

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, No. 35, October 6, 1972

Present: Breitman, J. Hansen, Jenness, Jones, Lovell, Rose,  
Shaw, Sheppard, Stone

Consultative: Dobbs, Kerry, Novack

Visitors: Benson, Lipman

Chairman: J. Hansen

- AGENDA:
1. Women's Liberation Report
  2. World Movement Reports
    - a. Japan, Australia and New Zealand
    - b. Latin American Document
    - c. Canadian Movement
    - d. British Cadre School
    - e. World Movement
    - f. Antiwar Meeting
  3. Good and Welfare

1. WOMEN'S LIBERATION REPORT

Lipman reported.

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

2. WORLD MOVEMENT REPORTS

a. Benson reported on Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

b. J. Hansen reported on Latin American document.

Discussion

c. Shaw reported on Canadian movement.

Discussion

d. Sheppard reported on British cadre school.

Discussion

e. Sheppard reported on world movement.

f. Sheppard reported on antiwar meeting.

3. GOOD AND WELFARE

Stone reported on condition of comrades in Memphis hospital.

Meeting adjourned.

14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014

October 13, 1972

TO ALL BRANCH ORGANIZERS

Dear Comrades,


As has been reported in Intercontinental Press, trials of the young people in the Janatha Vimakthi Paramuna (People's Liberation Front) are now being conducted in Sri Lanka (Ceylon). The government of Bandaranaike is carrying out other acts of repression against the trade union movement and others. In Sri Lanka, a campaign has been launched against the repressive measures of the coalition government.

From late November to mid-February, a representative of the London-based Ceylon Solidarity Campaign will be conducting a speaking tour of the United States. A proposed tour schedule is attached. In each area, we want to arrange speaking engagements, preferably with broad sponsorship, especially on the campuses. We should attempt to obtain honoraria on campuses where this is possible. In those areas where the schedule permits, engagements at the Militant Labor Forum may also be arranged.

The speaker's name is Vijaya Wickrama. He is Ceylonese, and has recently returned from Sri Lanka, where he obtained first-hand information concerning the political prisoners and other aspects of the political repression there. The title of his talk is "Political Repression in Sri Lanka (Ceylon)."

Please return the enclosed tour acceptance form to Rich Feigenberg, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014, who will be coordinating the tour. The tour quota and any additional proceeds (honoraria, donations, collections, etc.) minus local tour expenses should be sent to him to cover tour expenses. Checks should be made out to Richard Feigenberg.

Comradely,

  
Lew Jones

VIJAYA WICKRAMA TOUR

<u>Dates</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Quota</u>
November 23-27	Cleveland	
November 28 - December 1	Detroit	\$ 80.00
December 2	TRAVEL	
December 3-6	Chicago	80.00
December 7-11	Twin Cities	80.00
December 12	TRAVEL	
December 13-16	Cleveland	80.00
December 17	TRAVEL	
December 18 - January 3	New York	350.00
January 4-6	Philadelphia	50.00
January 7	TRAVEL	
January 8-11	Boston	120.00
January 12-16	Washington, D.C.	75.00
January 17-20	Atlanta	75.00
January 21	TRAVEL	
January 22-24	Houston/Austin	Houston - 60.00 Austin - 25.00
January 25	TRAVEL	
January 26-27	Denver	75.00
January 28	TRAVEL	
January 29-30	Portland	50.00
January 31 - February 3	Seattle	75.00
February 4	TRAVEL	
February 5-10	Bay Area	San Fran. - 120.00 Oak-Berk. - 120.00
February 11	TRAVEL	
February 12-16	Los Angeles/San Diego	Los Angeles - 120.00 San Diego - 35.00

14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014

October 21, 1972

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND EDUCATION DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

This fall the party is participating in a large amount of activities -- the antiwar and abortion actions, the election campaign, the subscription drive, and the upcoming antiwar and abortion conferences.

To insure that cadre education is also maintained along with all of this activity, the National Education Department suggests that each party branch, in collaboration with the local YSA, organize a short intensive educational series at the end of this year along the same lines as last fall and spring. Our experience has shown that these can be successful, provided that the branch leadership gives special attention to these educational series, thoroughly organizes them, and politically motivates them.

Rather than propose specific national dates for the fall intensive educational series, we propose that each branch set aside at least two weeks during the period following the YSA convention through December. During this period, a class series lasting for 3-4 sessions can be held. These classes can be scheduled on weekends, or in a combination of weekday and weekend sessions. They should be organized as a central part of branch political activity during this period so that every party and YSA member can attend and do the preparatory reading.

Last summer, the National Education Department circulated six new or revised study guides for extended class series. These covered Soviet and Chinese Stalinism, the labor movement, socialist electoral policy, the transitional program, the united front vs. the popular front, and principles of Leninist party organization. These course outlines were reproduced in SWP Party Builder Vol. VII No. 2. Copies may be obtained from the national office.

Although these outlines were designed for use in the summer schools and consequently suggest 5-8 sessions for each class, they can be easily modified for shorter educational series.

Since these outlines were distributed, branches have had only one or two opportunities to utilize them; therefore we assume that not all of the topics have been thoroughly studied. For this reason, we are proposing that these outlines be used again as the basis for planning the fall intensive educational series.

Comradely,

*Gus Horowitz* (u)  
Gus Horowitz  
National Education Director

Oct. 24, 1972

To the PC/

Dear Comrades:

This is about a matter I wanted to put on the agenda at the last meeting (Oct. 6) and then didn't because the meeting promised to be so long; and that I didn't put on the agenda at today's meeting for the same reason, although as it turned out, the meeting was relatively short.

Before the last convention, around the end of July 1971, I expressed the opinion that the PC was not functioning properly, and that one reason was it wasn't having enough discussion, and the reason for that was that not enough meetings were being held. After the convention, others expressed similar opinions.

Since then, I feel, the situation has not improved; if anything, it has got worse. From the way things go, I get the feeling that the AC regards PC meetings as a necessary evil -- something it has to call now and then, but which, if it is postponed say for a week, will do just as well.

What makes matters worse than before is the way the content of PC meetings has been tilted away from national to international problems and reports. I haven't made a statistical analysis, but more and more it seems that a majority of PC time is ~~and~~ taken up with reports about various far off places. I still remember Gu's reports on Italy and India almost a year ago. But I can't recall any such reports on Detroit, the number of its members, the nature of its activities, the composition of its members or an evaluation of its effectiveness. Today we even had a second report on India. I realize that all this is in the interest of helping us to acquire a more transcendental concept of internationalism, a worthy cause no doubt, but what has happened to our sense of proportion? If it is really necessary to have so many of our members flitting and jetting around the globe (a view that I don't share, as you know), why is it also necessary to take up so much of the PC's little time listening to this kind of stuff?

I also am dissatisfied with some of the reports (some, not all) that the AC provides us with. The Oct. 6 women's liberation report was an example. Most of it consisted of material that had already been printed in the paper, making me wonder what was the point of it, except that the AC felt we ought to have reports once in a while. What it did not go into were problems we face in this area: For example, why was the opening action of the season a demonstration that had no more than 100 participants, in a city where the SWP and YSA must have at least 100 women members? I don't hold the reporter responsible but the AC.

I don't know what to suggest; maybe the AC should be asked to think about this problem? Or what?

Comradely,

George Breitman