

Amendment to the Disarmament Resolution

Ilene W.

After point 5 on p. 2 add a new point 6 (which would then make point 6 become point 7)

6) As socialists committed to the liberation of all people and to the creation of a broad left wing in the U.S. we are in favor of involving in the disarmament movement other social movements such as Third World, feminist, gay and lesbian groups. We are against attempts to exclude such groups or deny their concerns because their politics may be threatening to the liberals. As a specific case, we are opposed to any efforts by the churches or the so-called "left" anti-abortion forces to exclude the issue of reproductive freedom from the movement's broader social demands.

On p. 3: change the sentence beginning "Our positions" on line 19 to read "Our positions, plus any alliances with other socialists, radical pacifists, feminists, or Third World groups," etc.

Motivation: Most people probably know that the leadership of the June 12th rally successfully excluded the Black United Front for a time from the steering committee for the rally. People are less familiar with the controversy over whether reproductive freedom, and specifically abortion, is a legitimate issue for this movement to be raising as part of its demands around social issues. There is a wing of the radical pacifist movement that is anti-abortion (they are against all "killing"). They have raised this position in the Mobilization for Survival and in other places. There is also the problem of liberals and some leftists not wanting to alienate their new allies in the Catholic clergy. I think we have to be absolutely clear on the principles involved. While the issues we raise at any time are a question of tactics or strategy and can't be dictated in advance, we have to be up front in opposing racism and sexism in this movement as in any other.