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TO ALL BRANCHES AND EDUCATIONAL DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

Where they are not already underway plans should be made in all branches for the socialist summer schools. There are a number of basic points that underlie our concept of the summer schools.

The key concept behind the summer schools is to set aside a time for intensive cadre education on the fundamental principles of the revolutionary socialist movement. In contrast to forums or contact classes, the summer schools are primarily aimed at our own cadre. In contrast to educationals that are usually held after branch meetings, the summer schools allow for intensive study of fundamental Marxist works. In contrast to classes that may be held during other times on a voluntary basis, participation in the summer schools is considered a political assignment for all comrades in the party and youth. This flows from our concept that the responsibility for cadre education is as much a part of branch political activity as are Militant sales, election campaigns, forums, finances, etc. and participation in the antiwar, trade union, Third World, or women's liberation movements.

The summer schools take on added and pressing importance because of the rapid recruitment of new forces to the SWP and YSA, during a period of intense internal and external political activity. To build the kind of combat party that we are doing requires a rounded political development of all our cadre. Should education suffer, all other work of the party will also suffer. For that reason, we should be careful to pitch the level of the summer schools to our own cadre. While we can also take advantage of the opportunity to bring close contacts to the summer schools as a means of recruiting them, the classes themselves should be aimed primarily at our own needs.

The summer schools should be planned in intimate correlation with our regional work. A major effort should be made to bring at-large YSAers and YSA members from locals where there is no party branch into the main branch centers where the maximum facilities are available for summer school education. This also ties in directly with the regional responsibilities of our statewide election campaigns. In some YSA locals a number of YSA members will be unable to move to

the major branch centers for the summer and will hold their own summer school program. In these cases the national office will help give aid in the form of printed material and tapes. But other aid should primarily be considered a central regional responsibility of the branch centers which can aid in sending speakers and in whatever other way help is needed. It is part of the regional responsibilities that go along with the general expansion of our movement.

Planning for the summer schools should be well thought out to maintain a balanced view of our political activity during the summer. The summer time will not be one of greatly diminished opportunity for intervention in the mass movement. Some locals will also be engaged in petition work to get on the ballot. While remaining alert to take advantage of such opportunities, we should insure that cadre education in the summer schools is a priority item. In practice we have often found that the added summer reinforcements to the party branches and YSA locals in the regional centers, and the added enthusiasm that results from an attractive educational program enables us to undertake expanded political activity in other arenas.

Last year summer schools were held in 23 areas, in eight of which there were no party branches. The figures should be much higher this year. The national office will help with speakers, tapes, and the preparation of necessary educational bulletins. We will be able to help send only a limited number of speakers from the center, so branches are encouraged to draw upon speakers from other branches as well. YSA locals in areas outside of party branch centers can make use of tapes and syllabi that will be prepared. Information on this will be forthcoming soon.

In terms of the topics which are most important to study, the following are suggested by the summer school committee. They form the core of an educational program around basic Marxist principles and major questions that our cadre must be well-versed in.

- 1.) The revolutionary party. Through either a historical or more general approach, the basic concepts of the Leninist party should be absorbed by all comrades. It would be particularly valuable to include additional study of the political and organizational reports and resolutions from the recent plenum and convention. These incorporate important concepts on the nature of the American socialist revolution, the current radicalization, the transitional approach of the revolutionary party, and the type of party necessary for the tasks ahead of us.

2.) The national question, with particular emphasis on the history and dynamics of the black and Chicano liberation struggles in the U.S. and the application of our revolutionary socialist program to these struggles.

3.) Basic Trotskyist ideas, especially as incorporated in a study of the theory of the permanent revolution, the Russian or Cuban revolutions, the nature of Stalinism and the degeneration of the Soviet Union.

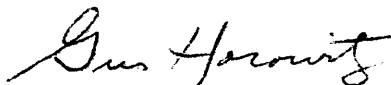
4.) The history and dynamics of the women's liberation struggle and our approach to it. This is an expanding arena of party activity which requires adequate educational preparation of our cadre.

5.) Revolutionary Marxism versus anarchism, terrorism, and ultra-leftism. The existence of these anti-Marxist tendencies is a problem with which we will have to deal in our ongoing activity. We are hoping to prepare a reading list and suggested class syllabus for study of this topic.

While there may not be time to study every one of these topics in each summer school, the basic core of every summer school should include some of the above subjects.

Further communications will be forthcoming from the summer school committee.

Comradely,



Gus Horowitz
Summer School Committee