the picket line and went to Cortland. We went to Gen’s home many days after that demonstration to strategize our next actions. Mr. Charles Simmons (referenced above) was leading the picket line and he

took all of use to Gen’s home. This is where I learned about black struggles against oppression and black workers fighting back. I became very active in this movement. I joined the Black Student United Front (BSUF) and transferred to Cooley High School where I increased my activism in the BSUF. I wrote articles, passed out flyers BSUF and the League of Revolutionary Black Workers (LRBW) and worked at the union. I “hung out” at Cortland after school almost every day to supplement my activist education under the tutelage of General Baker and Charles Simmons.”

Dr. Luke Tripp



Dr. Luke Tripp is a Professor of Black American Studies in the Department of Ethnic and Women’s Studies at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud Minnesota. His activism in the Black liberation struggle began in Detroit in 1960. He was a leader of UHURU, a Black student at Wayne State University in the 1960s. Tripp travelled to Cuba in 1964 with General Gordon Baker, Jr., Charles Simmons and other students, edited the Wayne State University Inner City Voice newspaper on behalf of DRUM (Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement), and was one of the founders of the League of Revolutionary Black

Workers. He has published several articles on Black activism, including one that focuses on the formation of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers.

Darryl Mitchell (aka Waistline)

Darryl Mitchell (Waistline) is a second- generation autoworker and founding member of the LRBW. He is currently of member of League of Revolutionaries for a New America (LRNA). See: <http://www.lrna.org>



His activities begin in May 1968, as a youth, when General Gordon Baker, Jr. and a group of revolutionaries inaugurated what could become “*The Last Great Industrial strike wave in American History.*” In 1972, Waistline was hired by Chrysler Corporation and would retire 30 years later. Throughout his tenure, he remained active in the struggle of the industrial workers, the trade unions, and the black masses in Detroit.

Waistline has authored four books: (*Marxist Glossary Expanded Edition* (2014), *Marxist Glossary Limited Edition* (2014), *Glosario Marxista, Edicion Mini* (2014), and *The Pamphlet Detroit* (2010). He is a former member of the National Coalition of Black Trade Unions (Executive Board Member - Metropolitan Detroit) 1975-1985, The American Writers Congress (National) 1981-1985, The Equal Right Congress (1980-1990), UAW (1972-Present) – Elected Committeeman and Chairperson of the Shop Committee at Mound Road Engine, Local 51, and he has been member of LRNA since 2011 through the present.

Recommended Readings and Links

General Baker speaks on current auto crisis
DRUM article, 30th Anniversary, 1998
Letter to the Draft Board, Detroit, 1965
Open Letter to Chrysler Corporation, May, 1968
General Baker at a press conference during the 1960s
We Will Return In The Whirlwind: Black Radical Organizations 1960-1975, Muhammad Ahmad and Maxwell Stanford, Jr., Charles H. Kerr Publishing Co., 2007
Guerrilla Warfare Advocates in the United States, Committee on Un-American Activities, U.S. House of Representatives, 1968.



<http://www.revolutionaryblackworkers.org/>
Black Working Class Radicalism In Detroit, 1960-1970:
<http://web.stcloudstate.edu/lstripp/ltdrum.htm>
Tribute to General Gordon Baker, Jr. :
<http://www.theblackscholar.org/a-tribute-to-william-bill-watkins-by-w-f-santiago-valles/>
General Gordon Baker, Jr. Scholarship:
<https://www.lsa.umich.edu/sid/apply/generalbakerscholarship>
<http://www.haymarketbooks.org/pb/Detroit-I-Do-Mind-Dying>
<http://rallycomrades.lrna.org/>
Muhammad Ahmad _ History is A Weapon;
<http://www.historyisaweapon.com/defcon1/rbwstudy.html>
"Soul Power or Workers Power? The Rise and Fall of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers" (1974)
http://books.google.com/books/about/The_Black_power_movement.html?id=3Gd2AAAAMAAJ
http://www.lexisnexis.com/documents/academic/upa_cis/16313_BlackPowerMovementPt3.pdf
http://www.monroefordham.org/organizations/Black_RAM.html
Bates, Beth Tompkins, *The Making of Black Detroit in the Age of Henry Ford*.
University of North Carolina Press, 2012. <http://uncpress.unc.edu/books/10078.html>
http://keywiki.org/index.php/General_Baker
<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1997/summer/american-labor-movement.html>
<http://www.historyisaweapon.com/defcon1/rbwstudy.html>
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/glaberman/1969/04/drum.htm>
<https://www.reuther.wayne.edu/files/LR000874.pdf>
<http://socialistworker.org/2012/02/17/a-movement-has-to-control-its-voice>

