

P.O. Box 471 Cooper Station  
New York, N.Y. 10003  
December 3, 1975

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

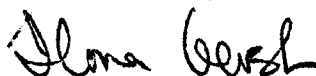
Attached is a report on the second national convention of the Revolutionary Student Brigade (RSB), which was held in Chicago October 8-10.

Unfortunately, the report is based on attendance of only the first day's sessions. Therefore, we have no first-hand report on discussions that may have been held on some important issues, such as busing and their internal organization.

Also attached are excerpts from an article entitled "RSB Now Student Group of Party," which appeared in the November 15 issue of the Revolutionary Communist Party's (RCP) newspaper, Revolution.

Please keep the national office informed of activities carried out by the RSB in your area, as well as those of other opponents.

Comradely,



Ilona Gersh  
YSA National Office

Report on the October 8-10, 1975 National Convention  
of the Revolutionary Student Brigade

This report is based on attendance of only the first day of the national convention of the Revolutionary Student Brigade (RSB), which took place in Chicago.

There were approximately 500 people at the convention, primarily campus members of the RSB and members of the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP). Very few non-members attended.

The age range and sex composition of the conference participants was the same as we would see at a YSA convention, except that there were very few Blacks, Chicanos, or Puerto Ricans. Less than ten Blacks were at the convention, and as far as could be seen, no Blacks were part of the leadership.

Participants came from a broad geographic spread, including Chicago, Champaign, DeKalb, New York, Berkeley, San Francisco, Boston, Milwaukee, Madison, Cleveland, and Trenton, New Jersey.

The RSB describes itself as the student organization of the RCP, its purpose being to build a mass student organization as an ally of working class struggles. The RCP openly sets the political program and decides on the leadership of the RSB. There were no political resolutions or reports discussed during the first day of the convention. It was announced in the opening speech that a new RSB national office staff of five people had been slated by the RCP in consultation with the old RSB national office. RSB members were merely encouraged to get to know the members of the national office sometime during the convention. This method of functioning seemed to be accepted as a norm by those in attendance at the convention.

The only disagreement among participants on the first day was over the frisking of those who attended the first session of the convention, which was supposedly done to protect Bob Avakian, chairman of the RCP. The complaints may have had some effect, as the frisking was discontinued in the afternoon and evening sessions.

The first session of the convention was a speech by Bob Avakian on the nature of capitalism and socialism. The speech did not mention busing or Portugal.

Trotskyism was characterized as both ultraleft and rightist -- ultraleft in that we supported the slogan "U.S. Out of Vietnam Now" as opposed to the NLF's nine-point peace plan, and rightist in that we participate in bourgeois elections.

The afternoon session was a panel discussion on the economy. Panelists included leaders of the RSB and RCP. The

RCP member gave an academic speech on Marxist economic theory. The RSB member gave a presentation on the anticutbacks struggle which has been and was projected as the RSB's main area of work. The anticutbacks struggle, according to the speaker, had to be linked to the struggle for revolution. The RSB is currently "self-criticizing" itself for what it calls their left deviation last year and right deviation this year in their relation to the anticutbacks struggle. In their estimation, they were not involved enough in the struggle last year, and this year, have immersed themselves too deeply in it. For instance, a semi-organized discussion group at lunch self-criticized the RSB for not projecting the RSB's identity in anticutbacks committees, and for failing to organize RSB meetings to build their periphery among anticutbacks activists. This self-criticism was directed by the RCP.

The third session was one of three three-and-a-half-hour plenary sessions, entitled "Discussion of Work." It consisted of reports from various campuses on the anticutbacks struggle.

The plenary on the second day was to discuss their political intervention into these struggles. The third plenary was to discuss their internal organization and the transformation of the RSB into a communist student organization.

Workshops were scheduled for the second day. These included workshops on busing and on Trotskyism.

Excerpts from "RSB Now Student Group of Party," published in the November 15, 1975 issue of Revolution

The convention marked major advances for the Brigade. The RSB voted to accept the proposal of the newly founded Revolutionary Communist Party, USA (RCP) that the Brigade become the mass communist student organization of the Party. The convention set the Brigade's aims to build a powerful student movement allied with the working class and aimed at the monopoly capitalist class.

As a key step to carrying out this aim at the present time, the RSB also united around a nationwide campaign against the cutbacks, tuition hikes and other attacks on education.

\* \* \*

The change in the Brigade from an independent, anti-imperialist organization to the student organization of the RCP means a better basis for forging stronger links between the student movement and the overall class struggle. The RSB is a communist student organization open to all fighters on the campus who want to apply Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung Thought to building the struggles of students into a broad student movement that will be a powerful ally of the proletariat in all its battles, including its battle for revolution and socialism.

\* \* \*

In the opening speech of the convention, Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, emphasized the importance of Brigade members going out among the masses of students and practicing the mass line. He brought out that Brigade members must "go broadly and deeply among the students, understand their actual conditions and struggles and develop policies that will unite them against the enemy."

\* \* \*

In the light of the sentiments and struggles of the masses of students, the RCP put forward a proposal at the convention that the Brigade should take up as a national campaign this year, a program for fighting the attacks on education. This program called for the Brigade to join in the struggles already being waged, seeking to link them up and broaden them to areawide or regional struggles. In effect, it must work to develop a unified national campaign among students to beat back these attacks as part of the resistance of the American working class and people to all the attacks caused by the profit crisis of the ruling class.

The proposal pointed out that in taking up this campaign the Brigade had three tasks: win as much as can be won in the immediate struggle and weaken the enemy; raise the general level of consciousness and organization among the masses;

and develop the most active and advanced in these struggles into communists.

The proposal put forward general demands for the campaign which were adopted unanimously by the convention: No Cutbacks! No imposition or Increase in Tuition! No Attacks on Special Programs! No New Taxes or Increases to "Pay" for Education! Fight for Decent Mass Education!

\* \* \*

All the work of the Brigade, whether around cutbacks or any other struggles, is aimed at building a mass student movement, not limited to any single issue but fighting on different fronts, and with increasing consciousness, against the ruling class and the capitalist system. The cutbacks campaign is a key front on which to fight the capitalist attacks and to bring masses of students forward in struggle and develop such a movement.