

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
November 21, 1973

TO ALL ORGANIZERS

Dear Comrades,

Attached is a report by Maxine Williams on an upcoming conference of the National Black Feminist Organization and our participation in it.

Comradely,

Linda Jenness

Linda Jenness
Women's Liberation Work
Director

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL BLACK FEMINIST ORGANIZATION

by Maxine Williams

The National Black Feminist Organization (NBFO) is sponsoring a conference in New York the weekend of November 30 to December 2. The conference will be held at the Cathedral School of St. John the Divine, 112th Street and Amsterdam Avenue.

Our comrades in New York helped to initiate this organization and played a leading role in calling for a Black women's conference.

The press conference of NBFO, held in August, generated a great deal of response from Black women across the country. As a result of that press conference and other publicity, some of NBFO's general meetings have drawn over 100 women.

Differences have arisen over perspectives for the organization and for the conference. Marge Sloan, president of NBFO, wants only conscious feminists to come to the conference and participate in the organization. A narrow definition of feminism is used to discourage the participation of Black women who may not consider themselves feminists, but support the demands of women's liberation. Sloan has no perspective for reaching out to as many Black women as possible, or for engaging in struggles around the oppression of Black women.

A bureaucratic and anti-democratic structure has been established for NBFO which hampers the building of the conference and our comrades' participation in NBFO. Sloan has conducted a behind-the-scene campaign against comrades participating in NBFO which includes red-baiting and questioning our commitment to feminism.

In spite of these developments, however, we feel that the formation of this organization and the upcoming conference are significant. It would be worthwhile for as many Black women comrades as possible to attend the conference. Shirley Chisholm and Flo Kennedy will be the keynote speakers, so there is a possibility of a large turnout.

It will be a good opportunity for us to meet new women, sell our literature, and participate in the discussions that take place there.

Organizers should inform Linda Jenness (212-243-6392) of the Black women comrades from your area who plan to attend. We would like to have this information by Wednesday, November 28.

A fraction meeting is scheduled for Saturday morning, December 1, at 706 Broadway at 8:30 a.m.