

## Plan Laid for a Young Communist Org.

# Militant Youth Meet, Map Road Ahead

"And we'll be back on October 8, 9 and 10 with many hundred, hopefully a thousand more of us, standing together saying *no* to the future the rulers of this country got laid out for us. We'll be mapping out plans how we're going to fight around the key issues of youth and all the American people, openly stating our stand of marching shoulder to shoulder with the working class towards revolution and socialism, and letting it be known loud and clear—the future is ours, and we do dare to take it."

The cheers, slapped hands and chants that followed this closing statement were a clear indicator of the enthusiasm, political unity and consciousness developed at a March 26 meeting in Cincinnati called together by the Revolutionary Communist Party to discuss the building of a young communist organization.

125 young revolutionary fighters, mainly Black, Latin and white working class youth, came together from over a dozen cities to take up the questions and tasks around building such an organization. Throughout the day lively discussion, arguments and struggle went on over questions like: youth's role in making revolution; multinational unity and the role of people of the different nationalities in working class revolution; what organizational form will lead the youth to best fulfill their revolutionary role; why this youth organization should have two sections, based in the neighborhoods of our cities and on the college campuses; and what are the key battles and struggles it must be rooted in during the coming period.

A founding convention was set for launching a young communist organization on October 8, 1977. A steering committee was elected to lead already existing groups building revolutionary struggles among working class youth, and the Revolutionary Student Brigade, a nationwide communist student organization, towards building it. Plans were also developed for taking up battles right now among youth in cities across the country, including building towards a youth contingent for the march on the White House on African Liberation Day, May 28.

The future young communist organization being discussed at this meeting will have many important tasks. Over the years youth and students have made many important contributions to the struggle for social change and revolution in this country, and in countries all around the world. It was only five to ten years ago tens of thousands of youth and students marched, rallied and revolted in the front ranks of the Black people's struggle and in opposition to the U.S. war of aggression in Vietnam.

While the overall struggles of youth and students are certainly not at the level they were five or ten years ago, the launching of a communist youth organization, and its development and strengthening in the years to come, that's linked and tied to the political leadership and work of the Revolutionary Communist Party and the struggles of the working class, will make great contributions to building a powerful mass movement in this country against the capitalists and all their crimes. It will unite with and develop the struggles of youth and

students in a revolutionary direction and build them as part of a powerful united front led by the working class against the capitalist rulers of the U.S. It will develop and strengthen the ties of the Party to millions of young people in this country—as well as broader sections of the population, and provide a training ground for thousands of youth to develop into class conscious fighters for the working class. The RCP pointed to the necessity for such an organization in its Party Programme and has been working towards building and launching such an organization since its founding.

### Worsening Conditions for Youth

And it is coming at a crucial time. The conditions, the whole world, youth are growing up under are rapidly worsening. Millions of young people growing up in this country are entering into a maddening situation. Growing up with big hopes, dreams and ideas of the world they'd like to live in, with decent lives for themselves, they're finding these dreams and hopes run smack up against life today under capitalism in the United States, 1977.

This is especially sharp for working class youth, seeing their parents work their whole lives and having a harder time than ever keeping their families' heads above water. The sons and daughters of the working class find themselves in a situation where 30% of them can't find any place to work at all—with the percentages going up to 50 and 60% for Black and minority youth. The neighborhoods and cities they live in are rotting and collapsing. Friends, brothers and sisters get caught up in drugs and crime. Military recruiters hang around their neighborhoods and schools like vultures preying on their dead-end situations, drawing them in with phony promises and then shipping them overseas to protect the rich man's profits.

Right now, in the face of all this, most youth are somehow trying to pick up a skill, get a job and squeeze through a decent life. The community colleges, skill centers and nursing schools are completely overcrowded with youth trying to escape a life of long years in the working class slaving away for some boss. The military enlistments are high. For large numbers of youth, especially those from welfare or long-term unemployed families who have found no chance of working at all, a life of somehow "hustling" your way through to survive has been taken up—that by being cool, fending for yourself and coming up with money any way you can, including ripping people off, you'll be able to keep surviving and keep yourself going (with the bourgeoisie particularly promoting this hustle or pimp culture among Black youth).

But increasingly, many youth, and surely many more will do so in the future, are seeing how all these different roads of attempts to eke out a decent life are coming up against a brick wall. The youth struggling to pick up skills at the community colleges or skill centers are finding that not only is it harder than ever to get a job to get out of the working class—it's harder than ever to just get one that will get you *into* the working class, with the

capitalists unable to profitably hire the millions of young people entering into the labor force. Military dropouts are at an all-time high for "peacetime" as the youth see and learn how they were duped with phony promises, and what the rich man really has them in the army for. And the "hustle" culture, while still strong, is starting to be seen as a dead end as a means of trying to make it, with many starting to see that it's a quick way to die—and even if not, it's no way the people want to spend the rest of their lives.

