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February 24, 1973

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND EDUCATION DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed is a memorandum on upcoming education perspectives prepared by Gus Horowitz and Rich Lesnik of the SWP National Education Department, and by Andy Rose, National Chairman of the YSA. Please give it your attention in planning educational activity for the next few months.

Comradely,

Betsy Stone

Betsy Stone
National Office

February 23, 1973

MEMORANDUM ON UPCOMING EDUCATION PERSPECTIVES PROPOSED BY GUS HOROWITZ AND RICH LESNIK OF THE SWP NATIONAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, AND ANDY ROSE, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, YSA.

1. Spring Socialist Conferences

We suggest that socialist conferences be held this spring, similar to those that have been held in previous years. These conferences are not primarily internally oriented, but should be seen as major propaganda activities for us. This year they take on increasing specific weight within the framework of our overall political activity. If these conferences are well-planned and well-organized they can have the potential to be very large.

The conferences themselves offer the opportunity to present in one weekend a concentrated series of talks by prominent SWP and YSA speakers. The interest generated by these talks can be the basis for classes to be held in the weeks afterwards.

One obvious central theme for such conferences is Vietnam. The lessons of Vietnam can be the touchstone for several talks taking up many important political questions. Among the questions to consider are:

- * Vietnam considered in the general framework of the colonial revolution; the role of imperialism; the dynamics of the permanent revolution
- * the history of the Vietnamese revolution; the meaning of the present accords; the tasks that remain to be accomplished
- * the role of Moscow and Peking with regard to Vietnam; the role of the Communist parties throughout the world; the nature of Stalinism
- * the history and role of the American antiwar movement; the role of the SWP and YSA in the antiwar movement
- * the impact of the Vietnam war on American politics over the past decade
- * a historical overview of antiwar struggles internationally

Other important topics to consider for these conferences are:

- * the meaning of the new turn by the American CP
- * the meaning of the abortion victory
- * the present stage of the Black struggle
- * the present stage of the Chicano struggle

In many areas election campaigns are under way. The conferences can also include campaign rallies.

In the past few years, most of the spring socialist conferences have been held toward the end of April or early May, primarily because earlier dates would have conflicted with major national antiwar or abortion demonstrations. This year, it should be possible to hold the conferences a little earlier so that more followup work can be done after the conferences during the remaining part of the school year. Suggested dates for these conferences are during the March 30 - April 15 period, the earlier the better. (Flexibility is in order however, because if Thieu's announced trip to the US during this period materializes, then it may lead to antiwar demonstrations.)

These early educational conferences can then be followed by several weeks of recruitment classes and internal education classes. Later, the weekends of May 5-6 or April 28-29 can afford a culmination point for spring propaganda activity through election campaign/May Day banquets and rallies.

Since these conferences are likely to be built and organized on campuses, they should probably be held under the sponsorship of the YSA. Where appropriate, there can also be co-sponsorship by the youth committees supporting SWP election campaigns. These conferences can also be tied in with efforts to increase sales and subscriptions for The Militant, Young Socialist, and International Socialist Review. Previously, some areas have had good experience with special subscription offers to those attending the conferences. Note that a special subscription offer for Intercontinental Press will be forthcoming: \$ 3.00 for six months.

2. Spring Internal Education

Joint SWP and YSA internal education classes are usually held in the spring. This year, there is the opportunity to allot more time and resources to this activity. As indicated above, such classes can be held after the spring educational conferences. We suggest as the appropriate central theme of such classes this spring the topic of Stalinism and the theoretical questions posed by the post-World War II overturns. Topics can include:

- * Trotsky's analysis of Stalinism in the USSR
- * Theory of the Permanent Revolution; the post-war transformations in Eastern Europe; the Cuban Revolution
- * Chinese Stalinism and the Chinese Revolution
- * The Permanent Revolution in Vietnam; imperialism, the colonial revolution, Moscow and Peking Stalinism, Vietnamese Stalinism

There already exist suggested course outlines from the National Education Department on Stalinism in the USSR and on the Chinese Revolution. Course outlines are in preparation on the other topics, and should be available shortly. Some tapes

are also in preparation; these can be useful aids for teachers in preparing classes.

3. Summer Education

There is not yet a specific proposal for topics to be covered in the summer schools. It is hoped that we will be able to prepare reading materials and suggested course outlines for classes to be held on the history of the Fourth International.

On August 10-11, immediately following the SWP convention, there will be a national educational conference, topics and speakers to be announced later.