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Resist Board Meeting Minutes

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### Resist Board Meeting, Jan. 28, 1982

Resist

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# R E S I S T

38 union square · somerville, massachusetts 02143 · 617/623-5110

*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 Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority*

January 4, 1982

Dear Friend,

Enclosed is a copy of an article from the Boston Globe describing the impending court-martial of Pfc. James Bergeron.

Pfc. Bergeron's crime was attending a peace demonstration in uniform.

We would like your help in supporting Pfc. Bergeron. If convicted he could be sentenced to six months in federal prison. But even more significantly, his action was a courageous one, a voice of reason amidst the insane drift toward "limited" nuclear war.

Pfc. Bergeron is specifically charged with violating Article 134, a catch-all regulation detailing no specific crime. The purpose of making such a charge is to intimidate other GIs who might also want to support the European Nuclear Disarmament movement.

And it is typical of military procedure that the Army had not acted on Pfc. Bergeron's application for CO status ten weeks after it was submitted!

A strong support movement has begun in northern Vermont. Please take a few minutes to lend your support. Write to Sen. Patrick Leahy, Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC, and ask that the charges be dropped, and that Pfc. Bergeron's application for CO status be considered immediately. And send a message of support to Pfc. James Bergeron, 300th MP Co., APO NY, NY 09154. Let him know that he's not alone in opposing the nuclear buildup.

The GI movement was very important in ending the Vietnam war. The action of GIs today could have a significant role in preventing the next war. Let's support this first step so that others will be willing to take it in the future.

In peace,

*Frank Brodhead*

Frank Brodhead

TONY AVIRGAN, EILEEN BISSON, FRANK BRODHEAD, BELL CHEVIGNY, JUDY CHOMSKY, NOAM CHOMSKY, UNA CLAFFEY, MARGERY DAVIES, DONNA FINN, NORM FRUCHTER, MITCHELL GOODMAN, KENNETH HALE, HILDE HEIN, ANDREW HIMES, FLORENCE HOWE, FRANK JOYCE, DONALD KALISH, LOUIS KAMPF, MADGE KAPLAN, MARY-LOUISE KEAN, HANS KONING, PAUL LAUTER, DOUGLAS MCCAY, RICHARD OHMANN, WAYNE O'NEIL, CARLOS OTERO, GRACE PALEY, CLAUDETTE PIPER, HENRY ROSEMONT, BOB ROSENTHAL, MICHELE RUSSELL, CAROLE SMITH, AMY SWERDLOW, JEAN TURNER, GEORGE VICKERS.



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*—from A Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority*

January 6

Proxy votes for January meeting

Dear Resisters,

1. Enclosed is the packet for the January meeting. In case you won't be there, could you help us out by returning your proxy votes by January 15?

2. ALSO: on our own the office staff decided to take on publicizing the case of James Bergeron, a soldier who is being court-martialed for being in a European peace demonstration while in uniform. We sent out the enclosed material to some 600 peace and anti-draft groups, and to the left and anti-war media. Please let us know what you think about this, any suggestions on what else to do or how to further publicize this, and a filled out petition if possible.

4. We took in almost \$9,000 in December, about twice as much as a year ago. And in the first three days of this week an additional \$2500 came in. This bails us out of the pre-Thanksgiving low point, and along with some loans will give us a cushion to use in some more mailings. We expect to have a new fundraising brochure done in a few weeks.

In sending in your proxy votes, could you give us yes, no, maybe, and/or whatever more information you think is needed?

Best wishes,

*Frank Brodhead*

Frank Brodhead

8. Draft Resistance Organizing yes no  
comments:

Please return to the office by January 15th. Thanks.

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January 6

## Proxy votes for January meeting

1. People United (Wash, DC)      yes      no      maybe  
comments:

2. Leonard Peltier Support      yes      no      maybe  
comments:

3. GCR Media Arts (Cambridge)      yes      no      maybe  
comments:

4. SUBS (Chicago)      yes      no      maybe  
comments:

5. Nicaragua Solidarity Comm      yes      no      maybe  
comments:

6. Weekly Reader Productions      yes      no      maybe  
comments:

7. NAIAN      yes      no      maybe  
comments:

8. Dreaft Resistance Organizing      yes      no      maybe  
comments:

Please return to the office by January 15th. Thanks.