### Youth Anger—Social Dynamite

While the level of struggle and organization among youth is still pretty low, all of this is leading to greater frustration and anger among millions of young people in this country. Anger that the labor department's report on youth worriedly calls "social dynamite." Anger that will be important for the young communist organization to tap, direct and focus into hammer blows at the bourgeoisie in the years to come.

The nine million students living in the U.S. are also finding themselves coming up against the capitalist system as they seek to gain an education or skill that will enable them to get decent jobs and work, make contributions to society, and live in a world free from all the social problems around us. (Presently just over 50% of youth in the U.S. spend at least one semester in college, coming from different class backgrounds, principally the petty bourgeoisie.)

Those working class youth going to community and city colleges to gain skills in hopes of a job are finding their schools getting cut back and closed down one year after another. The students on the major universities of the country, while facing cutbacks, are mainly seeing their education more and more geared to the big business needs of the country, while the social sciences are mere apologists, props and supporters of the status quo.

Students see all this going on in a world where social conflict and problems are growing, not decreasing. Where unemployment is becoming a bigger problem, not less. The steps toward war by the U.S. and Soviets are increasing, not decreasing. And where it's becoming increasingly apparent that this system will not, and cannot, meet the needs of the people.

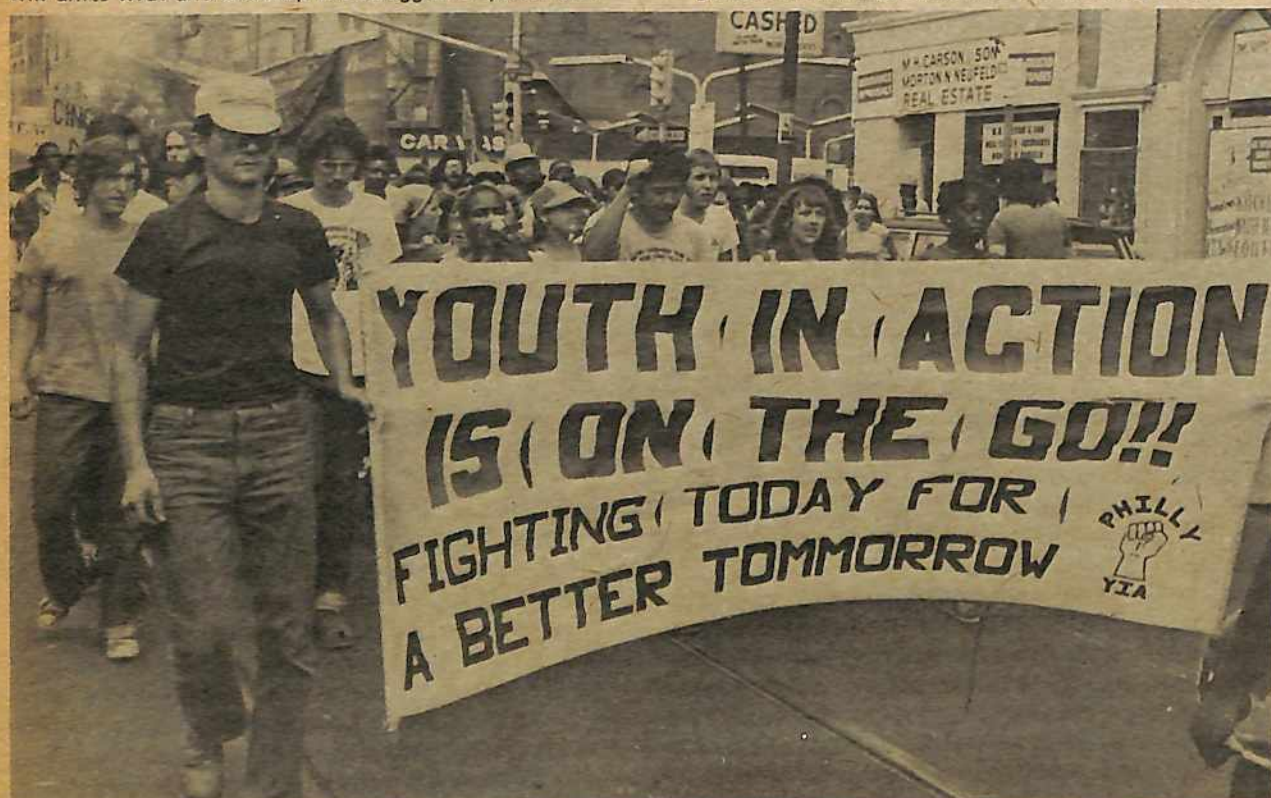
Students, at this time are mainly responding to the increasing crisis by buckling down, studying and hoping to get through the mess one way or another. But increasingly this is also hitting up against a brick wall. And recent struggles on campuses against cutbacks, support for the African freedom fighters and tremendous interest in major social and political questions, such as the international situation, war and socialism, bring out that students will continue their revolutionary tradition in this country. And those struggles that are developing on the campuses now, a small tip of a future wave of struggle to come, are characterized by greater understanding of the capitalist enemy, more organization, developing communist leadership and a desire to unite and stand with all the people struggling in the United States.

