

**SPECIAL TASK FORCE / *Union of Liberian Students in the Americas***

Office of the Chairman  
1800 Metzert Road, #53  
Adelphi, Maryland 20783

December 8, 1973

To The Presidents & Special Task Force Delegates  
Liberian Student Associations

Dear Compatriots:

Enclosed please find a copy of the final draft proposal for the use of the requested government-owned building near our Embassy as the projected service center for all Liberian students in the Americas. Submission deadline limitations have not, unfortunately, permitted consultation with all the Liberian student organization chapters in this country. But I believe that this product of participating chapters does adequately reflect the prevailing general needs of our student community. In any case, there will be plenty of room for adjustments once project approval is granted by our national government. Unrepresented concerns can then be taken into account at that point.

For the benefit of those not present, it is my humble duty to report that a meeting of representatives of organizational chapters was held in Washington on Sunday, November 18, 1973. The purpose of this meeting was to re-invigorate the movement for the creation of a general union of Liberian students and their local organizations in the Americas. It was the common feeling that this movement should continue to be spearheaded by the Special Task Force created for this purpose four years ago. This body which will handle all other matters of common interest to the various organizations pending the activation of the general union, will continue to be composed of no more than five official delegates from each organization, along with a neutral chairman and such personal staff of administrative personnel as he may find needful to assemble.

Beyond these procedural matters, this meeting emerged with important substantive decisions. To begin with, a timetable was adopted for bringing the union into existence: between date of meeting and January 25, 1974, ratification of the union constitution, pending since 1969, is recommended and expected from those local chapters which have not acted up to now. Those who have already ratified it may of course avail themselves of this period to propose any additional improvements in the draft document. Then on January 26, a ceremonial event will be held in New York City to announce the formal birth of the union, featuring a gala pay dance to make the occasion. Between late January and early Summer, 1974, the temporary government of the union will handle affairs and plans for the convocation of the first annual conference of all Liberian Students in the Americas. Lastly, the annual conference is contemplated for mid-summer to elect the permanent general officers and take care of other important matters.

In addition to the above timetable, it was decided at this meeting of November 18 that each local organization contribute \$33.33 to cover administrative cost of the work of the Special Task Force up to the end of January. Since the Special Task Force has no established bank account, it is suggested that checks be made payable to the undersigned. Satisfactory accounting of expenditures will of course be furnished periodically or upon request by the chairman's office.

Finally, I wish to inform you that arrangements are being made for the next meeting of the Special Task Force to be held in Philadelphia on 28-30 December. You will be informed about the details as to the place and time of the meeting as well as possible free accommodation. To ensure continuity and familiarity with the proceedings, it is recommended that from now on each organization be represented by permanently appointed delegates. These regular members of the Special Task Force will also serve as the point of contact and liaison with each organization especially for those local Associations unable to attend Task Force meetings because of distance.

Your organization's quota for the financing of the provisional budget of the Special Task Force is urgently awaited. See you soon in Philadelphia, and MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Faithfully,

Jangaba A. Johnson  
CHAIRMAN

*\*Signed Copy in Archive.*

**NOTE:** Jangaba A. Johnson, later returned to his original names -- **Tambakai A. Jangaba**. He served as the 1<sup>st</sup> President and 6<sup>th</sup> Chairman of the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA).

*1980: From Siahyonkron Nyanseor's Archive*