

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS NATIONAL REPORT VOL. II NO. 7 MAY 20--JUNE 3

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FOR MEMBERS ONLY--FOR MEMBERS ONLY--FOR MEMBERS ONLY--FOR MEMBERS ONLY

The National Report
will henceforth be
issued bi-weekly.

IMPORTNAT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT

This is the last key list mailing of the ~~mk~~ old variety. (See NAC minutes for the motion passed.) From now on, the full National Report will be sent out to branches, organizing committees and MALs every two weeks with the newspaper. The next National Report will go out on Tuesday, May 21, and bi-weekly thereafter. Special mailings will be sent out when necessary: 1) when the NAC has passed something that should be implemented as soon as possible, or 2) when the NAC has passed a motion of significant political importance. These mailings will be sent to the branch organizer with enough copies for each exec member. (One copy will be sent to organizing committees). The NAC hopes this will improve communication throughout the entire organization, and also facilitate exec functioning by having enough copies of important mailings for all exec members, when specific motions should be discussed and/or implemented.

May 7, 1974

Dear Comrades;

As you remember, the February NC meeting passed a motion asking the branches to prepare a perspective for further industrialization in their area, including a realistic quota or figure for those who can industrialize. Each branch was to estimate a number of members who would be able to industrialize in the near future. Additionally we would like information on what industries they would be applying to and what industries members currently have applications in.

Industrialization has long been the priority activity of the IS. As it stands now about 30% of the membership are industrialized. In the mid-west branches the percent is much higher, meaning that the burden of industrial work is not evenly distributed throughout the organization. We are aware that in many branches there is no "loose" personnel, and no current members realistically available for industrialization. The NAC believes that the next leap forward in industrialization will have to come about as a result of recruitment. Nevertheless, recruits will be all the more reluctant to put their life on the line (assembly, not firing) if our current membership does not appear to be as dedicated as our new members.

We therefore ask each branch to submit a full report on personnel and the potential for expanded industrialization. If absolutely no members are available for industrialization the report should explain why. It should include information on who is applying where and/or how long they have been applying.

The general policy of the organization continues to be that members should seek jobs in the priority industries, with auto ranking first, IBT second, and CWA third. In general, members should apply to all and accept jobs according to priority. However, personal and local considerations may force modifications. For example, where we want to build up an existing fraction in a lower priority, we would by-pass auto. Or, where there is no auto work available - which right now is most places - we would concentrate on IBT or CWA. Or, where women cannot work in one of the priorities, but want a union job to be active in CLUW or other women's work. Naturally, there will also be a small number of comrades who will, for one reason or another, get industrial jobs in a non-priority industry. Such jobs may be important locally or valuable for other political reasons. The reports should explain any such local situations and plans.

We ask your Exec. to discuss this immediately and to report to the NAC by May 20.

YFTR,
Marilyn Danton, Nat. Sec.
Brian Mackenzie, Ind. Sec.

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

May 9, 1974

1. NO: The Middle East Reprint is available again having gone through its second printing.
2. St. Louis: BL, a comrade who has been in England for the past 6 months, has returned to St. Louis, and they are now officially a branch.
3. Cleveland: Bernadette Devlin will be speaking for the Cleveland branch on Saturday May 4. Comrades expect a large turnout. Attempts are being made to bring our contacts, especially worker contacts from Cleveland, and also Pittsburgh, Akron, Cincinnati. There will be a party following the forum. Also, Modern Times, a collective of industrialized radicals has dissolved. The branch will be discussing how to bring those still interested in revolutionary politics around us as soon as possible.
4. Los Angeles: The LA branch attended the anti-Nixon rally and sold 72 copies of WP. This rally was held at the same time as the much larger one in Washington DC.

Recommendations, Suggestions, Directives to Branches, OC's MALs:

1. Execs should investigate the possibility, particularly where we have people on campuses, of trying to do political work around what is happening in Portugal (See the statement and recommendations by JG, passed as the basis for amendment by the NAC). It could be a very good way of developing working relations with black groups who we are in contact with. The questions around Africa make this a real possibility, and will make it possible to us to discuss the relationship between the questions of self determination and socialist revolution quite concretely.
2. Excerpt from the UFW fraction report from Mike P. in the Bay Area: "Everyone should be aware of the RU's left turn. They are now going through a phase of attacking the labor bureaucracy sometimes quite crudely. For example, they dismiss the CLUW conference as merely some bureaucrats (they imply that shop stewards or members of local union execs fall into the category of bureaucrats). They stat that they will work in CLUW with the few good people to expose the bureaucrats but they are mainly interested in building their own organizations. They are also about to announce the formation of a new communist party. How this will affect their UFW work remains to be seen." In line with the NAC's decision to develop a strategy toward the Maoist movement, it is important that all branches keep up with such developments, and report such things to us. This can be done in the context of regular forms of communications (letters, organizers reports, etc.), but please let us know of any similar developments you here from the Maoist groups/movement.

