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Resist Board Meeting, July 20, 1975

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MINUTES FOR THE RESIST MEETING - July 20th 1975

Present.... Larry Thomas, Eileen Atherton(chair), Louie Kampf, Wayne O'Neil, Grace Paley, Frank Joyce, Paul Lauter, Dick Ohmann, Hilde Hein, Florence Howe.

Office Report... by Larry.. 1) We received two form letters from the CIA in reply to our request for our file. Paul reported that ACLU on the West Coast is co-ordinating a suit to demonstrate damages. They need people willing to work on the research and legal end of it and also people to testify especially if the people have traveled to a foreign country. People should consider being plaintiffs. The question of how much staff time should be used was considered but not resolved. 2) the August situation of vacations was brought up - generally people felt the office should be kept open the third week in August while both staff people are away, and Wayne and Hank both volunteered a day each. A Boston meeting will be held concerning this matter and also the matter of handling requests which has been very slack by outside the office staff. Areas will be redivided and commitments firmed up at the Boston meeting. 3) Newsletter..favorable responses have come in about the Zanu and Mayaquez articles. Present newsletter will have articles on; Pine Ridge, MIT, United WREP Wrokers, Cement Strike in Puerto Rico, Cambodia (by Hoam) tentatively. Louie agreed to work on this issue. August newsletter Hank has agreed to type for and will have articles on; Korea Nuclear Sabre Rattling which both Hilde and Hank will work on getting, CIA and FBI forms for requesting files, and an article on the Michagan unemployment bill. 4) Grace reported on the split in IPC in New York. 5) Possibility of a New York Times Addd on the Pine Ridge situation was discussed and we decided to explore the cost, probable response ect, 6)Bob's letter was circulated everyone agreed to take up the discussion of radical populism at the next meeting with Bob present. 7) Wayne reported that he was rejected by the Haymarket Foundation for their board.

Financial Report..Eileen there is a gross error which has been corrected and made little difference in the totals.

Discussion of Paul's letter and a New Call ensued... Three positions predominated as an emphasis for Resist, 1) institutions of socialism 2) anti-capitalist as the essence of illegitimate authority 3)call for revolutionary socialist party building. Our function as propagandist was discussed. A call for homogenizing the three emphasis was rallied and Wayne agreed to take on the task of revamping a New Call including 1&2 not to the exclusion of 3. For people wanting to have input in this revision get materials to Wayne by the 25th of August and he will send out the revision on the 1st of September so people can work on it before the meeting which was set for the 10th of September in Boston.

Requests

1. Minnesota Prisoners Union ..denied
2. Madison Tenants Union .. referred to CLLDF
3. ICDP, London .. given \$100 and Peggy Duff given \$100 for travel
4. Save Our Mountains ..postponed
5. Rochester Patriot .. denied
6. NSCAR-St Phillips Parish High School Project .. referred to AFT
7. RECON ..\$150 x 2
8. Wildcat ..postponed
9. Boston Coalition of Labor Union Women.. postponed
10. General Organizing Committee..Grace will check into
11. Suffolk Street Papers..\$200 x 3
12. Puerto Rican Emergency Labor Law Project..\$200 contingent
13. Institute for the Study of Non-violence ..denied
14. Community Referral Center ..denied
15. LNS..\$300
16. National Lawyers Guild Anti-Racist Project, Boston.. \$140
17. Zanu Support Committee.. \$500
18. Respond .. postponed
19. CIA suit .. \$100

FINANCIAL REPORT _ JULY 20, 1975

Balance as of June 1st	\$2440.04
Income from June 1st to July 16	
Pledges	2463.75
Contributions	3073.03
Subscriptions	187.00
Historian Science List	22.00
Misc.	7.00
TOTAL	\$5752.00

Outgo for the period	
Taxes	500.76
Payroll	1476.72
Grants	396.50
Postage	502.00
Travel	225.30
Printing&Copying	488.03
Office Maintenance	420.00
TOTAL	\$6093.21

26.00

Projected income for the next six weeks	
Pledges	1500.00
Contributions	1000.00
TOTAL	\$2500.00

Projected expenses for the next six weeks	
Rent & Utilities	150.00
Telephone	70.00
Mailing House	125.00
Payroll	900.00
Postage	190.00
Printing&Copying	360.00
Taxes	330.00
Travel	90.00
TOTAL	\$2215.00

Our current balance \$2092.00 + projected income \$2500.00 minus projected expenses \$2215.00 leaves us around \$2300.00 for grants. Inter-news owes us \$500.

