

14 Charles Lane  
New York, N. Y. 10014  
March 3, 1971

TO ALL SWP ORGANIZERS AND NC MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

Attached is an internal report by Tony Thomas on a recent Black conference in Canada.

Please share this report, especially with comrades in Third World and women's liberation work.

Comradely,

*Joel Britton* RMZ

Joel Britton  
National Office

# REPORT ON PAN-CANADIAN BLACK CONFERENCE, TORONTO FEBRUARY 19-21

by Tony Thomas  
March 1, 1971

This conference was called and organized by Black student groups mainly in Toronto and Montreal. It exhibited the depth of the nationalist radicalization of Blacks in Canada, the influence of the Pan Africanist trend, and the strength of the West Indian radicalization.

Attendance varied between 500 and 800. About 70% were students and youth, about 60% were West Indian immigrants and students. A number of African students and East Indians from the Carribean also attended. There were also a few people from the U.S. Most of the attendance was from Montreal, Ontario, and Nova Scotia with only a sprinkling from Western Canada.

The chief political trend at the conference was the Pan Africanists who see the struggle of Black people internationally as an extension of the struggle to liberate and unify Africa. Representatives from this trend in the United States include Imamu Amiri Baraka, some of the leaders of the Cairo United Front, and the organizers of the attempt to build a Black party in Brooklyn. Among those holding these views at this conference there were those who saw liberation in the form of unification of Africa on capitalist lines, those who support "anti-imperialists" like Nkrumah and Sekou Toure and those who favor a socialist revolution throughout Africa and the world.

The conference had three main plenaries and a number of workshops.

At the first plenary speakers mapped out the relationship of Blacks in Canada to the struggle of Blacks internationally.

Most people at the conference, seeing no apparent allies within Canada, including the Quebecois, thought that in a revolutionary situation Blacks in Canada would face annihilation, and could only aid Black struggles elsewhere.

The second day of the conference was devoted to workshops on education. Because of the small size of the Canadian Black community (.5% of the population) and the fact that outside Nova Scotia there are no Black ghettos, most saw alternative institutions, support to private and government programs as the answer to Black educational problems, as opposed to the perspective of mobilizing to fight for Black controlled institutions.

The second plenary centered on a panel on the West Indies. Most West Indians at the conference felt that the failure to couple the national independence struggle with socialist revolution

had left the West Indies under imperialist domination. The theory of workers and peasant councils focusing on local problems and the rejection of the need for a vanguard and a program -- the influence of C.L.R. James -- was held by many including representatives of Trinidad's NJAC (National Joint Action Committee).

The last day of the conference saw a workshop on women, attended by both women and men. Several Pan-Africanists including some male leaders of the conference rejected feminist demands as "white oriented," and attempted to counterpose support to Black orphanages to demands for abortion on demand. While several men and women felt that abortions were "genocidal," most of the people at the workshop including the leaders of the workshop supported women's right to abortion. In Canada the newness of the Black movement and the lack of massive Black communities makes it hard to raise demands for Black-controlled abortion clinics and other facilities to cut across fears of white medicine.

The final plenary of the conference saw the organization of the National Black Action Committee of Canada. At first leaders of the conference projected it as a youth organization (the National Black Youth Action Committee), but after discussion, it was decided to allow non-youths to join.

A provisional steering committee was nominated from the floor -- all nominated were elected. This steering committee with additions from areas not represented was charged to elect a national leadership. It was left to local areas and future development to determine whether NBAC would be a coalition or a membership group.

### Conclusions

This conference was on a much better plane than any Black conference I have ever attended in the U.S. It was completely democratic, the leadership was open to criticisms and changes motivated from the floor. Discussion in the workshops and plenaries allowed all points of view.

All of the speakers rejected Panther-type ultraleftism and anti-nationalism. Most saw the national liberation struggle as tied to a socialist revolution. No one seemed to identify with Stalinism of any variety.

Our Canadian co-thinkers have several comrades already involved in this field of work. They are currently organizing a Pan-Canadian tour for two of the leaders of NJAC. Recruitment of Blacks in Canada will not only be important for building the revolutionary socialist movement in Canada, but also for laying the base for a West Indian Trotskyist movement.

14 Charles Lane  
New York, N. Y. 10014

March 3, 1971

TO ALL COMRADES

Dear Comrades,

A Socialist Activist and Educational Conference will be held at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio August 8-15 open to members of the Young Socialist Alliance and the Socialist Workers Party. The conference will be preceded by a thorough pre-conference discussion in the internal Discussion Bulletin and in the branches. This discussion will be the basis for the election of delegates from the branches.

