

Report on Third World Antiwar Work in Chicago, by Willie Petty,
November 18, 1969

Our Third World fraction is widely dispersed over a large area and this makes it difficult for us to bring our weight to bear in carrying out Third World antiwar work on campuses. Because of the size (5) and dispersion of our fraction across the city, our major activity has been propaganda and education on the nature of the war in Vietnam and how the struggle against the war relates with the struggle for Third World liberation in the U.S.

The activity of the Chicago Third World Committee for Solidarity with Vietnam is carried out in four ways:

1. General propaganda - articles against the war published in Third World newspapers.
2. Speaking engagements before Black and Third World groups on campuses or in the communities, intervening with antiwar literature also.
3. Orienting the antiwar movement in Chicago towards trying to include more Third World people in the struggles against the war; trying to influence SMC, the Chicago Peace Council, etc. to use their organizational bases to approach groups in the Third World communities to try to involve them in the struggle against the war.
4. Leafletting meetings in Black and Latin communities. For this we use propaganda aimed at the average Black who is against the war, literature that approaches the war as just another manifestation of discrimination and oppression in this racist society against Third World people and stress the need to struggle against the war, just as you struggle against poor housing, education, hiring practices, etc.

In carrying out this work, we have been able to put pressure on Black and Latin organizations that pretend to represent the needs and interests of the Black and Latin communities, by pointing out that these groups aren't struggling against this form of exploitation and discrimination.

In dealing with the Panthers and groups like the Young Lords that come under their influence and look to them for leadership, we use a somewhat different approach. If you read the Panther paper, you will notice that in the last few months there have been articles in it that contrast the U.S. involvement in Vietnam to the treatment of Blacks in the Southern part of the U.S. The basic weakness of these articles is that none of them try to deal with the question of how Blacks can express their internationalism and support of the Vietnam revolution in action. The Third World Committee for Solidarity with Vietnam can step into the picture with a concrete projection of how Third World people can express their internationalism and their support for the Vietnam revolution by struggling against the war in Vietnam. Using the Panthers' own publication's antiwar statements, we have been able to back them up against the wall, and force them to endorse the November 13-15 actions, and distribute our leaflets to help build the actions. We also tried to involve them in the committee, but negotiations broke down due to the Panthers involvement in defense of Bobby Seale, and the murder of a local Chicago Panther. We are still keeping

up the pressure and as a result we have won support from sections of the Black student unions that look to the Panthers for leadership.

Before the November days of action, the Third World Committee for Solidarity was a small propaganda group, composed of Third World YSAers and the Black Liberation Alliance, a left split from CORE. We expect to add to the committee La Gente (a Latin group), two Black student groups on different campuses, and establish contacts in high schools which we formerly lacked. We will start carrying out internal education in the committee to firm up new people and lay the basis for an expansion of work in this area and recruitment to the YSA. There also might be a chance to involve other groups which have been affected by our propaganda. SCLC supported the November actions and supplied speakers for a city-wide rally in Grant Park. LADO, a Latin community group, had a demonstration in the Latin community against the war and cutbacks in welfare funds.