FUTURE MAILING PLAN

September - Contributors Mailing - 1500 pieces - cost \$240

October - Dollars & Sense List - 1300 pieces - cost \$210

November - Spanish Refugee Aid List - 2000 pieces - cost \$280

December - Vietnam Resource Center List - uncertain as yet

January - Subscription Drive - run notice in newsletter for three months costs nothing- last years returns were \$5300.00

February - Haymarket Foundation List - uncertain possibility

REQUESTS FOR RESIST MEETING - JULY 20, 1975

- No 1. Minnesota Prisoners Union.....Larry
 Ref to CLDP 2. Madison Tenants Union.....Eileen 500
 1200 3. ICDP, London 100
 Post. 4. Save Our Mountains, West Virginia.....Larry
 No 5. NSCAR - St. Phillips Parish H.S. Project.....Eileen
 No 6. Rochester Patriot, New York..... up to 1000
 150/150 7. RECON.....Paul
 Post. 8. Wildcat.....Paul
 Post. 9. Boston Coalition of Labor Union Women.....Larry 500
 Post. 10. General Organizing Committee, Bronx.....Eileen Grace
 200/3 11. Suffolk Street Papers, Smithtown, N.Y.....Paul
 200 contingent 12 Puerto Rican Emergency Labor Law Project, N.Y.....Larry Paul
 No 13. Institute for the Study of Non-Violence, Palo Alto..
 14. Community Referral Center, Albany New York.....Paul
 300 15. Liberation News Service, New York.....Paul
 140 16. National Lawyers Guild Anti-Racist Project, Boston..Larry
 500 17. ZANU \$550 + 120
 18. Respond
 100 19. CTA

resist

Resistance to many forms of illegitimate authority is necessary to bring health to this country and make it a constructive force instead of a terror in the politics of nations.
—from A New Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority

1975

ROOM 4 • 720 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE • CAMBRIDGE • MASSACHUSETTS 02139
PHONE (617) 491-8076

The June 1 meeting produced what everyone present felt was a very useful discussion and a high level of consensus. We want to share our conclusions with those of you who were not there as a basis on which to develop, at the July meeting, further steps toward reinvigorating Resist.

First of all, we identified those areas for which Resist has in the past not only provided support, but in which we have worked actively as an organization. While we have helped to fund and otherwise aid projects focussed on issues of race or sex or the economy, among other matters, our own active work has centered on imperialism and on repression, and to some extent on connecting the academic community to the movement.

We have, in the past, helped mobilize a significant part of the intellectual community to respond to government propaganda for the war on Southeast Asia, and to declare their support for direct resistance to that war and to US imperialist policies more generally. On occasion, we have ourselves organized and supported actions of direct resistance. With respect to repression, we have participated in offence actions against agencies like the FBI, as well as providing a variety of support functions -- the Spock and Hampton petitions, the repression kit, the Grand Jury work, for example -- for those more directly engaged by the government's repressive apparatus.

Our consensus at the meeting was that we can and should aim at reactivating similar roles for Resist. We feel that we should not politically and cannot practically, limit ourselves to fund-raising and disbursing. But that we should see and relate to Resist as a political organization with a modest and practical but active stance.

Concretely, we felt that, as in the past, when Resist has been able to help mobilize intellectuals to carry on the debate against State Department apologists, we should have attempted a similar role in connection with the Mayaguez incident. It would, for example, have been more useful politically and organizationally for Resist to have assembled a NY Times ad than for the Lamonts to have done it privately. It might have been a better ad, had a broader base, and even helped raise money. Similarly, a couple of years back, it might have been desirable for Resist to have mounted the actions ultimately done under the flag of "Redress."

We need to develop the consciousness among ourselves that Resist is an organization through which we and others can carry out part of our anti-imperialist politics; if we do develop that consciousness, we will be looking for ways -- when situations like the Mayaguez arise -- in which Resist can usefully and realistically act.