NAC RESOLUTION ON THE CRISIS IN PORTUGAL

NOTE: The following resolution, presented by JG, was discussed by the NAC and points 1-7 passed by ~~xxxx~~ to be the basis for amendment and further work. The possibility is being investigated of establishing a committee to develop perspectives on the Portuguese crisis and a campaign for the IS on the issue.

1. The military coup against the Caetano dictatorship has unleashed a mass movement from below and produced a pre-revolutionary situation in Portugal. The colonial wars in Africa have absorbed 40% of the state budget of this poverty-stricken country, after Albania the poorest in Europe. The drain of an already small social surplus for war has led to continued economic stagnation, during the decade when Portugal should have expanded rapidly with its economic neighbors, France and Spain. Instead, lack of growth has led the Portuguese proletariat out of the country in search of jobs and bread. 1.5 million Portuguese workers, out of a total population of 9.5 millions, work as cheap labor in the European Common Market, 800,000 in France alone. Thousands of other workers and peasants fled to avoid the draft. Only this social and economic leak prevented social unrest from exploding in the past. The wage remittances of workers in the Common Market gave a thin veneer of prosperity to some sections of the society, and made up Portugal's balance of payments deficits. The continued stagnation of the country, however, made it more and more difficult to win the dirty wars in African colonies against the national liberation movements, and contributed to the mounting social turmoil at ~~home~~ home, which meanwhile has begun to feel the effects of world economic problems of first inflation and now recession. The African wars, some of them now 15 years old, have engulfed all of Portugal's remaining colonies. They are ~~xxxxxx~~ endless and hold out no hope of military victory. The top officer corps charged with their prosecution became ~~they could not~~ convinced they could not be won under existing conditions and proposed far-reaching reforms and concessions to self-government in a desperate bid to retain the colonies. After initial wavering Caetano purged the top officers, and began a new wave of repression. The officer corps, recognizing that victory was impossible, that social discontent in Portugal was mounting, and that the Caetano regime was extremely weak, organized the coup to save as much as possible of the old order.

2. In coming to power, the generals have had to seek mass social support for their regime. After 46 years of a corporatist - fascist state the generals have been forced to grant overnight all democratic demands. Freedom of speech, press, the right to form unions, parties, the abolition of the ruling party and the Pide - the secret police - were granted immediately. The granting of these demands in a period of mounting social ferment, aggravated by the world economic crisis and inflation, has led to the unleashing of an at-this-point uncontrolled mass movement from below. Within days a nation has come to political life. Newspapers, parties and trade unions are proliferating at a furious pace. The Socialist and Communist Parties, the traditional working ~~class~~ class parties in exile and underground, are with smaller revolutionary

groups rushing to organize ~~the~~ the workers into unions and political groups they control. Meanwhile, smaller revolutionary groups have already launched slogans and demonstrations for a new revolution.

3. The masses of workers believe the new junta which has granted such wide democratic reforms will carry through the liquidation of the colonial wars. Its goal, however, is to rationalise the situation politically and militarily to maintain/ ~~Angola~~ Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau, either as colonies or in some neo-colonial relationship. In particular, the Portuguese bourgeoisie looks to Angola to solve its problems of economic development. Angola has a growth rate of over 10% a year, with enormous natural riches in mineral and oil. (The largest corporation, De Beers of South Africa, ~~owns~~ employs 28,000 people in diamond mining. Its oil, concentrated in the Cabinda/ enclave, is part of the liquid cement which binds Portugal to South African and Rhodesia. In return for their aid in prosecuting the war, the Portuguese have promised them oil from Rhodesia, to prevent these white regimes being cut off by an Arab oil embargo made in alliance with the black African regimes. The oil fields in Angola are most prominently owned by Gulf. The African colonies have a Portuguese settler population of about 700,000. If their interests are from their point of view being too much compromised by the Lisbon governments they may attempt unilateral declarations of independence a la Rhodesia, or help to organize an army to overthrow the Lisbon government, similar to Franco's march from Morocco to Spain the 1930's. The upheaval in Portugal threatens to change the balance of forces in southern Africa, with the potential for the further isolation of Rhodesia and South Africa, and their fierce resistance to this, probably through their organizing the Portuguese white settlers if necessary.

