

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
April 5, 1972

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND EDUCATIONAL DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

Communication on the 1972 Socialist Summer Schools

The socialist summer schools this year will occur prior to the Socialist Activists and Educational Conference in Oberlin, Ohio, August 13-20. Local summer schools therefore will want to arrange their schedules to begin early in the summer, and to initiate planning for them immediately.

We will have the opportunity to coordinate the subject matter of the summer schools with the planned educational sessions at Oberlin. For this reason, the National Education Department recommends that the locally organized summer schools study several of the topics suggested below and make use of the course outlines prepared for each of these by the National Education Department.

The suggested topics for the summer schools all take up our basic theoretical concepts on subjects relating to current international questions or important areas of our current activity. It is recommended that each local summer school take up at least two or three of the topics described below.

1. The United Front vs. the Popular Front. 6 sessions.
2. The Transitional Program. 6 sessions.
3. Revolutionary Socialist Electoral Policy. 4 or 5 sessions.
4. Revolutionary Strategy in the Labor Movement. 4 or 5 sessions.
5. Stalinism. 8 sessions.
6. Principles of Leninist Party Organization. 8 sessions.

Course outlines for these classes will be available by the first week in May. Some of the above topics were previously suggested by the National Education Department for classes held last fall and this spring, but the course outlines for the summer will include additional material. The number of sessions projected above for each of the classes is an estimate based on the probable recommendations that will be made in the forthcoming course outlines.

Several important points should be kept in mind in planning all aspects of the summer school program. The purpose of the summer schools is to provide adequate time for intensive cadre education. This is a major political responsibility of the party and YSA, as necessary for cadre development as are activities such as Militant sales, forums, or activity in the mass movement. For that reason, local summer schools should be well-motivated politically in the party branches and YSA locals.

The summer schools should be planned with the aim of maintaining a balance in political activity during the summer. Experience has shown that the summer is not really a time of diminished political activity. In addition to the continuing activity in the mass movement and in maintaining party institutions, there will also be election campaign work, including petitioning in many areas. Thus, careful planning will be necessary to assure that the summer schools remain a priority item, and that all comrades can attend the classes and do the reading for them. In practice, we have found that with careful planning, with the added reinforcements of comrades coming to the party and YSA regional centers, and with the added enthusiasm that results from an attractive educational program, we can undertake a major summer school program with no decline in other activity.

Local summer schools will also want to plan their schools in connection with regional work. As in previous years, YSA members living in cities where there is no party branch are encouraged to spend the summer in the main branch centers, where maximum facilities are available for summer school education. This regional work can also tie in with the statewide election campaigns. In cases where some YSA members in a given region cannot come into a regional center for the summer, the regional center will want to assume major responsibility for aiding their educational work.

A list of available speakers for the summer schools will be sent out shortly. It is best, however, for each branch to rely on its own local educators to organize the classes and lead discussions. National speakers are most useful in supplementing the classes with special talks.

Comradely,

Gus Horowitz @

Gus Horowitz
National Education Department, SWP

Andy Rose @

Andy Rose
YSA National Office