

14 Charles Lane
New York, N. Y. 10014

February 16, 1971

TO ALL COMRADES

Dear Comrades,

Several developments that have occurred in the past month point to a potential that now exists for drawing significant numbers of Black people into antiwar activities this spring. These include the participation in January of over 300 people in the Riverside, California Black Moratorium; plans in Detroit and other cities for Black antiwar actions on April 2-4; and the breadth of Black organizations and figures who have endorsed the 24th; and the wide publicity and support being given to organization and activities of Black soldiers. Black politicians such as Ron Dellums, Shirley Chisolm, Carl Stokes and others have identified themselves with the action. Leaders of organizations such as NAACP and SCLC have given formal endorsement, and in several cases this has led to offers of organizational support such as use of mimeo facilities, paper, etc. Others, such as Rev. Charles Koen of the Cairo United Front, and Robert F. Williams, have also endorsed the action.

All of these endorsements mean that the door is wide open to reach significant number of Blacks, especially Black youth, with the concept of Black antiwar activity, and get them involved in concrete actions. This is a new situation, representing greater opportunities than we have ever had in this regard.

The most effective and attractive forms of protest will in all likelihood be independent Black actions. The most effective way of mobilizing an oppressed nationality is on a nationalist basis. This is one of the key lessons of the Chicano Moratorium, and it has been absorbed by some Black activists as the Riverside experience shows.

Wherever possible, we want to see formations like the Black Moratorium develop, although the organizational form of Black antiwar work will vary from area to area. The logical date for Black action against the war is around the April 2-4 demonstrations.

Black antiwar activists should initiate such groups. Black YSAers can play a leading role in this process, and involve our contacts in the work.

Where the forces do not yet exist for a Black action on April 2-4, local Black organizations can be drawn into rallies, meetings, marches, etc. initiated by the SMC and antiwar coalitions around these dates.

Black students organizations in high schools and campuses may want to have their own rallies on Friday, April 2, as part of building for such actions on Saturday or Sunday. Campus-based actions and organizations can be the best vehicles for reaching out to community-based groups.

The April 2-4 antiwar actions can be the basis upon which Black participation in the April 24 actions can be built. Because of the opportunities for Black participation in the antiwar movement this spring, the national staffs of SMC and NPAC are being expanded to include people who can coordinate this work on a national level. There will be literature and materials available soon for the 24th appealing to Blacks to join the actions.

Comradely,

Dave Frankel
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Dave Frankel
YSA Antiwar Director

Larry Seigle

Larry Seigle
SWP National Antiwar Director

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February 23, 1971

Joel Britton
Re: Response to inquiry

Joel:

Portions of your polemic will be helpful to the Third World fraction in setting up educationals on the Chicano struggle. Your documentation in defense of our party and the explanations of Barnes' statements are skillful. That I can appreciate.

Other portions of your response I cannot and do not appreciate, but to attempt to explain them to you would be to invite essentially the same sort of response. I will say that I have read all of the Militant, ISR, IP coverage on the Chicano struggle and have defended the party's role against opponents and those Chicanos who do not have "an open mind." At the same time that I did this I saw what I considered contradictions in our statements and our organizational approach to the Chicano movement. My mistake was in thinking that someone else besides you would answer my questions.

Mariana Hernandez
Austin

(There was a PS referring to an enclosure)

cc: Evelyn Sell
Farrell Dobbs

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES, Number 22, March 5, 1971

Present: Barnes, Boehm, Breitman, Britton, DeBerry, Dobbs, A. Hansen,
J. Hansen, Horowitz, Lovell, Novack, Sheppard, Stone, Waters

Visitors: Bolduc, Camejo, Kerry, Seigle

AGENDA: 1. Political Resolution
 2. World Movement Reports

1. POLITICAL RESOLUTION

Barnes reported.

Discussion.

Motion: To adopt the general line of the resolution.
(See attached)

Carried.

2. WORLD MOVEMENT REPORTS

Camejo reported.

Discussion.

Agreement that full report on Latin American situation be
presented to plenum.

J. Hansen reported.

Discussion.

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Carried.

Meeting Adjourned.