3. A situation of intense social ferment has been set up inside Portugal. In all probability it will last for at least the next six months. The new government which will have initially tremendous popular support, wishes to find the road to retain the colonies, by war if necessary. The popular masses want an end to the war. The partial analogy which comes to mind is Russia in 1917, in the sense ~~xxx~~ that the provisional government comes to power to continue the war while promising to end it. The traditional workers parties, the SP and CP, are joined together with the Christian Democrats in a Popular Front - the Democratic Movement. They will support the Spinoza government. If they distinguish themselves from him on the colonial wars, it will be only a cover for their entry either into his government, or into a new government which will also continue the ~~xxx~~ colonial war. The Portuguese bourgeoisie will not give up Angola without civil war, which opens the road to revolution, which neither the social democrats nor the CP want. If Spinoza gets into difficulties it will be the Democratic Movement which is ~~his~~ the last line of defense of Portuguese capitalism. It is unlikely that it could take over the government without at some ~~point~~ point a right-wing attempted coup or a civil war. Nevertheless, maintaining

the limited Russian analogy, the government of Prince Lvov gave way to Kerensky, a popular front which itself maintained the imperialist war. The analogy with Russia is unfortunately incorrect. There exist neither soviets nor a revolutionary party. The social unrest, the decision of the officers who represent the capitalists to rest upon popular support, which will mean the workers' ~~parties~~ parties, being unwilling to end the war, and which will face enormous economic struggles now that unions are allowed in this country where workers have had no defense for decades, and in a situation of world inflation, and the return of thousands of politicized workers from Europe, will lead to a situation of increasing radicalization and social polarization. The possibility exists for the development of dual power ~~in the next year, or two at most, in the form of~~ forms in the coming months. The alternatives in the next year, or two at most, are either socialist revolution or an even bloodier dictatorship than Caetano.

Certainly, soviets should now be called for. Coup led with the demand for armed workers militias they are both the form of working class self-defense, in a ~~xx~~ situation which will lead to either socialism or a bloody repression. They will be successful only if a revolutionary party is formed in Portugal in the immediate future. It is a revolutionary party which is the most burning question of the day for the Portuguese revolution. Without a party, the Portuguese proletariat will be defeated. In these volatile circumstances a small revolutionary group with a ~~xx~~ correct program and orientation, uncompromising in its revolutionary opposition to the war and the provisional government, linking itself organically to the working class, going with it through all the experiences of the coming year, and providing leadership in the economic and reform struggles, fighting for democratic and transitional demands, could become a mass party very rapidly. The Spanish Communist Party went from 1500 to 100,000 members in 1935-36. In all probability, the first channel for radicalization will be the Socialist Party. We should pay particular attention to the development of a revolutionary current at its left wing, which could either trap workers in the SP or under proper leadership become the basis for a split and the development with other currents of a revolutionary party.

5. The greatest likelihood is that the revolutionary events of the next year will center in Portugal. If they go further, this wave of radicalization could spread to other parts of ~~Sx~~ Europe, Spain in particular. What occurs in Portugal will affect the development of revolutionary currents throughout Europe and the world. In this period when revolutionary sects are developing into parties in Europe, the events in Portugal and a correct orientation toward them may be decisive in the development of the revolutionary vanguard.

6. Decisive to the prospects of the ~~Portuguese~~ Portuguese revolution ~~is~~

tion is the question of the third camp - the alliance of the proletariat of the metropolitan countries with the oppressed colonial masses, championing their right to self-determination including separation, and their joint struggle against the capitalist class responsible for imperialism. This strategy was originally concretized in the Comintern alliance of the revolutionary workers parties with the movements of national liberation. It was revived by us as the conception of a third camp of the workers of the advanced countries allied to the oppressed colonial masses in revolutionary opposition to all the imperialist powers. This question comes to the fore. The unity of the Portuguese proletariat with the national liberation movements in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau is the key question of the revolution. If there is social revolution in Portugal, the colonies will be given independence. If there isn't, if the Portuguese proletariat is chained to the cart of democratic imperialism, it will in turn be crushed. Its fate is dependent on its willingness to fight for independence of the colonies against the Spínola government, and the Socialist and Communist betrayers who will wind up as a left cover for Spínola. Its willingness to press this question, including breaking with its traditional parties to create a revolutionary party allied to the national liberation movements - and winning them to socialist revolution, and its spread internationally to the advanced industrial countries - will determine the course of development of the Portuguese revolution. We should at all times stress the necessity for an alliance of the Portuguese workers and the colonial masses, of the link between social revolution in Portugal and the national revolution in Africa.

7. The developments in Portugal are particularly important to American revolutionaries. Our government is the supplier of arms to Portugal which is its NATO partner, the arms which make the African wars possible. It is Gulf which is the major beneficiary of Angolan oil. Revolutionary blacks in this country can be won to an alliance with socialist revolutionaries on this question.