In the face of all this, the youth at the March 26th meeting were talking about what type of organization would best serve the needs and struggles of youth and would best develop the youth into a fighting social and political force that would develop into a powerful ally of the working class. They talked about building an organization that leads all the struggles of youth in this country and which is rooted in the two key sections where the youth of the U.S. are concentrated, in the neighborhoods and on the college campuses, leading youth and students to stand up and fight around the issues and attacks coming down on them and all the American people. This would range from going into the streets and neighborhoods to rally youth in battling for jobs, against rotting city conditions and police terror and to support African freedom fighters. And on campuses throughout the country it would mean taking up battles against cutbacks, military ties, bourgeois social sciences and theories, as well as broader political issues concerning all the American people. This will mean developing all these battles and struggles so that the youth and students will hammer at the rulers of the country, weakening and exposing them, will increasingly see the necessity and inevitability of revolution, and will more and more see how their interests lie in standing with the working class.

In addition to building an organization that goes out and leads youth and students to fight the rulers of this country, the youth were talking about the need for an organization that openly offers another road and future to the youth of America. A road other than trying to scramble through the thousand dead ends the rulers of this country offer and have in store for young people—wage slavery, unemployment, war, collapsing cities. A road put out to youth by the young communist organization where the youth are called on to use their skills, desire for change and productive lives to fight for what people need, daring to change this whole world—getting rid of this system and going on to build socialism where the working class runs and rules and constantly transforms what goes on.

The youth talked about building an organization that the youth themselves would take up and build as their own. An organization that, in addition to having its own organizational structure, leaders, etc., would be

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July 4th focused and unleashed the anger and frustration of youth against the capitalists. As a speaker at the rally put it: "We're standing up, we're not going to let them put us out there to fight their wars...put us out there on the streets to make any kind of hustle we can. We're saying we're not going to take their dope and put it into our heads...We are going to get out there and fight...and when we do we're going to be millions strong."



*Students and youth have historically been in the forefront of the peoples' struggles against the imperialists, fighting boldly and militantly. In the '60s, they were a catalyst for the mass movements that exploded in opposition to the oppression of Blacks and the war in Vietnam.*

## Youth...

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a place where young people would learn and study more about the world as they battled to change it, where hundreds and someday thousands of youth would take up the study and application of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung Thought in the course of going out and fighting the bourgeoisie and all the attacks they bring down on the people.

### The Basis Has Been Laid

The basis for building a young communist organization among both sections of youth has been laid. Among working class youth a number of organizations have begun to develop over the last year that have started to take up many important battles and political issues among the youth—fighting for jobs, against rotting city conditions and cutbacks, doing programs around *Roots* and the liberation of Black people, as well as taking up building for future activities like May Day and African Liberation Day. Through all these activities these organizations, many of which are called Youth In Action, have begun to become a fighting political force among youth—a force that leads youth to refuse to go along with many of the things coming down on them and all the people, as well as a force that refuses to go along with the way this whole system is set up. The groups themselves have also started to become centers for struggle and development of political line on how to fight around different issues and attacks, and how to turn this world upside down so the working class is in command. And as the March 26th meeting brought out, a number of working class youth are taking up and starting to master revolutionary theory and are applying it to many of the practical problems and difficulties that come up in going out to unite the people to fight the bourgeoisie and its attacks, and change the world.

Among students, the Revolutionary Student Brigade, which has been a communist student organization for a year and a half, exists on well over 50 campuses throughout the country—including expansion and development into a number of schools in the South. The Brigade is presently waging a national campaign around support for the southern African people's war for liberation—and is building towards regional demonstrations in New York, Chicago and San Francisco on April 22, 23 and 24, and will be building for African Liberation Day's march on the White House on May 28. The Brigade over the last year has built a number of campaigns around major political issues, in addition to waging many immediate battles concerning students, such as cutbacks, military recruiters, etc. The RSB's experience in building struggle, and as a functioning communist organization, will make important contributions to the formation of a powerful young communist organiza-

tion.

At this point, in terms of building ongoing struggle and political organization, the working class youth section is much more undeveloped and fragile. The groups are at a much more uneven state. A number now are starting to become a fighting political force among youth, as mentioned above, while others are still just getting started and off the ground. And it is only right now that young communist fighters are developing among the working class youth to take up building this organization as their own.

The further development of the working class youth section is a critical task over the next six months in building the foundation of the young communist organization. It was for this reason that the initial organizing meeting in Cincinnati was geared in terms of numbers, orientation and discussion to the working class youth section—to release their initiative around taking up as their own the building of a young communist organization. Around 15 members of the RSB, including its national office, attended and participated in the meeting.