<http://www.speakersforanewamerica.com/gen2.html>

Black Nationalism in America
(The American Heritage Series)
Editors: John H. Bracey, August Meier, Elliot Rudwick
Macmillan Publishing Company - First Edition (December 1970)

We Will Return In The WHIRLWIND
Black Radical Organizations: 1960-1975
Muhammad Ahmad (Maxwell Stanford, Jr.)
Forward by John H. Bracey
First Edition, 2007, Charles H. Kerr Publishing Company, Chicago, IL

Detroit: I Do Mind Dying -
A Study in Urban Revolution
Dan Georgakas and Marvin Surkin
Third Edition, 2012, Haymarket Books, Chicago
(First Edition, 1975, St. Martin's Press, NY, NY)

Class, Race & Worker Insurgency
The League of Revolutionary Black Workers
James A. Geschwender
First Edition, 1977, Cambridge University Press

The Making of Black Detroit in the Age of Henry Ford
Beth Tompkins Bates
2012, University of North Carolina Press
(Earlier History)
http://www.amazon.com/The-New-Black-History-Reconstruction/dp/1403977771#reader_1403977771

The Black Bolsheviks: Revolutionary Union Movements and Shop Floor Organizing
(Chapter 12)
Edited by Manning Marable and Elizabeth Kai Hinton
2011, Palgrave Macmillan, NY, NY

Source: http://brothermalcolm.net/SOLDIERS/#General_Baker

Allen, Ernie. *Dying From the Inside: The Decline of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers*. in Cluster, Dick (Ed.) (1979). They Should have Served That Cup of Coffee:

General Baker



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUfop2PI9pc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DF9DVBOVvNc>

<http://www.speakersforanewamerica.com/gen.html>

<http://www.daahp.wayne.edu/biographiesDisplay.php?id=78>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmCejbllKco>

<http://vimeo.com/14124564>

<http://vimeo.com/14129819>

Seven Radicals Remember the Sixties. Boston: South End Press.

Alkalimat, A. & et al. (1984). *Introduction to Afro-American Studies*. Chicago, Illinois: Twenty-First Century Books.

Baron, H. (1971). The demand for Black labor. *Radical America*. 2, 2-6

Foner, P. (1974). *Organized Labor and the Black Worker*. 1619-1973. New York: Praeger.

Foster, W. (1973). *The Negro people in American history*. New York: International Publishers.

Georgakas, D., & Marvin, S. (1975). *Detroit: I do mind mind dying*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

Geschwender, J. (1977). *Class, race, and worker insurgency*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Joseph, P. (2006). *Waiting Til The Midnight Hour*. New York: Henry Holt and Co.

Tripp, L. S. (1968). DRUM-vanguard of the Black revolution: Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement states history, purpose, and aims. *The South End: Wayne State University*, 27(52), 1-12.

<http://www.amazon.com/Marxist-Glossary-Expanded-Twenty-First-Narrative/dp/1499145500>

Race, Racism and Social Construction by Darryl Mitchell (Waistline from Detroit)

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!topic/blackleftunity/dt6E2cONKQo>

Dr. LUKE TRIPP PUBLICATIONS

- Newspaper article: [Somali students protest hostile racial school climate](#). Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder. April 9-15, 2015
- Newspaper article: [Institutional racism plagues St. Cloud schools](#)
- St. Cloud Times. March 29, 2015

