

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
February 8, 1973

TO ALL ORGANIZERS

Dear Comrades,

Latin American Political Prisoners

Enclosed are some communications from the United States Committee for Justice to Latin American Political Prisoners. The letter to USLA supporters contains some general proposals for spring projects which should be considered seriously by each branch.

It has proven possible in many areas to develop significant interest in the problems faced by political opponents to Latin American dictatorial regimes. One of the more successful forms of building interest has proved to be the "teach-in" type of activity carried out in Boston and referred to in the USLA letter. USLA groups in the Bay Area and in Denver are planning similar activities in the near future.

The general possibilities for building meetings on the question of political repression in Latin America is illustrated by a letter we received from Austin, Texas, this week. The Austin USLA group helped sponsor a meeting at the University of Texas for a Brazilian, Jean Marc Ven der Weid, former president of the Brazilian National Union of Students who has been a prisoner in Brazil. The report of the meeting is very enthusiastic. Jean Marc Ven der Weid is currently on a national tour sponsored by the Committee Against Repression In Brazil (CARIB). USLA supporters in New Jersey, New England, Minnesota, the Bay Area and the District of Columbia are helping to arrange meetings for him. If USLA groups in other areas are interested in this tour, they can write to CARIB, PO Box 426, Hyattsville, Md. 20786 for information. It is possible that a meeting for Jean Marc Van der Weid could be of help in establishing a local group of USLA supporters.

One of USLA's persistent problems is obtaining enough financial support to function at the level required. One way to combine political advantage and financial support is to arrange for honoraria for one of the speakers on the enclosed folder describing the Latin America Speakers Bureau (a mimeographed up-to-date supplement is also enclosed). Taking advantage of all opportunities to arrange meetings for speakers on the Latin America Speakers Bureau should be a regular part of branch work.

Last, but not least, an important aspect of our work in this area in addition to the responsibilities of revolutionists in the imperialist heartland is the possibility for recruiting individuals to the revolutionary movement. In New York, for example, four people have been recruited as a result of USLA work in the recent period.

It is, of course, an obligation of revolutionary internationalists to help build support for and provide aid to vic-

tims of political repression in other parts of the world. It is of special importance for our party to aid political prisoners in the colonial and semi-colonial countries of South America, prisoners who are the victims of U.S. imperialist domination.

Comradely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Shaw". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Ed Shaw".

Ed Shaw
SWP National Office