A number of such opportunities exist with respect to the apparatus of repression. We felt that Resist organizationally, as well as individual, privately, should play a role in developing a political law suit against the CIA. We should pull together materials now available on the uses to which grand juries are once again being put -- and how people should respond to them. And we should gather materials and begin to agitate around Senate Bill 1.

EILEEN ATHERTON, TONY AVIRGAN, BELL CHEVIGNY, JUDY CHOMSKY, NOAM CHOMSKY, UNA CLAFFEY, WILLIAM DAVIDON, NORM FRUCHTER, ANDREW HIMES, MITCHELL GOODMAN, KENNETH HALE, HILDE HEIN, FLORENCE HOWE, FRANK JOYCE, DONALD KALISH, LOUIS KAMPE, HANS KONING, PAUL LAUTER, DOUGLAS McCAY, RICHARD OHMANN, WAYNE O'NEIL, GRACE PALEY, CLAUDETTE PIPER, HENRY ROSEMONT, BOB ROSENTHAL, MICHELE RUSSELL, SUSAN SONTAG, JEAN TURNER, ROBERT ZEVIN.

resist

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These kinds of modest but concrete and possible actions should help to reactivate us organizationally.

Besides reactivation, we talked about revision of the Call. Clearly, it needs revision. But we weren't clear how a revision should be formed or accomplished. We felt that for the July 20 meeting people should at least reread and think about the existing "New Call". Is there sufficient basis for reworking it? How much further -- if at all -- would we want to go than saying that at this historical moment the form of resisting illegitimate authority is building the institutions of socialism and toppling the institutions of capitalism? We need, in short, more thinking about how to proceed, as well as where, on revision.

Finally, we talked about restructuring and recruitment. We felt that people who have not been involved with the organization, or who no longer have interest in what we do, might be well advised to drop off formally. At the same time, we felt it would be desirable to add people with more diverse outlooks and backgrounds. While we came to no immediate concrete conclusions, we felt that we should pursue the direction in which we were going.

Finally, we want to urge all Resist people to be at the next meeting (July 20) or, at the very least, to give us your reactions to all of the above.

Signed,

Paul Lauter
Larry Thomas
Hilde Hein
Eileen Atherton
Jean Turner
Frank Joyce
Henry Rosemont
Joan Bromberg

EILEEN ATHERTON, TONY AVIRGAN, BELL CHEVIGNY, JUDY CHOMSKY, NOAM CHOMSKY, UNA CLAFFEY, WILLIAM DAVIDON, NORM FRUCHTER, ANDREW HIMES, MITCHELL GOODMAN, KENNETH HALE, HILDE HEIN, FLORENCE HOWE, FRANK JOYCE, DONALD KALISH, LOUIS KAMPF, HANS KONING, PAUL LAUTER, DOUGLAS McCAY, RICHARD OHMANN, WAYNE O'NEIL, GRACE PALEY, CLAUDETTE PIPER, HENRY ROSEMONT, BOB ROSENTHAL, MICHELE RUSSELL, SUSAN SONTAG, JEAN TURNER, ROBERT ZEVIN.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

July 1, 1975

Dear Friends,

There are two points in Paul's letter to which I want to respond. One is that persons not actively involved with Resist "might be well advised to drop off formally". My interest in and identification with what Resist is doing remains strong. But my expectation for attending meetings (on the East coast) in the near future is no greater now than it was in the recent past. And further, with the evanescence of the student and middle-class anti-war movements, I am no longer an activist and hence am not very much in touch with what "movement" activities are occurring in the LA area (although I am still able to contact persons who are in contact with what is happening). Thus I think that I should be removed from the list of active members of the steering committee. However, I would be delighted if some emeritus group is formed and I could be listed in that group--to indicate a past role and continued identification.

The other point is the suggestion that Resist continue "to help mobilize intellectuals to carry on the debate against State Department apologists". The Mayaguez incident is indeed an example of where Resist could have played a role. Personally, I felt an enormous frustration coupled with my intense anger. I was sending off telegrams to Senators and members of the House urging that they prevent the use of force and hold the Administration to a strict interpretation of the law, but I realized the futility of my individual efforts and wanted to participate in some form of collective action--at least of an informative if not preventative type.

Best wishes for a good July meeting.

Don Kalish

PS: enclosed is a small contribution to the continuing fund-raising and disbursing role of Resist.