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## MINUTES OF RESIST MEETING THURSDAY, January 28, 1982

Present were: Frank, Amanda, Kate, Louis, Wayne and Dorothy. In addition we received proxy votes from George, Carlos, and Ken for the first 8 groups.

In addition to the 25 groups shown in the packet, we considered two groups which remained from our last meeting: Che Lamumba School, and Women's Caucus on El Salvador (which was erroneously listed under rejections in the last minutes). In addition we considered the Boston Area Women's Self Defense Collective's request for money for childcare and equipment for their self-defense training classes for women.

Money has been quite good, so we were able to give out a total of \$3000.00 to 18 groups. The grants were:

1. People United -- \$100 towards their February conference.
2. Leonard Peltier Support Group (NY) -- \$100 token for their newsletter project. We all felt that there were problems with their work, and that a newsletter might not be the best use of funds, but that it was important to continue to support them and keep the lines of communication open. (We have since received a copy of the newsletter and must admit that it appears to be the best thing they've done in a while.)
3. SUBS (IL) -- \$200 general support. Everybody continued to feel that their work is important.
4. Boston CISPES -- \$100 towards purchase price of El Salvador: Another Vietnam, their major educational and fundraising tool. (They had received another \$100 earlier in the month as an emergency grant.)
5. Women Against Military Madness (MN) -- WE had a great conversation with the organizer from this group. They are doing wonderful work and we gave them \$300.00 for general support.
6. Comité De Educación Popular (TX) -- \$300 for their anti-militarist educational campaign in the Chicano community of El Paso.
7. Raza Draft Counseling Center -- \$300 startup funds for their bilingual draft and military counseling center.
8. Cambridge Peace Education project -- \$100.00 towards reproducing their anti-Civil Defense slide show which Kate gave a good report of.
9. Philadelphia Reproductive Rights Organization -- This is apparently one of the best local reproductive rights groups. We gave them \$300.00 to translate and reproduce one of their most popular pamphlets, "Women's Health, Women's Freedom."
10. Women's Pentagon Action Film Alliance -- This is the group which produced the best film on last year's action, and which we did not fund then. This year, we gave them \$100 towards film costs.
11. Somerville Community News (MA) -- \$200 for general support for this publication which continues to be useful and provide an anti-military

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perspective along with a critique of local politics and Reaganomics.

12. ISIS Reproductive Rights (MA) -- \$100.00 for various educational projects

13. Media Network (NY) -- \$200 for their Disarmament Media Project to support the Special Session. They should be encouraged to apply to North Star as well. Grace?

14. European Nuclear Disarmament Solidarity Committee (VT) -- \$100 for an educational campaign. (These were the people who did the initial organizing around the Bergeron case, and the project seemed good.)

15. Dorchester Women's Committee -- \$100.00 towards this year's **I**nternational Women's Day celebration.

16. AWOL (Cambridge, MA) -- \$200 for general support of peace and anti-draft work.

17. Che Lamumba School -- \$150 for purchase of anti-sexist textbooks. (We got a glowing report on them from Jack Weston, and although we set aside \$200, upon reviewing their application, <sup>which</sup> we had left back at the office, we found they had only requested \$150. The remaining \$50 went to the Women's Caucus on El Salvador - below.)

18. Women's Caucus on El Salvador -- \$50 (see above). <sup>Although</sup> ~~He~~ felt that the conference they gave was overly costly, their politics and general work is good, and they are serving to bring a feminist perspective to the anti-intervention movement which has been sadly lacking.

#### Rejections:

1. Weekly Reader Productions (PA) -- Their slideshow was not a priority and did not seem to be a candidate for Z-money as it is not direct organizing.