8. For the IS the events in Portugal can be of great importance.

- a) Politically they can help develop the IS as a revolutionary combat group. Our members should be armed with all the facts on Portugal, with an analysis as the revolution develops, so that they can become politically educated on a modern revolutionary movement - capable of distinguishing all of its political and social class forces, capable of arguing with all political tendencies on this question.
- b) We should carry ongoing analytical coverage in our paper.
- c) We should immediately attempt to issue a pamphlet on the Portuguese revolution, and the national liberation movements in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau.
- d) We should ask the ISGB to carry theoretical material on Portugal.
- e) We should explore holding meetings and demonstrations with black and other radical organizations, linking the proletarian revolution in Portugal with the national revolution in Africa. We should explain the necessity for soviets, armed militias, and a revolutionary party. Our targets at home should be the US government, demanding an end to arms to Portugal and against Gulf, joining with the existing boycott forces.
- f) We should explore the feasibility of creating ~~some~~ some modest committees on campus (Madison, Bloomington, Portland, NY, Bay Area, possibly Seattle), and in communities, preferably in conjunction with black groups but alone to begin with if necessary. These committees should stand for Freedom in Portugal, Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau. They should support the national liberation struggle and show its connection with social revolution in Portugal, organizing small demonstrations in united front fashion with black and radical forces.
- g) We should attempt through LO and AC to make contact with the Portuguese revolutionary left.

NAC MINUTES 5/1-3

Present: All except where indicated.

O. NATSEC REPORT. APPROVED.

MAL applications from MADISON ACCEPTED ALL FOR.

GS will make speaking tour on CLUW to the West Coast.

Arrangements will be made for LA branch to give technical help to UNC at UAW convention with respect to production of literature etc. MD to be in charge of this. A member of the auto fraction to be sent to UAW convention at our expense if necessary.

MOTION(JG): 6/30 to be the deadline for Mike P.'s convention document on Stalinism (deadline for ~~Max~~ June NC discussion was set earlier ~~xxxxx/1x~~ as 6/1. Thus revisee document must be in by 6/30). Deadline for amendments and counter-documents to be 7/30. ALL FOR.

MOTION: To recognize the St. Louis IS as a full-fledged branch. APPROVED.

JG to be on speaking tour the week of May 13 - in Louisville, Bloomington, St. Louis.

MOTION(JG): That the No help the Cleveland branch to build the conference planned for June 7-8. We ask the Detroit branch to attempt to mobilize its contacts to attend. ALL FOR.

MOTION(KM): We approve Barry G's proposal that he take over editorship of FIFTH WHEEL. We instruct Bay Area exec to discuss and regularly oversee the publication. ALL FOR.

Future discussion: The NAC will be discussing the Shanker-Selden split in the AFT and our attitude toward the developments surrounding it. SZ to be asked to write a motion before the NAC takes the matter up, and the West Coast fraction to be asked to immediately discuss the question. ALL FOR.

1. GENERAL PERSPECTIVES. Introductory discussion on motions to be presented to NC meeting.

2. PORTUGAL. Presentation by JG and discussion of the upheaval occurring in Portugal. A motion passed by the NAC based on JG presentation is attached to the minutes.

MOTION(JW): For the present, our work on Portugal and Africa will be integrated into the priorities already established by the NAC, in particular the issues of Maoism and black liberation. PASSED.

MOTION: Attempts at setting up support committees should be initiated, at first, only by one or two branches in order to gain experience for further activities. FAILED.

3. NIXON AND WATERGATE.

MOTION: The NAC states to the membership that it was a failure for us not to participate in the national Dump Nixon demonstrations which occurred the weekend of April 27. Our line should have been, and will be in the future, that we raise (i) the labor movement had the power to dump Nixon, (ii) Labor bureaucrats and the Democratic Party share the blame, (iii) the Dump Nixon movement must also be a movement to build a labor party to start dealing with the real problems, (iiii) for a Congress of Labor. In relation to these demonstrations and other anti-Nixon activities, we try to organize a labor contingent and worker participation. The primary failure on this occasion rests with the NAC for not discussing the demonstrations in advance and putting forward a line to present at them. PASSED ALL FOR.

MOTION: We ask industrialized members to report on whether workers are becoming increasingly receptive to the idea of a new party (there was apparently good response to the labor party slogan in some places during the Dump Woldcock campaign). To investigate possibility of future campaigns around Dump Nixon/Build a Labor Party issue . PASSED.

MOTION(KM):WP to have articles focussing on the AFL-CIO/UAW "Impeach Nixon" and COPE "Veto-Proof Congress" campaigns. These articles should oppose the Meany-UAW strategy and counterpose the idea of a labor party. ALL FOR.

AMENDMENT(JT):As a part of these articles, we explain why we are for this as revolutionaries; that is, how our proposal is part of a revolutionary strategy. PASSED.

MOTION(JT): That WP conduct a propoganda campaign concerning Nixon, impeachment et al. This campaign should cover: why impeachment should be for more than just breaking ~~laws~~ laws; why there should be no presidential confidentiality; what are the broad lessons to be learned about the process of government from the latest revelations; a review ~~of~~ of the lessons of the Pentagon Papers in light of the more recent scandal. PASSED.