The conference will not be open to the public and is not to be advertized publicly. Sympathizers and close contacts vouched for by YSA locals and SWP branches may attend.

The tentative schedule is as follows:

Sunday through Thursday, August 8-12

Delegated sessions in the mornings and afternoons  
Activists panels, workshops, and fraction meetings in the evenings


Friday through Sunday, August 13-15

Educational sessions

The conference was scheduled so as to minimize conflict with the traditional antiwar activities held around Hiroshima Day, August 6.

Comrades should begin now to make plans to attend the conference by setting vacation schedules at work and starting now to save money for the transportation costs and the costs of board and room at Oberlin. Housing and food facilities will be the same as last year -- the daily rate is now \$8.50 per person for three meals and a dormitory room. A day of meals will start with dinner and end with lunch. The first meal will be dinner Saturday August 7 and the last meal will be lunch, Sunday, August 15. We are sure most comrades will want to attend the whole week of the conference which will cost \$68.00.

Comradely,

  
Joel Britton  
National Office

Militant-ISR Business Office  
14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014 .  
March 3, 1971

FEBRUARY SALES LETTER

Dear Comrades,

Militant Notes: A quick glance at the attached charts show that ~~the~~ majority of SWP branches and YSA locals owe the Militant a considerable sum of money--\$11,243.20. We want to begin immediately to bring this under control by having each area "freeze" their debt--i.e. pay their current bills on time and not add any more to the back debt. This means determining exactly the break-even point for the weekly bundle and making certain that that number is sold and the money collected.

With the new single issue cost of 25c, the debt can accumulate much more quickly if you do not break even on your bundle each week. For example, a bundle of 50 cost \$5.25 at the old price but now costs \$8.50. In both cases, 35 copies had to be sold to break even, but obviously a large debt could accumulate more quickly with the new price.

Another feature of the new single issue cost is that the local areas can make more money if they sell all of their weekly bundle. In the example above, the local could make \$4.25 clear profit each week for every total bundle sold. And, with the new format, the Militant is selling faster than ever.

Along with the "freeze" on the current debt, we suggest that each area with large debts hold a meeting of the organizer, sales director and finance director to work out the best way to insure that current payments are made on time and that a strategy is worked out for the back debt. Amherst YSA, for example, will begin to send in their total sales money. That means that the money from all Militants sold over their break-even point of 41 will go directly toward the back debt. They are also reorganizing their sales in order to try and sell the entire bundle. We would like to hear from other areas how they plan to work out paying their debt or any questions they may have about it.

We have found in reports from around the country that the Militant is selling well. The debts are resulting from 1) a lack of systematic weekly records of sales and collection of money or 2) an area is using their Militant sales money to cover other expenses. However legitimate many local expenses can be, we should establish the norm now that Militant sales should only be used to subsidize other areas of activity after all back debts and current bills are paid. The current back debt is a big strain on the Militant and hampers our future expansion projects. For example, if the total debt were paid, we could put out a run of 291,000 copies!

As of this letter, only two SWP branches and six YSA locals are current in their bills to the Militant, and only eight branches and eleven YSA locals paid anything toward their debts during February. Clearly, we have a long road of improvement ahead. Let's see by the next sales letter that each area has paid their current bills and, ever more importantly, has mapped out a strategy that can start paying all of the back debts. Please note that under second-class postal regulations, we are not allowed to send a bundle for more than six months without receiving payment.

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We have computed the per capita sales for the combined SWPs and YSAs. See how your area compares and consider whether it is time to raise your bundle size, especially with the Spring antiwar offensive in full gear. We have asked the San Diego sales director to report next month on how they have achieved such a high per capita sales rate and remained fairly current on their bill. Other areas should also send in reports, especially if they have high per capita sales.