2. NAIAN(NY) -- This is a Line of March front group and we felt that their pro-Sovietism could only hurt the anti-imperialist movement. Besides, anyone who thinks that the problem of the American left is that it doesn't have the correct line is beyond ~~the~~ hope.

3. Draft Resistance Organizing (CA) -- Everyone correctly pointed out that Resist does not fund individuals, but that we ~~should~~ be willing to fund his work if one or more organizations wish to sponsor him.

4. El Salvador Legal Defense Committee (OK) -- Aside from our general reluctance to fund legal defense, a little checking revealed that this was in fact an RCP front.

5. East St. Louis Development Corp. -- This is just not political, and not a priority.

6. Coal Field Defender (WV) -- We saw no reason to change our initial determination on this group.

7. Boston Area Women's Self Defense Collective -- Although we funded them several years ago, currently their work cannot be regarded as a priority.



Other:

#3 (GCR Media Arts) was withdrawn; they may apply again, and #5 (Nicaragua Solidarity Committee) was replaced by #9 (Boston CISPEs). #21 (LENS) is postponed until we can see the film.

On other matters; as noted above money continues to be good. Work is proceeding apace on the Resist brochure, discussed in last month's minutes, which is now being written by Adrienne Claiborne (Amanda's mother) rather than Frank Ackerman of Dollars and Sense. On the Bergeron case: thanks very much for help on this, particularly Hans' media work. Bergeron's courtmartial was cancelled and he was discharged today (Feb. 2nd) Hooray!

Re. the SSD, the board decided that Resist should urge SSD to include an anti-draft and anti-intervention focus. To this end the lead editorial in the newsletter will urge anti-draft groups to write letters to the SSD Steering Committee pressing these points.

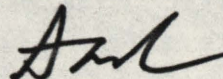
April 1

THE BIG NEWS is that Frank will be leaving Resist after five long years in harness. The old workhorse is headed for greener pastures in Philadelphia -life, love, and the pursuit of happiness.

Amanda and Dorothy are panicking slightly at the prospect of this imminent loss, but we're working out plans for an orderly transfer of power. At this point, hiring another staffperson does not seem likely. Instead A & D will increase their hours and are exploring the possibility of hiring consultants as well. There will be a fuller discussion of future plans at the next meeting, which is

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21st, most likely at Kate Cloud's in Somerville. New York members are reminded that meetings are being scheduled on Sundays to make their participation more possible. The proxy votes were useful and we will continue to send them out along with the packets, which will hopefully be themselves more complete. We would really appreciate hearing from NY people re: the likelihood of their attendance at any meetings in the next few months.

Peace and love,



Amanda Claiborne



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Jan. 26, 1982

Dear Resisters,

Here are the latest grant requests:

9. Boston CISPES (in place of #5) - \$500 to pay for film on El Salvador.
10. Women Against Military Madness (MN) - \$500 startup funds.
11. Comite de Education Populaire (TX) - help with anti-militarist campaign and non-traditional school program.
12. Raza Draft Counseling Center (CA) - \$500 startup funds for bilingual draft and military counseling center.
13. El Salvador Tour Legal Defense Committee (OK) - \$500 phone bill.
14. Cambridge Peace Education Project (MA) - \$425.66 slideshow.
15. Philadelphia Reproductive Rights Organization - \$300 Pamphlet in Spanish
16. WPA Film Alliance (NY) - \$497 film of this year's Action.
17. Somerville Community News (MA) - general support.
18. ISIS Reproductive Rights (MA) - \$500 various educational projects.
19. Media Network(NYC) - \$483.50 for Disarmament Media Project to support SSD.
20. East St. Louis Development Corp. - \$1100 to oppose R.R. redevelopment.
21. LENS (Cambridge, MA) - \$200 toward film of Two Vets.
22. European Nuclear Disarmament Solidarity Committee (VT) - \$300 for statewide tour.
23. Coal Field Defender (WV) - reconsideration of support for miners.
24. Dorchester Women's Committee (MA) - \$100 toward Women's Day.
25. Anti-War Organizing League (Camb, MA) \$500 anti-draft & general support.

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