At the meeting the youth showed they were readily taking it up. They discussed, struggled over and united around key questions that are critical for the building of a young communist organization, ranging from the necessity and inevitability of revolution, can the working class successfully build socialism, multinational unity, and a number of other points concerning youth's role in making revolution and what organizational form will best bring forward the youth to take up this task.

### Why Revolution Is Needed

Throughout the opening discussion the youth brought out why they saw the need for making revolution. One youth after another blamed the big bankers and capitalists for forcing people to live the way they have to. Dozens of examples came out.

Youth who work at hellholes like McDonald's, Gino's and Burger King brought out how bosses take advantage of youth's desperate need for work and lack of experience to be worked like dogs for minimum wages or less, and how youth would keep getting treated like this as long as there was a system set up so that the rich make millions off working people's sweat and labor.

The youth from New York brought out what amounted to 50 ways the rulers of this country mess you over—bringing out what the city crisis of NYC has meant to the people living and working there. Many other youth spoke out as well, angrily indicting the millionaire capitalists for their rotting cities, unemployment, armies around the world, crime, drugs, etc., along with bringing out how many have seen their parents work hard as hell, year after year, only to be having a harder time than ever trying to keep their families well clothed, fed and schooled.

As the new labor force in society—the emerging sec-

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tion of the working class that's looking to sell their ability to work so they can eke out some sort of decent life—many of the youth brought out the future they can look forward to under this system. A good example brought out was the retired workers who have been waging the fight against evictions at the International Hotel in San Francisco. Here the youth talked about seeing those who've worked 40 or 50 years and now are too old to keep up with the backbreaking work the bosses need for their profits. Now most are unemployed and what do they have to show for it? One or two rooms of low-cost housing. And even this the capitalists are trying to take away because they don't get enough profit off low-cost housing. This future of spending a life slaving away for some boss is the future that millions of young people face in this country, and that's the "best" of the lot as the capitalist system continues to falter and fall into deeper crisis.

## Can the Working Class Build Socialism?

After discussing how the working class has no class interests in exploitation, the youth struggled over whether it was inevitable that new leaders or forces under socialism would try to take over and "live in heaven, while millions live in hell." The Soviet Union was given as an example of how this had happened and a few spoke out pessimistically about the idea that socialism could be successfully built.

A number of youth spoke out around this point, cautioning against this pessimism. They stated that while what happened was tragic for the working class in the Soviet Union and working people all around the world, the knowledge and understanding of how and why new capitalist rulers emerged under socialism should strengthen our ability to prevent the same thing from happening when the working class in the United States seizes and controls state power. They pointed out that understanding this danger pointed to the necessity of continuing the revolution under socialism so that the working class more and more runs and rules all aspects of society, and examples of how this has gone on in China were brought out.

Furthermore, it was pointed out that while there would certainly be many difficult struggles under socialism where new exploiters would try to bring back capitalism even under the guise of speaking in the interests of the people, don't think the working class could get duped so easily. By building off our long years of living under the hell of capitalism, off of the experiences and pain of making revolution, and the unity, consciousness and organization necessary to make it—and our understanding of the need to continue to wage class struggle under socialism and to develop the forms to carry this out—we could stop new exploiters from gaining power and returning us all to living under capitalism.

It was around the point of the leading role of the working class that a member of one of the YIA's, who has been in the World Community of Islam, raised that he had been told that communists had sold out Black people in the past. Here a number of people, both Party members and others, pointed out that it was certainly true that the Communist Party, USA had sold out the struggle of Black people. At one point the Communist Party had been a revolutionary force that had led many important battles opposing the discrimination and oppression of Blacks and other minorities, from the Jim Crow laws and legal lynchings of Blacks in the South to the defense of the Scottsboro Boys and Angelo Herndon, Black youth who were framed for different crimes in the '20s and '30s. The Communist Party, USA had taken up these battles against the oppression of minorities as part of their overall developing of the class war in the United States, leading the battles of the unemployed, the great union drives of the '30s, opposition to the different imperialists' moves to war, etc.

But, it was said, in the 1950s the Communist Party was no longer a party that stood for revolution; they had given up and were now willing to compromise with the bosses and politicians who run this country. The Communist Party no longer fought for Black people's liberation or against the discrimination and oppression of minorities, but this wasn't simply a question of racism or national chauvinism. Rather it was a part of their overall selling out of the working class and struggles of the American people against the capitalists. Now a new communist party exists, the Revolutionary Communist Party, that stands for the liberation of Blacks, stands against the discrimination and oppression of minorities, as part of its standing for the highest political interests of the working class.