<u>COMBINED SWP/YSA</u>	<u>PER CAPITA SALES</u>	<u>BUNDLE</u>	<u>DEBT</u>	<u>LAST PAYMENT</u>
San Diego	6.6	145	36.45	1/5
Boston	6.0	650	211.32	2/18*
Austin	5.2	150	256.63	3/1
Detroit	5.0	300	189.50	1/22
Denver	4.5	100	135.23	2/20
Houston	4.2	150	269.00	1/30
Philadelphia	3.9	200	76.00	1/30
Portland	3.8	75	-0-	PAID UP
San Francisco	3.6	200	577.50	1/30
Cleveland	3.5	200	358.65	2/27
Atlanta	3.3	100	104.75	3/1
Seattle	3.1	150	497.35	9/4/70
New York	2.7	725	1506.59	3/1
Oakland	2.7	200	199.63	2/9
Chicago	2.4	250	2562.78	2/22
Los Angeles	2.2	200	132.32	2/6
Twin Cities	2.0	150	-0-	PAID UP
Washington D.C.	1.4	75	<u>443.20</u>	1/27
			7556.90	

\*Boston has the following breakdown:

SWP	109.45	2/18
Cambridge YSA	95.00	2/4
N. Boston YSA	6.87	2/27
S. Boston YSA	-0-	PAID UP

<u>YSA LOCALS</u>	<u>BUNDLE</u>	<u>DEBT</u>	<u>LAST PAYMENT</u>
Bloomington, Ind.	100	86.67	2/25
Logan, Utah	100	19.87	12/24/70
Phoenix, Ariz.	100	-0-	PAID UP
Cincinnati, Ohio	95	60.27	12/31/70
E. Lansing, Mich.	75	84.89	2/6
Long Island, N.Y.	75	206.72	10/12/70
Madison, Wisc.	75	227.81	12/3/70
Providence, R.I.	75	172.87	10/15/70
Worcester, Mass.	75	19.00	2/6
DeKalb, Ill.	70	220.38	2/1
Tallahassee, Fla.	70	-0-	PAID UP
Amherst, Mass.	60	162.49	Never Paid
Kansas City, Mo.	60	233.79	1/12
Albany, N.Y.	50	29.50	12/24/70
Ann Arbor, Mich.	50	144.69	1/2
Binghamton, N.Y.	50	365.42	11/16/70
Boulder, Colo.	50	8.50CR	PAID UP
Columbus, Ohio	50	359.80	7/1/70
Milwaukee, Wisc.	50	9.50	2/16
Newark, N.J.	50	128.05	11/24/70
Norman, Okla.	50	40.00	12/29/70
Riverside, Calif.	50	8.50	2/23
Tampa, Fla.	50	-0-	PAID UP
El Paso, Texas	40	53.50	2/22
La Crosse, Wisc.	35	13.30	3/1
Paterson, N.J.	30	-0-	PAID UP
Sacramento, Calif.	30	13.90	Never Paid
Nashville, Tenn.	25	38.37	11/23/70
Oshkosh, Wisc.	25	55.85	4/13/70
Ypsilanti, Mich.	25	131.04	12/30/70
Antioch, Ohio	20	53.28	2/3
Pittsfield, Mass.	20	7.60	Never Paid
Colorado Springs, Colo.	15	20.30	2/1
Modesto, Calif.	6	<u>43.55</u>	2/24

3002.41

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<u>AT-LARGE AREAS</u>	<u>BUNDLE</u>	<u>DEBT</u>	<u>LAST PAYMENT</u>
New Britain, Conn.	65	5.06CR	PAID UP
Evanston, Ill.	50	55.75	Never Paid
St. Louis, Mo.	50	250.47	2/10
Gainesville, Fla.	30	21.25	1/28
Oxford, Ohio	30	18.75	1/13
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.	25	9.50	1/26
Tucson, Ariz.	25	-0-	PAID UP
Bowling Green, Ohio	20	47.50	Never Paid
Mt. Pleasant, Mich.	20	9.50	2/4
New Haven, Conn.	20	8.00	1/13
Niagara Falls, N.Y.	20	24.40	11/16/70
Pullman, Wash.	20	8.88CR	PAID UP
Schnectady, N.Y.	20	-0-	PAID UP
University, Ala.	20	-0-	PAID UP
Utica, N.Y.	15	17.77	11/16/70
Albuquerque, N.M.	*10	9.26CR	PAID UP
Grand Rapids, Mich.	10	2.75	12/24/70
Hartford, Conn.	*10	1.70	Never Paid
Kingston, N.Y.	10	-0-	PAID UP
Stanford, Calif.	10	8.00	1/12
Corvallis, Ore.	5	.85	Never Paid
Dallas-Ft. Worth, Texas	5	26.72	2/3
Ellensburg, Wash.	5	1.99	2/6
Hudson, N.Y.	5	3.15	1/14
Kent, Ohio	5	191.14	8/3/70
Monterey, Calif.	5	6.60	12/15/70
New Bedford, Mass.	5	2.75	Never Paid
Pittsburgh, Kans.	5	.15CR	PAID UP
Stony Brook, N.Y.	5	3.00CR	PAID UP
W. Hartford, Conn.	3	<u>1.70</u>	Never Paid
		683.89	

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All sales directors should be sure to get in their February sales form by Wednesday, March 10, since we want to base next month's sales letter on information from those reports.