EXAMPLES OF UFW SUPPORT MOTIONS TO BE PRESENTED TO LABOR CONVENTIONS

The following resolutions, prepared by the Bay Area UFW fraction, were adopted by the NAC as models of motions to fight for in unions in support of the UFW,

PROPOSED RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE UFW FOR THE 1974 CFT CONVENTION

Whereas the United Farm Workers union is engaged in a critical struggle to organize the field workers in California;

Whereas the Teamsters are continuing a major drive, spending over ~~\$100,000~~ \$100,000 a month to sign sweetheart agreements with the growers in order to smash ~~the~~ the UFW;

Whereas the success of the UFW is of critical importance for all unions ~~attempting~~ attempting to organize the unorganized;

Whereas a UFW victory substantially strengthens the forces of militant socially and politically conscious trade unionism inside the labor movement and hence strengthens the CFT's ability to find allies in our own political struggle for teacher unionism;

Whereas strikebreakers are being recruited to break UFW strikes and the UFW needs substantial financial support to pay minimal strike benefits just to provide necessities for striking workers and their families;

Whereas Gallo Corporation sells over 1/3 of the wine sold in the US under various names and is the major buyer of scab wine grapes and is a target of UFW strike activity;

And whereas improved living standards of farmworkers won through the victory of the UFW would contribute to tremendous improvements in the education of the children of the farmworkers;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the CFT gives full and public support to the United Farmworkers of America in its present struggles and condemns the leadership of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters for its blatant anti-union collaboration with the growers;

Be it further resolved, that the CFT fully endorses the UFW boycott of head lettuce, grapes and Gallo wines;

Be it further resolved, that the CFT consistently urge the state labor federation to give full support to the UFW struggle including direct financial

FARM WORKER SUPPORT RESOLUTIONS, cont'd.

aid and support for the Gallo boycott, and that our delegates to the CFL convention in August introduce resolutions calling on the stated federation to do so;

Be it further resolved, that the CFT urge every local to make a monthly pledge to the UFWA of at least 10 cents per month for each local member;

Be it further resolved, that the CFT declare a Farmworker Support Day during which the CFT will mobilize caravans of teachers, students, and the community to join the farmworkers' picket lines in the Coachella Valley or in some other locations in consultation with the UFWA;

Be it further resolved, that the CFT include a special insert in the next issue of the CALIFORNIA TEACHER along the line of last year's excellent articles, publicizing Farmworker Support Day and the UFW boycotts and explaining the significance of the farmworkers' struggles to teachers and the exploitative role of agribusiness in the California economy;

Be it further resolved, that the CFT strongly urges those ~~xxxx~~ locals that have not already done so to set up local Farmworker Support Committees to take responsibility for boycott activities in their areas and organize food caravans for strikers;

Be it further resolved, that the CFT strongly urges its local affiliates to actively oppose scab-herding in those areas where strikebreakers are being recruited;

Be it further resolved, that it is the policy of the CFT to strengthen the UFW product boycott by not shopping at those stores carrying non-UFW products where the UFW is doing informational picketing;

Be it further resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to the California Federation of Labor and the American Federation of Teachers.

NOTE: Gallo wine is sold under many different names such as Boone's Farm, Ripple, Spanada, Paisano, Thunderbird, Eden Roc, Tyrolla, Andre, and Red Mountain. Check the label. Any wine made in Modesto, Ca. is Gallo.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION - - THE SECONDARY BOYCOTT AND THE UFW

Whereas the Secondary Boycott, where workers refuse to handle products produced by striking companies or consumers refuse to shop at stores which carry scab products, is an important act of solidarity with striking unions;

Whereas the Secondary Boycott was an extremely important weapon used by the labor movement in organizing until 1947;

Whereas the secondary boycott was made illegal for unions covered by the NLRA by the Taft-Hartley anti-labor legislation in 1947 in order to strip the labor movement of one of its most powerful weapons;

Whereas the inability to use the secondary boycott is a major weakness even for powerful established unions such as the teamsters, as shown in the recent beer strike, bottlers' strike, and loss of container trucking to non-union companies;

Whereas the secondary boycott is an even more important weapon for unions presently organizing, especially those not covered by the NLRA such as teachers and other public employees, as shown in the recent San Francisco strikes;

Whereas the UFW secondary boycott asking customers not to shop at stores carrying scab products was a major weapon of the UFW in its struggle against the grower-Teamster leadership collaboration;

Whereas anti-labor voices such as the San Francisco Chronicle are campaigning against the secondary boycott;

Whereas the AFL-CIO executive council has forced the UFW to give up the secondary boycott to get official AFL-CIO support for the UFW's struggle;

FARMWORKER SUPPORT RESOLUTIONS, further cont'd.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the CFT affirms that the secondary boycott is an important and legitimate weapon of the labor movement for bringing the full support of labor behind striking or organizing unions ;

Be it further resolved, that the CFT protests the AFL-CIO executive council decision not to give support to the UFW unless it dropped its secondary boycott;

Be it further resolved, that the CFT calls upon the AFL-CIO to give full support to the Farmworkers struggle, including the UFW secondary boycott, and to additionally devote resources to protect and aid retail clerks, meatcutters, bottleblowers and distillery workers whose jobs might be threatened by companies which handle the scab products;

Be it further resolved, that the CFT calls upon the AFL-CIO to give support to the UFW Gallo boycott;

Be it further resolved, that the CFT call upon the AFL-CIO to begin a campaign to win back the secondary boycott for all unions;

Be it further resolved, that the ~~call upon the AFL-CIO to~~ CFT call on the AFT national convention, AFT national staff, and AFT delegates to all AFL-CIO bodies to work to achieve these ends;

Be it further resolved, that to strengthen the economic impact of the current UFW product boycott limited under pressures of the AFL-CIO, it is the CFT policy not to shop at any stores where the UFW has established informational picket lines.