A Black youth from Milwaukee spoke out about how she had first gotten involved thinking that racism and discrimination was the whole problem facing Black people and she wasn't sure who the source of it was. Now as she's gotten involved—been involved in struggles like cutbacks against minority programs, fought for jobs for all youth and built and marched in the July 4th "We've Carried the Rich for 200 Years, Let's Get

Them Off Our Backs!" demonstration, she has seen that it's the capitalists, who, while stepping awfully hard on Blacks, step on the entire working class of all nationalities. From this and seeing things like the meatcutters' strike where Black and white workers stood strong against the bosses, and the marches such as have gone on at May Day, she had seen where the power of fully changing this society lay—in the hands of the working class. She now considered herself a communist, who stood for the liberation of Blacks and minorities from oppression as part of the overall struggle to emancipate the working class.

Many of the youth spoke out how building multinational unity was critical to the youth organization, that the question of national divisions is often one of the sharpest questions hitting youth, many of whom grow up in segregated neighborhoods and who often have their anger and rebelliousness steered by the bourgeoisie to fighting one another.

Coming off of this discussion the question of why the working class must lead the revolution was gone into. A number of the youth, and Party members, brought out that this did not simply mean that youth only march in things like May Day demonstrations or the March 5 demonstration in D.C. against the unemployment benefit cuts, though it was a good thing for the youth to march shoulder to shoulder with the working class at rallies and marches.

It meant that it was in the interests of the working class, and the political line of the Party of the working class—that stands and fights for its highest interests—to build a powerful youth and student movement in its own right, that fires out and hammers at the bourgeoisie and all its attacks on youth and the American people. It was important to grasp what Mao stated to a group of youth in explaining their role in the Chinese revolution, that they were in "a certain sense a vanguard." This is not in the sense of being able to lead the revolution through to final victory, but that youth's characteristics of rebelliousness, desire for change and initiative, if properly tapped and led, can enable them to be a spark to all of society, fighting over and raising important issues of struggle and concern to the American people and the working class.

Different youth brought out a number of examples of this, drawing on youths' and students' role in the Black people's struggles in the '60s, the powerful anti-war movement against the U.S. war in Indochina, talked to at the start of the article. The recent uprisings in South Africa were also brought out, where Black youth and students had rebelled against the forced teaching of a colonial language. This sparked off struggle throughout South Africa, including the workers who took the battle to a higher level as they refused to work and demonstrated against the hated apartheid system—rocking the white settler regime at its foundations. A number of other examples of struggles that youth had taken up in neighborhoods recently that brought forward many other people into battle were also brought out.

Historically this has been a most important contribution of youth and students to the overall revolutionary struggle. This has been particularly true in terms of standing up and opposing wars of aggression by the imperialists, both because of the general characteristics of rebelliousness of youth and the particular way moves to war affect youth—being the force that's brought into the imperialists' army to fight for their profits. And this will no doubt be an important struggle of the youth of the U.S. in the years ahead, as the talk of "national service acts" and return of the draft are developing as the overall contention of the U.S. and the Soviet Union heats up, their conflicts heighten and their steps toward war escalate.

## Why a Young Communist Organization?

The liveliest discussion of the meeting was around what type of organization would best serve the struggle and needs of youth and the overall revolutionary struggle. Here, the key question was getting down on the particular situation that young people are in. Not only do millions of youth face many immediate hardships and difficulties—but millions of youth are facing the burning question of what the hell are they going to do with their lives.

For years they have been trained to be the future wage slaves of the bourgeoisie. Now, as they are becoming so, they are not only trying to avoid the pitfalls of unemployment, the army, drugs, crime, etc., they're also looking for one way or another to start off and develop a decent life, to find a way they can use their skills, make a contribution to society, etc.

The youth need an organization that not only gets out in the streets and fights for the people, but offers them a future and road where they can put their lives to the best possible use. The road of serving the people, daring to change the world, fighting for the working class, making socialist revolution, and going on to building a whole new world! And this is why a communist youth organization needs to be built—an organization that would openly offer this road and future to the youth as they stand at a crossroads in their life, while taking up their battles and fighting for them.

When talking about the future faced under capitalism the youth bitterly spoke out. A number spoke out

about how they literally live in fear for their lives, and their friends' and families', when thinking of life in their neighborhoods and cities. And they felt helpless seeing all this go down—cities rotting, crime shooting up, as they sat around unemployed.

Youth denounced the army, which they had gone into hoping it to be an escape from unemployment and trouble, and a place to find a skill, only now to find there was plenty of trouble in having to protect the profits of the rich man. Many youth talked of friends getting caught up in drugs and crime. The youth from Cincinnati brought out how a friend had committed suicide—with all denouncing the capitalists' inability to provide youth the chance to lead productive, useful lives for bringing this all on. Unanimously the youth at the meeting saw this as a key question that must be taken up in the course of building struggle.