The March sales forms should be filled out as soon as your last March Militant bundle is sold and sent into the Business Office by Wednesday, April 7.



ISR NOTES:

All areas should now have 66.7%, or two-thirds, of their ISR sub quotas. However, to date we only have 651 when we should have 833 toward our goal of 1250. Only ten areas are on time or ahead: Phoenix, Santa Cruz, Ann Arbor, Cincinnati, Norman, Providence, Jacksonville, Long Island, Washington D.C. and Chicago. Santa Cruz, Long Island and Cincinnati are the only areas on time for both the ISR and the Militant. We want to make a final big push in the next two weeks in order to catch up and make it on time.

ISR subs sold very well at the SMC conference in Washington D.C., about one for every three Militant subs. Comrades found that many SMCers who already had subs to the Militant were eager to read the ISR also. Keep this in mind on sub blitzes when you find people who already subscribe to the Militant.

The special women's liberation March issue will be a tremendous aid in selling subs, especially to feminists during the International Women's Day celebrations.

A separate letter will be mailed out in a few days outlining the articles for the April ISR so that local areas can determine their bundle orders. In the next sales letter we will give a breakdown of the ISR bundle sizes, per capita sales and outstanding bills, as we did with the Militant this time.

ISR SUB SCOREBOARD

<u>CITY</u>	<u>QUOTA</u>	<u>NEW SUBS</u>
PHOENIX ARIZ.	6	16
SANTA CRUZ CALIF.	6	12
ANN ARBOR MICH.	6	8
CINCINNATI OHIO	6	8
NORMAN OKLA.	5	6
PROVIDENCE R.I.	10	12
JACKSONVILLE FLA.	3	3
LONG ISLAND N.Y.	6	5
WASHINGTON D.C.	25	18
CHICAGO ILL.	115	79
Oshkosh Wisc. .	5	3
Worcester Mass.	10	6
Austin Texas	30	16
Detroit Mich.	60	32
San Diego Calif.	15	8
Gulf Breeze Fla.	2	1
Madison Wisc.	20	10
Patterson N.J.	4	2
Pensacola Fla.	2	1

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Twin Cities Minn.	55	26
New York N.Y.	165	71
El Paso Texas	5	2
La Crosse Wisc.	5	2
Newark N.J.	5	2
Pullman Wash.	5	2
Seattle Wash.	35	14
San Francisco Calif.	65	24
Los Angeles Calif.	85	31
Oakland Calif.	55	20
Albany N.Y.	6	2
Bloomington Ind.	9	3
New Haven Conn.	15	5
Riverside Calif.	9	3
Boulder-Denver Colo.	20	6
Houston Texas	20	6
Philadelphia Penn.	55	16
Atlanta Ga.	40	10
E. Lansing Mich.	4	1
Gainesville Fla.	8	2
Boston Mass.	100	24
Kansas City Mo.	9	2
Cleveland Ohio	50	11
DeKalb Ill.	10	2
Modesto Calif.	5	1
New Britain Conn.	5	1
New Orleans La.	5	1
Oxford Ohio	5	1
Sacramento Calif.	5	1
San Jose Calif.	5	1
Dallas-Ft. Worth Texas	6	1
Amherst Mass.	9	1
Milwaukee, Wisc.	9	1
Tampa Fla.	9	1
Binghamton N.Y.	10	1
Portland Ore.	10	1
Yellow Springs Ohio	10	1
Burlington Ver.	3	0

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Colorado Springs Colo.	5	0
Columbus Ohio	5	0
Indiana Penn.	5	0
Logan Utah	5	0
Mission-Viejo Calif.	5	0
Mt. Pleasant Mich.	20	0
Murfreesboro Tenn.	5	0
Newport R.I.	2	0
Pittsburgh Kans.	3	0
Pittsfield Mass.	5	0
Schenectedy N.Y.	2	0
Wakefield R.I.	5	0
Waverly Iowa	5	0
Ypsilanti Mich.	5	0
General	22	105
TOTAL TO DATE		651 (52.1%)
SHOULD BE		833 (66.7%)
<u>GOAL</u>		1,250

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Comments and contributions for the sales letter are welcome and encouraged. The deadline for next month is March 24.

Comradely,

*Sharon Cabaniss*  
Sharon Cabaniss  
Business Office