NOTE: Further material on UFW perspectives is included in NAC minutes for 5/8.

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT May 8, 1974

1. NAC: As part of the new communications set up established by the NAC, this report will include a political report from the NAC, covering the major political discussions held ~~since~~ every two weeks. This should be read in conjunction with the minutes and should make them more understandable.

The bulk of the meeting on 5/8 was taken up with a full presentation~~x~~ by EE on the maoist groups (RU, OL, CL, BWC) ~~by EE~~. The presentation and the discussion that followed is the first of a series of discussions that the NAC plans aimed at arming our members ideologically on these groups and their strategies, and at developing a perspective that will enable us to intervene in the soft maoist milieu and win the best of this milieu to the IS.

The discussion centered on what aspects of maoist politics we should make the center of any & ideological offensive, and how to bet in getting our positions out on these questions. All agreed that we should concentrate on the question of party building, how the ~~xxx~~ revolutionary party will be built, its relationship to the class struggle today, and our perspective of building a rank and file movement based on class struggle unionism, and our theory on the question of party and class. Also of importance is the question of blacks and our analysis of the position of blacks in the US in relationship to the discussions going on inside the maoist milieu.

Future discussions on the NAVC will be on the specific political questions (the party, the national question, the united front against imperialism, labor strategy). Several proposals were suggested as a means of getting our ideas out and of educating the organization on these. Among other things EE's presentation will be sent out very shortly as a discussion pamphlet, ~~primarily~~ primarily for internal educational use, but also for class contacts. Other suggestions included a series of inexpensive pamphlets, a series of educational articles in WP written in a non-sectarian style, but which would take up some of the more prominent ideas and counterpose our politics and strategy to them. Also, of importance is getting out the black document passed at the November NC in a form similar to the Labor and Tasks & Perspectives documents.

The NAC also reviewed the first national CWA fraction held in Cleveland at the end of April and passed an amendment to the CWA perspectives document discussed earlier. KM reported that all comrades had benefited from the fraction and thought it quite good. The meetings included discussions of ~~local~~ local situations, perspectives and a history of the CWA.

Lastly, the NAC took up the question of our position on the UFW. Some confusion had arisen due to mistatements in the NAC minutes of 4/18 and to some ~~under~~ misunderstanding between the fraction leadership and the NAC. The NAC felt that the differences at this point are nuancial, and hopes the motions will clarify the situation in the fraction and in the organization as a whole.

National Secretary's Report (cont)

2. Cleveland: Bernadette Levlin spoke for the Cleveland Branch last weekend. About 200 people attended, and she gave an excellent talk, ending up on the need for a revolutionary party, the need for revolutionaries to be in an organization etc. There was a party afterwards, and about 75 people attended. Many of the contact that the branch had been making were quite impressed, and brought much closer because of her talk. Contacts included people from the UFW, the IBT, the USW and people from Modern Times (which has dissolved), they came from Pittsburgh, Akron, and Cleveland. With the recent dissolving of Modern Times, and a group from K Akron who wants to hold discussions with us, and other contacts, primarily industrialized radicals, the branch has excellent possibilities for recruitment.

3. St. Louis: The branch is participating heavily in the UFW. They were able to get the boycott committee to actively participate in an anti-Nixon rally, which, although small, was good, and the UFW was a significant part of it.

4. Los Angeles: The LA branch is in contact with a black group that has recently formed, including some blacks who have been contacts of the IS. In consultation with the NO, they are in the process of ~~working up a~~ perspective for relating to the group, with the aim of attempting to win it, or the best of it to the IS. They are involved with ~~it~~ it in a campaign about political refugees in Chile.

Recommendations, Suggestions, Directives to branches:

The NAC discussed the possibility of a summer school, and all felt that it was desirable, the only question is one of feasibility. So, we would like ~~branch execs~~ branch execs to canvass their memberships as to the following: Do comrades favor a summer school at the time of the convention? If so, the week before, or following the convention (the problem with the week after is that teachers, who have more free time in the summer, will in all probability not be able to come after). NAC thinking on the school itself at this point is the following: a one day organizers school, to which branch leaders, organizers, would be urged to attend, but any others welcome which would take up questions like the role of organizer, exec, exec functioning, etc. The other 5 days or so would have 2 classes running simultaneously. Suggestions at this point are some aspect of Maoism, the ~~history~~ history of our tradition, and/or some aspect of our labor work. Please let us know by June 1 what the feeling in each branch and OC is about this, as we must make a decision soon. Thanks.

