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## PREAMBLE

**When the word has been given**, each time in the history of our long struggle for justice and freedom, Americans have wondered what it meant. What did it mean when Frederick Douglass said, “*Without struggle there is no progress*”, when Marcus Garvey said, “*We are determined to solve our own problem*”, when A. Phillip Randolph said, “*The salvation of the Negro must come from within*”, when Dr. Martin Luther King said, “*Once an oppressed people rise up there is no stopping short of full freedom*”, when Stokely Carmichael said, “*What do we want? Black Power!*”, and when Fannie Lou Hammer said, “*We are sick and tired of bein' sick and tired!*”? But we understood that the word was a flashpoint in the cadence of time which symbolized the will of our people to mobilize and struggle to insure their survival and continued progress in this land.

**Now again the word is given**. And the word constitutes a Plan, intended not only for our survival, but for our development as a proud and capable people, able to participate in all the venues of this country which enrich our lives and fortunes and enable the expression of our culture.

It is a Plan which we must take to heart and make a part of our daily living commitment to ourselves and families, to our people, and ultimately to a better America. For we must make a historical covenant with ourselves that the freedom and dignity of our people, while recognizing the responsibilities of other institutions, rest essentially upon what we do ourselves, and how seriously we take the mantle of leadership and self-determination.

Therefore, regardless of the challenges, may they range from terrorist organizations to institutions of government, **let no man mistake our resolve to implement this Plan**. And let all men see our Plan as the platform upon which we stand and as the sword we wield in defense of our interests. It is both the symbol of our commitment and a program for Black people.

**A new word is now being given. Black America must follow the Plan.**

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