A number of youth did raise points that will have to be taken up to put the young communist organization on a solid basis. One was the very basic point that the members of the young communist organization must have at least a beginning understanding of Marxism-Leninism. Only in a few places had this task been taken on in a well organized and thorough way, with some people saying they still needed to learn some basic points about Marxism. Over the next six months an important task will be to initiate, develop and popularize the study among youth of Marxism, grounding the foundation of the working class youth section, along with the student section of course, in the basics of Marxism-Leninism, as they continue to move ahead, building the struggle of youth and building towards the founding convention.

Another key question that came up was around the level of anti-communism among the people, and what would the response be as the groups went into the streets and neighborhoods as an open communist organization.

Some youth spoke up, stating that at the very least we'd have a tough time getting people to listen to us if it was openly called a communist organization, and at the very worst...well, it was a quick way to die. Others argued that openly standing for communism put the groups out there in clear opposition to the rulers of this country, and that this was a good thing that would speak to many of the qualities of youth—their rebelliousness, desire for productive lives, etc.

All of the youth agreed that going out and building struggle as an open communist organization would certainly be much more controversial than building struggle under the name "Youth In Action."

While one could point to certain difficulties that will arise for openly standing for revolution and communism, the groups could and should take advantage of the controversy and struggle that come from it, understanding that the fact that communism is supposed to be terrible and outlawed according to the powers that be can, through struggle, be turned into a good thing—something that makes it worthy of checking out, given the rebellious inclinations of youth. They had to bring out who was the source of anti-communism and why, and how it was the same source of all the rotten conditions that people are forced to live under. They had to be clear that the youth organization stood for communism and socialist revolution just as it stood and fought against the many rotten conditions throughout society—because that was the best road forward for the people.

In addition to that, people stated that the youth organization should see it as one of their tasks to stand up against the views that the capitalists have promoted about communists. While the capitalists continue to come down on the people, the young communist organization will lead repeated struggles, develop into a force that stands and fights for the people, exposing the rich as the source of the social ills throughout society—and would make it more and more clear what communists stood for, and who promoted and profited from anti-communism.

Many spoke out and said while there was anti-communism, more fundamental were the questions hitting youth at this critical time, posing the real need to openly offer to them the future of fighting for what the people need, standing with the working class, setting their sights high, and using their lives to go full steam towards socialist revolution.

The youth spoke out against a tendency to just throw out the word communism lightly—keeping it very general and not explaining it. The young communist organization would not simply run around just saying "communism," and offering a better future. For while openly standing for communism it would root this in taking up the struggles of youth, and would bring out of these battles and all social and political issues, how they tied in with the overall situation youth and the broad masses of people face, offering to youth a road of fighting for what people need, standing with the working class to knock down the bourgeoisie and move on to where the working class rules. The youth united around developing agitation and propaganda that put out communism in this kind of popular way, building off peoples' actual experience.

Around all these points, from the study of Marxism to the level of anti-communism and how to overcome it, there was a good deal of struggle, discussion and even arguing, with all agreeing that these points should be

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further taken up and discussed as we moved towards the founding convention and the launching of the young communist organization. The draft proclamation for a statement that calls for the formation of such an organization, that will be posted on city streets all across the country, was read out, unanimously voted for and endorsed by the most thunderous cheers and ovation of the day.

## Neighborhoods as a Base

Another important discussion held at the meeting was around where the working class section of the young communist organization should be based. In the development of the groups that already exist this question has not been taken up sharply enough, and this has led to a couple of different tendencies and weaknesses.

For one, there's been a tendency to only go from one part of a city to another, looking to unite with and develop struggle. Simply doing this leads to problems—the groups being scattered throughout the city; failure to develop any consistent base to become any type of ongoing social and political force among youth; pulling the "advanced" who join the groups away from their friends, neighborhoods and knowledge of social conditions toward building battles only in other parts of the city; and a failure to continue to do consistent revolutionary work among youth unless there was some spark of struggle going on in some part of town.

The youth at the meeting brought out how in some cities either high schools or community colleges had become the group's main base of ongoing activities, and the various problems that had come up from this. They brought out how both of these concentrations of youth should be taken up as part of developing the main base for the working class youth section—the neighborhoods.

Why neighborhoods? The youth at the meeting summed up two major reasons. (1) It's the area where all youth are concentrated, spend their most time, have their most friends. This includes those that are unemployed, marginally employed, high school, community college students, etc., especially those youth that are a year or two out of high school, unable to find any work. (2) It's where the contradictions are most sharp around the capitalists' inability to provide people with any type of decent, productive life. It's the main place where youth see the social conditions of this system going down, seeing their neighborhoods and housing rot, cops coming down, etc., while they are forced to hang around, unable to change the way people are more and more being forced to live.