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share with those leaders. It is therefore our perspective to come out of the contract period with as many active collaborators as possible. For example, in NY the contract committee should be transitional to a larger UA or some other grouping that goes beyond the contract settlement. Elsewhere, it / may simply be a matter of cohering an informal grouping of people who agree with the approach we took to the contract and whom we have convinced of the need for ongoing work ~~in~~ in the union. These are all steps toward the building of an organized rank and file opposition in the CWA.

4. UFW. Discussion of communication from Mike P. on ~~UFW~~ perspective adopted by NAC in connection with the dropping of the secondary boycott. While we feel that any actual differences which are raised are secondary, the following correction to the minutes and further statement should clear things up. CORRECTION ~~TO PREVIOUS MINUTES~~ TO PREVIOUS MINUTES ON UFW DISCUSSION: a) The statement explaining the deletion of point 5 of JE's document, passed by the NAC on 4/18, was misleading. The NAC agrees with the statement that the primary boycott will be ineffectual. Pt. 5 was deleted because we did not feel it provided a feasible guide to activity, i.e. that we "should try to make the primary boycott as close to the secondary boycott as we can". b) There was also ~~an~~ an amendment by the NAC, deleting all the specific proposals for action in the Kevin ~~B.~~ B. document, including the one on the distillery workers. This deletion was not included in the minutes by mistake.

Our political line and strategy in this phase of the UFW strike and boycott is outlined in point 4 of JG's document, and in the article in WP #97 "Farmworkers Need Labor's Support for Victory". Further, we endorse the two resolutions drafted by the BA UFW fraction for the CFT convention as model resolutions for other unions and conventions.

5. EDUCATIONAL DISCUSSIONS. Next ~~xxxx~~ discussion on Stalinism to center around 1949 ISL resolution, DF to present. JG's report on the REVOLUTION BETRAYED discussion is in preparation.

CLUW : CAMPAIGN FOR ORGANIZING THE UNORGANIZED

1. Local fractions and execs should assess local situations to determine which industries employ large numbers of unorganized women. The Ideal situation is an industry with large concentrations of young black and third world women where there has been some sort of struggle either in the local area or elsewhere in the industry. An additional ideal situation would be where only one union would be interested (this will be highly unlikely).

Based on the numbers involved we work out some reasonable proposal directed at the trade union movement, to organize this group of women. For example, if we were to choose hospitals in Detroit, we might suggest that the Central Labor Council plus the UAW and IBT put up enough money to pay "a specific number" of women organizers and campaign expenses for a serious organizing ~~campaign~~ campaign in hospitals. (The branch should consult with the women's commissioner and industrial secretary when working out target industry and proposal).

2. How to build the campaign:

a. Propose this ~~is~~ idea at CLUW building conference if resolutions on action are in order or at whatever meetings action proposals come up. In any case we should attempt to get others to work with us in proposing idea. If things keep stalling we might write up the proposal and circulate it locally.

b. Propose that local CLUW set up a committee to organize the unorganized to work on the proposal in which non-trade union women can participate(ie, the women proposed to be organized).

c. Committee begin to build support within the labor movement for proposal in the following ways:

1) Go to local meetings as representatives for CLUW and ask that locals pass resolutions in support of trade union movement aggressively beginning to organize the unorganized.

2) Circulate petitions at union meetings and on the job in support of organizing the unorganized.

3) CLUW members write articles for local papers and rank and file papers on the importance of question, using the target industry as an example.

d. Committee attempt to make contact with women in the target industry to join the committee and be the basis of the organizing drive.

e. Possible press conference on question or other ways of getting publicity.

f. After a certain amount of support has been built, petitions and proposal should be submitted to the local central labor council, UAW and IBT.

g. After rejected, more militant tactics should be employed such as a demo or sit-in at the CLC or UAW, or IBT headquarters.

h. Words of caution: local women bureaucrats will be hostile to much of this as it will put them in conflict with their male counterparts. Therefore the entire campaign should not be part of the original proposal, and point g should be raised after momentum is built up.

3. Jurisdictional disputes:

One of the biggest questions we will be faced with is the question of jurisdictional disputes. In Detroit, three unions have attempted to organize hospitals

to the advantage only of the ~~the~~ non-union forces.

We say: we are not interested in the petty jurisdictional disputes of the trade union movement. This was the excuse the AFL used to not organize industrial workers before the CIO, and this is now the excuse the entire labor movement used to not organize millions of women and minority workers.

Only 1/4 of the work force is organized, and only 1/5 of that number are women. These unorganized workers work under horrendous conditions at the lowest rates of pay. These masses of poorly paid and poorly treated unorganized workers bring down the living standard of the entire working class. In addition, weaken the labor movement by dividing it and allowing one section to be played off against the other. All this must end.

