WE HAVE TO WAGE A STRUGGLE INSIDE THE JAILS AND PRISONS, SIMULTANEOUS WITH THE STRUGGLE IN THE STREETS.
new era has arisen in the United States, insurrection, revolution and violence has broken at the door of America, the world’s new most potent nation of imperialism. Historical conditions have forced the conflicting aspects of American society to the point of division. Now only the struggle’s picking which side they wish to int on the side of the forces of reaction, racism and fascism or with forces of liberation, the people’s cause of freedom. Because the front line is already raised to the level of sporadic military encounters, revolutionaries shooting it out with the apparatus of the state. Revolutionaries are being harassed, selling papers, revolutionary literature being suppressed, the goods that have been exiled from the community — many have been locked up in the notorious prisons and jails of Babylon. The increase in revolutionary prisoners has proportionately increased the level of political awareness throughout the penal system. San Quentin, because of its large population, is getting its share of political prisoners. Reagan’s government and the puppet prison administrators are fully aware of this and also its effect. Awareness creates a revolutionary atmosphere throughout the prison. Here San Quentin we are feeling the pressure full force. Although it has been precedents. We are aware of the notorious Jonathan Jackson, William Travis and James McClain made supreme sacrifices for freedom, but we are aware of our struggle with a group of story-book revolts of Negroes in the early 20th century, the new excuse and pretext for lock-downs of brothers in the hole is "possession of inflammatory literature". This is nonsense, of course, revolutionary, it is in our possession because we are trying to bring our incarcerated brothers up to a higher level of awareness. They can then change their outlook and ideas of individual material in the exploitation of the black community.

The pigs see us and anyone who associates closely with the cadre here as a new combination, a new book on social conditions. We are coming more disciplined and are striving to unify around the ideology establishing revolutionary political power for Black people. The pigs know it, once we establish this necessary political power they can no longer riot and oppress us. They will not be able to lock up our warriors in prisons and jails any longer. They also realize that once the masses of angry Black people become politically aware, we are going to bring the machinery of oppression to a screeching halt, through violent, bloody, but justified warfare.

This harassment takes on a familiar form. They watch a group of brothers who are known revolutionaries, they accumulate this knowledge into special folders, labeled “militants, vanguards, revolutionaries and Black Panthers” along with photographs. This information is kept at the Federal (a central command headquarters here in San Quentin, similar to the Pentagon or the F.B.I. headquarters). Whenever the pigs get the itch or urge they dig out this folder and proceed to systematically shake down our cells. (The shake down is a procedure whereby they go into a person’s cell and search it thoroughly, digging up the bed, tearing all of the pictures off the walls and generally making a pigsty mess. They sit down and read every letter, document, personal writing and anything else, hoping to find something speaking against the present social order. That is then labeled “inflammatory literature”, and the owner of the material is taken to the “hole” or the Adjustment Center to wait a high tribunal of transplanted Ku Klux Klansmen and dispossessed Nazi prison camp leaders.

Since a man’s thoughts reflect his attitude and his writings mirror both, we as politically aware individuals will have this so-called inflammatory literature in our possession one hundred percent of the time. Last week two of our brothers were taken off the yard; James Elliston, Kenny Faver, Charles Augustine, J.P. Tworkker and Eddie Chilce. All were charged with having inflammatory material in their possession. There was once a time when we would run to our cells and destroy all writings in hope that we could keep the truth from coming down on us. That time has passed. Now we realize that this pig has no laws which we as oppressed people are bound to respect. He cannot stifle our thoughts in order to slow up historical inevitable Revolution – Liberation. We say damn him and all of his reactionary, fascist running dogs, because we will continue to write and educate whenever we are among the masses and regardless of the repressive measures and repressive dogs who are behind us. It is time that we as people stand up and fight off this pig power structure. We are right; history has proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that we are morally, intellectually and spiritually justified in taking our freedom by the most drastic means available.

The times have been a changin’, and to the pigs we say come on, for history and the unborn generations are watching our action closely. If we do not take a stand for liberation now, then we do not deserve to breathe the oxygen we inhale, or the space we take up. This is the year of the youth, so we must give the youth the proper tools to fight and destroy this system of racism, fascism and imperialism. The tools needed are awareness, loyalty to the cause of liberation and faith in the people. We cannot give them anything but struggle, if we allow ourselves to be backed into a corner with out putting up any struggle. If we do not give the youth anything but a fleeting glance at a revolutionary act, that is much better than four hundred years of toil and step n’ get it, foot-shuffling, spineless cowardice.

Once, as we men, are recognized as what we are, political prisoners, a new situation develops. The corrupt prison official, the governor, the State Department and the world’s agents of political prisoners and to treat us in accord with the Geneva Convention’s mandate for the treatment of the political prisoner and the prisoner of war. As of now we are not treated any better than animals in a cage. Once our people, the sensitive people of the country, realize the nature of a political prisoner, they will demand our humane treatment, until they build up the necessary forces to do just what the French people did to the Bastille in the 18th century. They will not sit around and wait for the courts or parole boards or any of the other shameless mockery to release us. The people will and must do it themselves. You out there, mold yourselves into a political and military unit, and once all oppressed people unite around the banner of liberation, no force in the world can stop the natural course of history. The French could not stop the Vietnamese or Algerian people, the Japanese and the reactionary Chinese could not stop the oppressed people of China; Ian Smith and his apartheid partners will not stop the People of Rhodesia, South Africa or South West Africa from gaining their freedom.

The pigs in this country, regardless of the technical equipment, cannot stop the people’s struggle for liberation. The pigs here in San Quentin regardless of the intimidation and harassment aimed at stop the exchange of revolutionary knowledge. They are only making sure of their death by continuing to indulge in the childish game of cops and robbers.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

Black Panther Party
San Quentin Branch