

but a reality.

The survival programs exist because we understand the reality of America. In the midst of affluence, many Black and poor oppressed people are denied the most basic necessities of life. Programs that serve the people, in themselves, are not an answer to this, but they are something to tide us over until we can achieve our freedom.

Certain progressive people within the community of East Palo Alto attempted to rename it Nairobi, through a city hall initiative, in 1969, to give the people a feeling of self-determination. However, the initiative failed to pass. The idea that, if people are aware of their heritage, they will then be free, is naive. Because we acknowledge that we are Black people who came to this country in chains, does not mean that we will have food to eat, clothes to wear, a shelter over our heads. Only through real and tangible things can we begin to organize and educate the people as to the significance of our real heritage - from the great kingdoms of ancient Africa, through chattel slavery, and up to the oppression we suffer today. Slaves can never be free by just acknowledging their slavery.

The Black Panther Party believes that if we can become conscious of what causes poverty then we can begin to eradicate it. By unifying the Black and poor communities around decent housing, adequate jobs, an end to harassment by the police, and halting the constant frustration of survival from day-to-day, we can begin to work to make our communities a place where people can live in peace and harmony. Until then, the concept of Nairobi cannot work. It takes little to realize that the government enjoys seeing Black people speak Swahili and dressing in African clothing. As long as we do not stop spending the American dollar or working in the American institutions and industries then they are satisfied. The Government will even go along with the opening of black businesses. They know that our businesses cannot threaten the economy since they control the money. When we begin to organize and serve the Black community then the government gets frightened; that is when they try to stop us.

In Palo Alto, the Black Panther Party announced the opening of our most recent Survival Center at 2369 University Avenue. The racist city officials of East Palo Alto know that survival means more to Black people than Swahili phrases; we must unite as one family. As Comrade Huey's quote says: We are creating "a very strong structure".

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE



COMRADE BOBBY SEALE addressed the people at East Palo Alto's first Black Community Survival Day.

# A STRUCTURE FOR SURVIVAL

EAST PALO ALTO BRANCH  
BLACK PANTHER PARTY,

OPENS WITH COMMUNITY SURVIVAL DAY



PHOTO CREDIT: HANK LERO

"What the revolutionary movement and the Black community needs is a very strong structure. This structure can only exist with the support of the people and it can only get its support through serving them."

The statement above is a quote from Comrade Huey P. Newton, Leader and Chief Theoretician of the Black Panther Party. Recently, the people of East Palo Alto, California, saw its meaning transformed into action. The Palo Alto Branch of the Black Panther Party sponsored a Community Survival Day on September 9, 1972, at St.

Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. Five hundred free bags of groceries were given away (with a chicken in every bag) and two hundred people were tested for Sickle Cell Anemia. Voter registration was conducted during the program and later the crowd was entertained by the revolutionary music of the Lumben (the revolutionary singing group of the Black Panther Party) and the Afrocentric band. Chairman Bobby Seale, in addressing the people, stressed the importance of Black people registering to vote and also pointed out that the survival program is "not a farce",