Off of this, the youth talked about a "one, two punch" in going back to their cities, to both develop a consistent base for their activities while continuing to expand and build struggle in all parts of the cities. One punch is the task of concentrating in key neighborhoods and becoming an ongoing fighting political force, taking up battles for jobs, support for the African people, major social and political questions, etc. The other is continuing to unite with sparks of struggle that fly up throughout a city among youth, such as resistance to police murder and repression, rotting city conditions, etc., building those battles to the maximum and developing out of them new neighborhood bases for the communist youth organization.



*The rebelliousness characteristic of youth in a repressive and exploitive society is a tremendous resource for the working class in its revolutionary struggle. Its enthusiasm and innovativeness, its daring and determination can be a spark for struggle throughout society.*

After summing up all the points that had been taken on throughout the meeting—the need for revolution, youth's and the working class' role in making it, and all the others—the youth, though exhausted, took on discussion over what were the key areas of work for the coming period.

A lively report from one of the youth groups on the struggle in southern Africa was given that brought out the nature and present level of struggle of the African people against the white minority governments, their U.S. imperialist backers and the drive of the Soviet Union to enter through the back door.

The report brought out the need to support the African people's struggle as part of the overall tasks of supporting the revolutionary struggles that are standing up to, weakening, and exposing imperialism, especially ones directed against our own rulers. It brought out the need to oppose moves of the U.S. toward wars of aggression and the continuing conflicts and drive to world war of the two superpowers, as they seek to divide up the world in their drive for power and profits.

In addition to this, the youth brought out many of the feelings of solidarity that Blacks in the U.S. feel towards the struggling African people. Both face discrimination and national oppression from the same enemy, the U.S. capitalists.

After going into the importance of taking up the struggle, the youth brought out different ways to do this. Plans were made to do various educational projects, street corner agitation with props like large passbooks, showing slide shows, movies and programs in the streets of neighborhoods at night as the weather warms up, building for speakers from liberation forces in different neighborhoods.

The youth talked of taking up battle against the Krugerrand, the gold coin banks have been selling to generate dollars for the South African economy, such a battle that could knock the Krugerrand out of the banks and bring out to thousands how U.S. capital in-

vestments hold up and profit from apartheid. Plans were also made toward doing different material aid projects for the liberation forces, and it was agreed to develop all this work in support of the African freedom fighters towards building a powerful youth contingent at the march on the White House on African Liberation Day, May 28.

One of the last discussions centered around battling for "Jobs for Youth" throughout the summer. An opening report brought out the widespread nature of the issue to youth and went into how unemployment is a hardship to youth that goes far beyond simply being stuck with no money. Nothing brings out more clearly how this society has got nothing to offer youth. Unemployment is a major source of youth getting demoralized, caught up in crime, drugs and gangs—as well as being a major factor for the many confrontations youth have with the police. Unemployment is the major cause of frustration and anger of youth, though this anger is not yet consistently directed or focused at the enemy.

It was also spoken to how many of the future government youth programs would seek to divide the youth off from the rest of the working class. This is what is behind many of these public works type proposals that Carter is talking about to "help the youth." Hire youth at slave wages to do the jobs workers have been laid off from or won't take because they cannot feed their families with the wages. Opposing these job programs to get the youth to scab on the entire working class will be an important part of the future youth organization—while continuing to stand and fight for jobs for youth.

Plans were developed so that the youth group would start to become a fighting force among the youth around the issue of jobs. Calls for activities and agitation at the many sign-up dates for youth programs were united around—where the need to fight for a year long job program at union wages would be brought out. Developing struggle around the presently existing city and federal job programs for youth was also talked about. Almost always breaking down during the summer—getting called off or pay held back—these programs can be important targets of struggle, though they are limited because they are mainly geared to 14-17 year olds. The youth united around battling inside them, while also raising the call for the year-round job program that would seek to bring forward and unite older youth to fight for the jobs they need.

