

COMMITTEE ON NEW ALTERNATIVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

145 E. 16 Street- Apt. 9C
New York, N.Y. 10003
212-254-6362

February 14, 1970

SPONSORS, Partial List

Eric Bentley
Herbert Blau
Emile Capouya
Prof. Noam Chomsky
David Deitch
Prof. Stanley Diamond
Prof. Richard Elman
Prof. David Herreshoff
Dr. Erich Fromm
Prof. Florence Howe
Prof. Louis Kampf
William Kunstler
Philip Langner
Robert H. Langston
Prof. Melvin Leiman
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Harold Leventhal
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Prof. Robert Jay Lifton
Rev. Donald G. Lothrop
Robert Lowell
Staughton Lynd
Dwight Macdonald
Ashley Montagu
Claire Nichtern
George Novack
Prof. Sidney Peck
Henry Roth
Muriel Rukeyser
Pete Seeger
Stanley K. Sheinbaum
Prof. J. David Singer
I.F. Stone
William Styron
Louis Untermeyer
Rev. Willard Uphaus
Jose Yglesias
Prof. Howard Zinn

Secy
Berta Langston

Dear Friend,

Noam Chomsky, in the enclosed letter inviting prominent individuals to sponsor the Committee on New Alternatives in the Middle East, describes the purposes of this newly-formed ad hoc committee. As the names on our initial letterhead indicate, the response has been very gratifying, foreshadowing a highly successful tour in April and May.

Please let us know immediately the name of the tour coordinator in your area. Photos, a biographical sketch, and other publicity material will be sent to the individual responsible for the tour locally upon receipt of the name and address.

The Committee is seeking additional sponsors. The names of one or two prominent individuals in your city will aid the tour nationally and locally. A sample sponsor card is enclosed. In order that names of sponsors be included on the Committee's new letterhead, signed sponsor cards must be received within two weeks. (Please indicate the sponsor's position or other claim to fame.) Although we solicit and welcome support from the various groups that represent Mideast liberation movements (Arab Student Assn., etc.), serious difficulties for our speaker might result if they were used as public sponsors of the Committee.

Also enclosed is an itinerary of the Bober tour. It has been carefully worked out in light of the time available and other limiting factors. As far as possible, it should be regarded as final. Of course, it could be modified for really urgent reasons.

The cost of transatlantic and local travel will be quite high. The Committee plans to publish at least one pamphlet. To finance these, as well as possible defense efforts for Israeli anti-Zionists, fund-raising must be considered an important aspect of the tour. All meetings should be organized with a view to raising as much money as possible as well as attracting the largest possible audiences. In particular, a special effort should be made immediately to secure at least one speaking engagement that offers a substantial honorarium.

Further information and suggestions will be sent to

the local tour organizers along with the publicity material mentioned above.

Please send as soon as possible:

1. Confirmation of tour dates
2. Name and address of your tour coordinator
3. Signed sponsor cards

Sincerely,

Berta Langston

Enc: Noam Chomsky letter
Sample sponsor card
Tour itinerary

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND LINGUISTICS

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Room 20C-132

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

Dear

I am writing to invite you to join as a sponsor of a committee to be called "Committee on new alternatives in the Middle East" that will try to encourage discussion and debate of fundamental issues in the present Middle East crisis, and specifically, to try to introduce left-wing voices that are rarely heard in the United States. The Committee will take no specific stand on the Middle East or other political issues. We hope that the sponsors will represent a range of differing views but will be united in the belief that broader and more extensive discussion may be helpful, and should be encouraged.

The Committee plans, as its first action, to sponsor a national speaking tour for Aryeh Bober, a young Israeli Jew who is a graduate student of economics at the Hebrew University and a member of the Israeli Socialist Organization (MATZPEN). The MATZPEN group is a small non-Zionist, Jewish-Arab organization in Israel. It is an independent international socialist organization which recognizes the national rights of both Jews and Arabs in Palestine and believes that a profound social transformation in Israel and the Arab world is a prerequisite for reconciliation of peoples in the Middle East.

I want to emphasize that association with the Committee as a sponsor does not entail agreement with the political position of MATZPEN, or any other speaker who may be sponsored by the Committee in the future. Rather, it indicates only a belief that these voices should be heard. Of course, no action will be undertaken by the Committee, and no public statement will be made, without the explicit agreement of every sponsor.

I hope very much that you will join in this effort. If you are interested, please write to:

Berta Langston
145 E. 16th Street, Apt. 9c
New York, N.Y. 10003

Sincerely yours,



Noam Chomsky

NC:dm