The unorganized must be organized and ~~the~~ petty jurisdictional disputes must end. There should not be more than one union in any industry. If there are they should merge or set up joint bargaining and organizing. They must resolve this.

The above is theoretically correct but will not always ~~be~~ so simple. Sometimes we will have to take sides.

We are for industrial unionism, that is all workers in the same industry ~~being~~ being in the same union because it strengthens the workers fight.

In jurisdictional disputes between a union in the industry and another, outside, the choice is easy. But outside heavy industry jurisdictional clarity breaks down and taking sides must be considered case by case. Where these kinds of problems occur, the fraction should consult with the women's commissioner and the industrial secretary.

4. Most ISers should be able to argue why organizing the unorganized is important especially for women. In addition, WP No. 98 (the next issue) will have an article on the question plus WP will cover these questions continually.

5. Additional reasons for us to propose it for CLUW are:

a. It poses a demand on the ~~the~~ entire labor movement rather than a particular union where CLUW is still weak (except in the UAW).

b. Even though they won't do it right and will be conservative as hell - it is in the interests of the labor movement as a whole.

c. CLUW chapters can get involved as chapters by assisting the campaign.

d. It is an idea that has already received a lot of popular support within CLUW itself at the convention, and in local meetings. Two chapters, Washington DC and Cleveland have already passed some sort of campaign on the question

NOTE: It is important that CLUW fractions around the country discuss and begin to try to implement this as soon as possible, the Women's commissioner and/or the industrial secretary will assist the fractions in any way they can.

CONVENTION CALL

5th Annual National International Socialist Convention

PLACE: Detroit Michigan

DATES: Saturday, August 31 - Monday, September 2

(Delegates and observers should plan on arriving Friday evening)

PROPOSED AGENDA

I. International Resolutions

- a. Capitalism
- b. Stalinism

II. Labor Resolutions

- a. Current & situation facing labor (1973-1974)
- b. UFW
- c. Women's trade union activity, CLUW
- d. UAWW

III. Organizational Resolutions

DEADLINES FOR RESOLUTIONS

1. Major Resolutions: June 30, 1974

2. Major amendments and/or counter resolutions: July 31

The final agenda will be out by July 31.

NAC MINUTES 5/15

PRESENT: ALL EXCEPT JG

Ø. NATSEC REPORT. APPROVED (included in National Report).

1. CONVENTION. See convention call for outline of agenda planned at this time.
 2. NC. Preliminary discussion of report to NC on state of the organization and its work.
 3. EDUCATIONAL DISCUSSION. Presentation ~~xxx~~ by DF and discussion on theory of Stalinist imperialism advanced in 1949 ISL resolution. (Will be written up).
Production of educational pamphlet and reprint on Stalinism are being held up by shortages of personnel. NAC will assist JT in trying to line up the necessary resources to get the material printed.
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NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT May 15, 1974

1. NAC: The bulk of this meeting dealt with organizational questions, and preparations for the NC. No substantive political questions were taken up because JG was out of the city on a speaking tour to Louisville, St. Louis and Bloomington. We discussed the National Convention (See Convention Call) and agreed that it was crucial to a successful convention to limit the agenda so as to have plenty of time to discuss the major points. As comrades will remember, at past conventions we have always attempted to take on too much, meaning that some major items have to be tabled to the NC, and there is inadequate time for thorough discussion. We urge all comrades to use restraint, to accept the agenda, and not to make additions. All amendments to the agenda should be substitutions. The final agenda will be out by July 31. Also, please take note of the deadlines for resolutions and counter resolutions.

The NC preparation discussion centered on a draft of the state of the organization document to be presented to the NC. There will be another discussion next week at which time a final document will be adopted and sent out to the organization.

Jack T. presented a draft of a basic IS class series for new members and contacts. There was disagreement as to the length and general conception of the series with regard to its usefulness with worker contacts. Others thought it could be amended, and would be adequate if used flexibly. There will be further discussion in the next couple of weeks after which it will be sent out to the membership.

2. Boston: The Organizing Committee has met with a group friendly to us in a nearby town. Regular contact is being established.

3. Cleveland: The Cleveland branch will be holding an educational conference for its contacts and those in surrounding areas on the weekend of June 8-9. Comrades in the Midwest who have contacts are urged to try and attend. CW has sent a mailing to those branches. Please check it for details of the conference, and let him know if you can attend. Contact work is proceeding well with the collective in Akron and with one wing of Modern Times in Cleveland.

4. Detroit: Comrades and friends from all of the delegates slates got together Saturday night for food, drink and political discussion of the campaign around the election of delegates to the UAW convention. Ten auto workers friends came, and comrades felt it to be a most modest success, and will be planning more such events in the future.

4. Los Angeles: MF gave a forum on the UFW that was moderately successful.