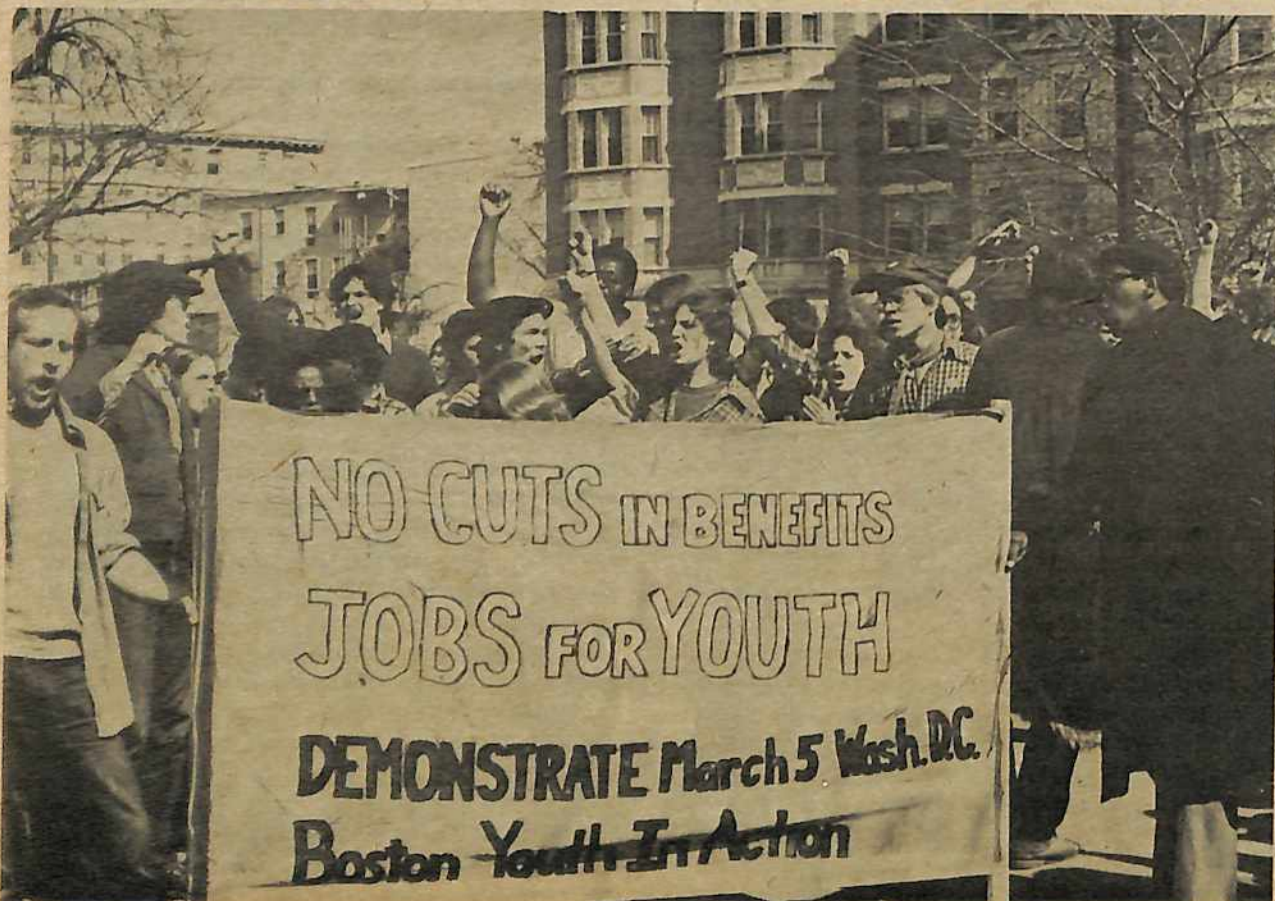
Since the meeting a number of groups have also talked about developing campaigns in neighborhoods during the summer that would struggle around rotting conditions in the neighborhoods like crummy youth centers, uncollected garbage, and abandoned houses with rats. Such struggles could be linked to the struggle for jobs for youth.

As the meeting drew to a close, elections were held for a steering committee that will lead and guide the groups toward the founding convention. In the coming months the steering committee will be on top of putting out a good deal of the material that's needed to build towards the convention—proclamations, calls, posters, etc.—in addition to developing forms that will unite broad numbers of youth around the young communist organization in the course of each wave of activities that the youth groups build.

For instance, regional conferences will be held a few weeks after the ALD demonstration that will sum up the Africa campaigns, developments in building the young communist organization and then make further plans for developing campaigns and further waves of activity—as well as the means to continue to build toward the founding convention. In addition to this the steering committee will sum up the progress toward this convention, how some of the problems and contradictions that were brought out around developing it are being taken up and overcome.

The March 26 meeting was an important step forward in developing the initiative of working class youth to take up the building of a young communist organization as their own. The youth clearly saw the importance of the tasks confronting them—as brought out by the participation, heated discussions and struggle that characterized much of the meeting. The political understanding of many was deepened around key questions and a good deal of political unity was forged by the groups that were meeting together for the first time. Plans were developed to build key battles in the coming period, as well as plans to build towards the founding convention of the young communist organization.

The task is now to go back to the neighborhoods and cities, deepening the understanding of points that were taken up at the meeting while putting many of the ideas and plans talked about into practice that will unite youth to fight the bourgeoisie and change the world. This ranges from developing the campaign around African liberation to the battles for jobs, and the study of Marxism-Leninism. In all these ways the various youth groups will make important steps towards building a powerful working class youth section of a young communist organization that will dare to stand up and change the world, and lead the youth and students to become a powerful social force that will stand for revolution, become a powerful and valuable ally of the working class in its war for freedom. ■



*The capitalists come up with nothing but phony job schemes for youth, offering them jobs at slave wages or getting them to work for peanuts in jobs that have been taken away from their parents. In D.C. March 5, youth put them on notice they weren't accepting this future and would fight alongside their parents for jobs and a decent life.*