- Newspaper article: A Black Perspective on Cuba
- <http://spokesman-recorder.com/black-perspective-cuba/>
- Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder. February 6, 2014
- Book: Lacourt, L. A. , Mark, J. , Tripp, L. , & Villanueva, M. (Eds.). (2015).
- Racial Issues. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing Company.
- Tripp, Luke S. "Blacks in America." *Racial Issues*. S.l. : Kendall Hunt, 2014. 51-63. Print.
- Tripp, Luke S. "Racial Ideological Warfare." *Racial Issues*. S.l.: Kendall Hunt, 2014. 65-73. Print.
- Newspaper article: Ferguson, MO case proves criminal justice system is morally bankrupt
- <http://www.spokesman-recorder.com/2014/12/06/ferguson-mo-case-proves-criminal-justice-system-is-morally-bankrupt/>
- Newspaper article: The political terrain of anti-Black policing
- <http://www.spokesman-recorder.com/2014/09/11/political-terrain-anti-black-policing/>
- Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder. September 11, 2014
- Newspaper article: Police Brutalize Black female Professor
- <http://www.spokesman-recorder.com/2014/07/15/police-brutality-black-professors-are-fair-game-too/>
- Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder. July 18, 2014
- Newspaper article:- Nelson Mandela symbolizes the essence of a human rights fighter
- <http://www.spokesman-recorder.com/2013/12/11/nelson-mandela-symbolizes-the-essence-of-a-human-rights-fighter/>
- Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder. December 13, 2013.
- Newspaper article: Proposed St. Cloud Islamic Center arouses racial tensions
- <http://www.spokesman-recorder.com/2013/10/23/proposed-st-cloud-islamic-center-arouses-racial-tensions/>
- Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder. October 23, 2013
- Newspaper article: George Washington and the names of Black schools
- <http://www.spokesman-recorder.com/2013/02/27/george-washington-and-his-black-slaves/>
- Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder. February 27, 2013
- Newspaper article: The illusion of racial progress
- <http://www.spokesman-recorder.com/2013/02/13/the-illusion-of-racial-progress-2/> Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder. February 14-20, 2013
- Newspaper article: Anti-Black stereotypes killed Trayvon Martin and profiled me in St. Cloud Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder. April 19-25, 2012
- Newspaper article: St. Cloud School Leadership is Clueless and Inept. Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder. April 15-21, 2010
- Newspaper article: District's leaders failing to change St. Cloud Times. April 10, 2010
- Newspaper article: Attacks against Somali community show need for strong human rights office Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder. February 2, 2010
- Newspaper article: *St Cloud Human Rights Offices*. Minnesota Spokesman-

Recorder. September 17, 2009

- • Newspaper article: Human Rights Department would help create Community that is more inclusive. St. Cloud Times. September 12, 2009
- • Newspaper article: Criminal justice system is used to control and weaken Blacks. Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder. September 10, 2007
- • Article published: Peter Brown (Ed.). (2008). Ad-Hoc Work Group-Minnesota Re:US Compliance With Human Rights Treaties. Bringing the Treaty Obligations intoView at the State Level -Minnesota. Failures to Implement the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in Minnesota. A Response to the 2007 Periodic Report of the United States of America
- • This is the document.
 - • Ad-Hoc Work Group-Minnesota
 - • Minnesotans Bring Local Issues of Racism to World Stage
- • National Shadow Report: To view a copy of the shadow report submitted by the US Human Rights Network, please visit: http://www.ushrnetwork.org/cerd_shadow_2008
- • Article published: St. Cloud Times, Opinion page (2008, January 26).and Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder Originally posted (2008, January 30). Pawlenty's actions run contrary to King's legacy.
- • Article published: (2007, October 10). Racial Profiling and Criminalization. *Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder*, p. 4.
- • Article published: Villanueva, Margaret A. (Ph.D.), Flora Calderón-Steck, Ilia Rodríguez, and Luke Tripp. "Latina Immigrants in Minnesota Communities: A Comparative Survey on Demographics, Needs, Barriers, and Assets," JSRI Research Report #64, The Julian Samora Research Institute, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, 2005.
- • Article published: Blacks in America: American Mythology and Miseducation.. In J. Andrezejewski (Ed.), *Oppression and Social Justice: Critical Frameworks* (pp. 316-321). Needham Heights, MA: Simon & Schulster. (1996)
- • Article published: The Intellectual Roots of the Controversy around Cultural Diversity and Political Correctness, *The Western Journal of Black Studies*, Vol. 18, no.4. (Winter 1994), 227-230.
- • Article published: The Political Views of Black Students During the Reagan Era, *The Black Scholar*, Vol. 22, no. 3 (Summer 1992), 45-52.
- • Article published: Race Consciousness Among African-American Students, 1980s, Pullman, Washington, *The Western Journal of Black Studies*, Vol. 15, no.3 (Fall 1991); 159-168.
- • Book published: Black Student Activists: Transition to Middle Class Professionals, Lanham, Maryland, University Press of America, 1987.

- Article published: Community Leadership and Black Former Student Activists of the 1960s, *The Western Journal of Black Studies*, Vol. 10, No. 2 (Summer 1986); 86-89.

Dr. Luke Tripp UNPUBLISHED WORKS

Manuscript: Race, Merit, and College Admission addresses the controversy over including race in the criteria for admission to highly selective colleges and universities. In the context of morality, merit, and social responsibility, it critiques the most compelling arguments of opponents and proponents of affirmative action programs and policies at prestigious colleges and universities.

Accepted for publication: Racial Ideological Warfare: IQ as a Weapon, *The Black Scholar: Journal of Black Studies and Research*, June, 1995.

Conference paper: General Education: A holistic approach to intellectual development. "Looking Back, Looking Forward, and Pulling It Together: A Celebration of Teaching Excellence In the Minnesota State Universities," Bush Spring Symposium, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, April 27-28, 1995.

