

NBAWADU Report by Tony T., March 29, 1968

The National Black Antiwar, Antidraft Union (NBAWADU) represents a formation that can potentially organize and unite on a national level the various black power militants and organizations, as well as other blacks opposed to the war, into a national, independent antiwar coalition. NBAWADU has the potential of being a parallel to the SMC and the NMC, as the organizer of largely untapped massive Afro-American antiwar sentiment. We strongly support it as a significant step forward in the development of the antiwar and black struggles.

While the organization at its formation at the Chicago SMC conference had some representation from major cities in the nation and received support from the national leadership of SNCC, local NBAWADU affiliates in most areas have yet to get off the ground. The area coordinators elected at the SMC conference, and the various black organizations have done minimal work on behalf of NBAWADU. Local NBAWADU organizations have appeared in the Bay Area, Boston, Detroit, Carbondale, and Washington, D.C. Areas such as Chicago, Philadelphia and Ohio, and the new layer of campus militants organized in Afro-American associations, have yet to be reached by NBAWADU in a significant way.

The lack of any effective local organization in New York has severely limited the effectiveness of the national apparatus which largely consists of John Wilson of New York SNCC and Gwen Patton of SMC. However, at a recent meeting of the New York NBAWADU plans were made to try and improve the effectiveness of the local organization. The CP and the DBC have failed to carry out any meaningful activity on behalf of NBAWADU in New York, even though Ken Baily of the CP was elected as one of the four local coordinators.

The founding meeting of NBAWADU at the SMC conference projected a national conference to be held in New York April 12-14, to consolidate the organization, to discuss black participation in the Student Strike (which NBAWADU has already supported) and to project actions at the Democratic Party convention. While this conference will not have as massive a character as originally projected, it can serve as a point of departure for organization of new areas and groups and the establishment of a more effective national apparatus. It is important that this conference have a national character and that it be publicized, especially in areas where NBAWADU chapters don't exist.

Comrades in local areas should publicize NBAWADU and its April conference to blacks we are in contact with. Local areas should send reports on how the conference is received. Where NBAWADU chapters exist, especially where comrades are active in them, they should send in progress reports to the NO. If possible, lists of names and addresses of black militants and organizations should be sent into the NO to help build a national contact list for NBAWADU.

Further correspondence on the NBAWADU will follow. All Afro-American comrades should plan to attend this conference.