Manuscript: The Racial Attitudes of Black Students during the Reagan Era. This is a longitudinal study of the racial views and attitudes of 739 African-American students who attended Southern Illinois University-Carbondale (SIU) in the 1980s. The students completed a questionnaire that elicited their social views and attitudes. The purpose of this study was to examine and describe the racial attitudes of Black students in the 1980s. Their racial attitudes were measured in terms of responses to social distance questions concerning their willingness to take part in various social settings involving contact with Whites. A major aim of this research is to describe and explore the relationship between the effects of Reaganism and Blacks' attitudes toward Whites.

Conference paper: "Black Working Class Radicalism In Detroit, 1960-1970," The 79th Annual Meeting of the Association for the study of Afro-American Life and History, Atlanta, GA., October 12-16, 1994. This research examines and explores the cultural aspects of radicalism among Black automobile workers in Detroit in the 1960s from the vantage point of autobiographical experience and a Marxian framework. It considers some of the cultural factors that accounted for the emergence of a revolutionary Black workers' organization. Among those factors were the lifestyles of the factory workers and the roles that kinship and friendship played in building a radical organization. Furthermore, it discusses particular ideas, values, and beliefs that are prevalent in Black culture, which dispose Black workers more toward radicalism than their White counterparts. It also examines cultural factors, which inhibited radical developments.

Conference paper: Racism and Public Education. Race in 21st Century America" conference. Michigan State University. April 4-6, 2007 Lansing, Michigan. This essay argues that the U.S. public school system is structured along racial and social class lines determined by powerful political and economic forces, and that there is a racial

and class tracking system in public education that reproduces the race and class structure of the society. Further, it describes how schools play a principal role in perpetuating ideological racism through a social studies curriculum that is designed to promote white supremacy by distorting American history in such a way that it portrays whites as agents of progress and builders of civilizations and Blacks as insignificant objects or deficient characters.

DETROIT, 1965

Gentlemen:

This letter is in regards to a notice sent to me, General Gordon Baker, Jr., requesting my appearance before an examining station to determine my fitness for military service.

How could you have the NERVE knowing that I am a black man living under the scope and influence of America's racist, decadent society??? You did not ask me if I had any morals, principles, or basic human values by which to live. Yet, you ask if I am qualified. QUALIFIED FOR WHAT, might I ask? What does being "Qualified" mean: qualified to serve in the U.S. Army? . . . To be further brainwashed into the insidious notion of "defending freedom"?

You stand before me with the dried blood of Patrice Lumumba on your hands, the blood of defenseless Panamanian students, shot down by U.S. marines; the blood of my black brothers in Angola and South Africa who are being tortured by the Portuguese and South African whites (whom you resolutely support) respectively; the dead people of Japan, Korea, and now Vietnam, in Asia; the blood of Medgar Evers, six Birmingham babies, the blood of one million Algerians slaughtered by the French (whom you supported); the *fresh* blood of ten thousand Congolese patriots dead from your ruthless rape and plunder of the Congo—the blood of defenseless women and children burned in villages from Napalm jelly bombs . . . With all of this blood of my non-white brothers dripping from your fangs, you have the damned AUDACITY to ask me if I am "qualified." White man; listen to me for I am talking to you!

I AM A MAN OF PRINCIPLES AND VALUES: principles of justice and national liberation, self-determination, and respect for national sovereignty. Yet, you ask if I am "physically fit" to go to Asia, Africa, and Latin America to fight my oppressed brothers (who are completely and resolutely within their just rights to free their fatherland from foreign domination). You ask me if I am qualified to join an army of FOOLS, ASSASSINS and MORAL DELINQUENTS who are not worthy of being called men! You want me to defend the riches reaped from the super-exploitation of the darker races of mankind by a few white, rich, super-monopolists who control the most vast empire that has ever existed in man's one million years of History—all in the name of "Freedom"!

Why, here in the heart of America, 22 million black people are suffering unsurmounted toil: exploited economically by every form of business—from monopolists to petty hustlers; completely suppressed politically; deprived of their social and cultural heritage.

But, all men of principle are fighting-men! My fight is for Freedom: UHURU, LIBERTAD, HALAUGA, and HARAMBEE! Therefore, when the call is made to free South Africa; when the call is made to liberate Latin America from the United Fruit Co., Kaiser and Alcoa Aluminum Co., and from Standard Oil; when the call is made to jail the exploiting Brahmins in India in order to destroy the Caste System; when the call is made to free the black delta areas of Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina; when the call is made to FREE 12TH STREET HERE IN DETROIT!: when these calls are made, send for me, for these shall be Historical Struggles in which it shall be an honor to serve!

Venceremos!

General G. Baker, Jr.