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Resist Board Meeting Minutes

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Resist Board Meeting, Mar. 16, 1986

Resist

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Resist, "Resist Board Meeting, Mar. 16, 1986" (1986). *Resist Board Meeting Minutes*. 163.
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A call to

RESIST

illegitimate authority

38 Union Square, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

617/623-5110

Frank Brodhead
Pam Chamberlain
Bell Chevigny
Noam Chomsky
Amanda Claiborne
Kate Cloud
Margery Davies
Norm Fruchter
Mitchell Goodman
Kenneth Hale
Hilde Hein
Florence Howe
Frank Joyce
Louis Kampf
Hans Koning
Paul Lauter
Beatriz Manz
Richard Ohmann
Wayne O'Neil
Carlos Otero
Grace Paley
Henry Rosemont
Meredith Smith
Amy Swerdlow
Ken Tangvik
George Vickers

Board Meeting - March 16th, 11AM

Meredith Smith's

9 Summit St.

Somerville, MA Tel.: (617) 628-4659

AGENDA

- ** Board Outreach Committee report
- ** Staff search report
- ** Office - finances, etc.
- ** Mitch Goodman's letter - response to board offer in October of article in NL
- ** AIDS support work - discussion on requests for funding. Since Resist had one request for funding (and has two this month), it was suggested at the last meeting to have a discussion on the issue of funding work.

GRANTS

AIDS Support Work

- 1) NLG Military Law Task Force (San Diego, CA) - Request of \$500 for literature and mailing costs on AIDS and military testing policies.
- 2) AIDS Council of Northeastern NY (Albany) - \$350 request for brochure for IV drug users. This was postponed from last meeting because they hadn't responded to query on political content of program. They did respond after the meeting and their letter is in packet.

Central and Latin America Work

- 3) Women's International Resource Exchange (NYC) - \$500 requested for costs of a booklet on women in Honduras.
- 4) Central America Resource Center (Austin, TX) - They're asking for funding for start-up expenses for a new information service on C.A. I've asked them for a specific request.
- 5) Carolina Inter Faith Task Force on Central America (Charlotte, NC) - Request of \$410 as seed money for a fund-raising campaign for their work.
- 6) Mexico-U.S. Law Institute (San Diego, CA) - They're requesting funds for expenses on a study of Central American

refugees in Mexico.

- 7) National Tour of Secretary-General of ANDES (Cambridge, MA) - \$600 requested toward costs for publicity and communications.
- 8) Denver Peace & Justice Committee (CO) - Request of \$400 for printing costs of literature.
- 9) Montanans for Peace in Central America (Dixon, MT) - They're asking for \$500 for follow-up work and newsletter on a conference on Central America in April.
- 10) Women's Workshop in the Americas (NYC) - \$700 (too high) requested for purchase of typewriter.
- 11) Chile Center for Education & Development (NYC) - Request for unspecified funds for book on development of Chilean mass movement (MDP & MIR) I've asked them to be more specific (and other questions). Info to come.
- 12) Committee for a Free Grenada (NYC) - Request for funds to publish newsletter and for conference documents (conference is March 17). Their request is above our maximum so I've asked them for feedback on that.

Peace/Anti-Nuke/Vets Support Work

- 13) Marshall Action for Peaceful Solutions (Huntington, WV) - Another unspecific request for funding. They're having a 2-night program on Vietnam Veterans in April.
- 14) Planet Drum Foundation (San Francisco, CA) - \$600 for salary for staff person/coordinator for their Green City program.
- 15) Pittsburg Coalition to Prevent Nuclear War (PA) - Requesting funds to cover coordinator's salary for conference in April. Again, another group asking above Resist's maximum.
- 16) Syracuse Cultural Workers (NY) - \$600 requested towards expenses in publishing a history of the Syracuse Peace Council.
- 17) Boston INFAC (MA) - Request of \$550 to produce new materials for their Weaponmakers Campaign.
- 18) Boston Peace Council (MA) - They're requesting \$400 towards expenses of a mini-conference on "Challenging Anti-Sovietism: Toward Unity in the Peace Movement" scheduled for May.
- 19) Friends Peace Committee (Philadelphia, PA) - \$600 requested toward costs of producing peace-oriented book covers for students - part of a national campaign by Friends.

Work Against the Death Penalty

- 20) Pilgrimage Peace & Justice Center (New Orleans, LA) - Request of \$600 to publish 10,000 brochures on "Myths & Facts about LA Death Penalty".
- 21) Dallas Coalition Against the Death Penalty (TX) - \$575 requested for expenses of their monthly publication.

Miscellaneous

- 22) National Committee for Independent Political Action (NCIPA) (New York City) - Request of \$500 for organizing in Kansas for a national networking/family farm support conference in March.
- 23) Impact Visuals (Brooklyn, NY) - Request for funds to be used for promotional/organizational campaign for a new progressive photo/graphic service for the movement (like Liberation News Service).
- 24) Labor Education and Research Project (Detroit, MI) - \$600 requested toward expenses of a strike support event on March 1st.
- 25) Low Income Students for Survival (Cambridge, MA) - Request of \$600 to help finance a rally on March 27 protesting government's attacks against low income students.
- 26) Black Rose (Brookline, MA) - \$340 requested toward cost of conference on "Vision of the Sixties" in April.

As you notice, there are a lot of proposals from the New York City area. I'd appreciate any information on them from the NYC board members (I'll probably be calling for references). Also it would be nice to get some proxy votes from out-of-Boston folks. If anyone has questions on the requests please drop me a note or call.

For peace and justice,

Nancy Moniz

Nancy Moniz

Resist staff

Proxy Sheet

March 16, 1986 Board Meeting

- 1) NLG Military Law Task Force ___Y___N___Maybe
- 2) AIDS Council of Northeast NY ___Y___N___Maybe
- 3) WIRE ___Y___N___Maybe
- 4) Central America Resource Center ___Y___N___Maybe
- 5) Carolina InterFaith Task Force on C.A. ___Y___N___Maybe
- 6) Mex.-US Law Institute Project ___Y___N___Maybe
- 7) National Tour of Secretary of ANDES ___Y___N___Maybe
- 8) Denver Peace and Justice Cmte. ___Y___N___Maybe
- 9) Montanans for Peace in C.A. ___Y___N___Maybe
- 10) Women's Workshop in the Americas ___Y___N___Maybe
- 11) Chile Cntr. for Ed. & Dev. ___Y___N___Maybe
- 12) Cmte. for a Free Grenada ___Y___N___Maybe
- 13) Marshall Action for Peaceful Solutions ___Y___N___Maybe
- 14) Planet Drum Foundation ___Y___N___Maybe

Proxy Sheet (cont'd)

15) Pitts. Coalition to Prevent Nucl. War ____Y ____N ____Maybe

16) Syracuse Cultural Workers ____Y ____N ____Maybe

17) Boston INFACIT ____Y ____N ____Maybe

18) Boston Peace Council ____Y ____N ____Maybe

19) Friends Peace Committee ____Y ____N ____Maybe

20) Pilgrimage Peace & Justice Center ____Y ____N ____Maybe

21) Dallas Coalition Against Death Penalty ____Y ____N ____Maybe

22) National Cmte. for Ind. Pol. Action ____Y ____N ____Maybe

23) Impact Visuals ____Y ____N ____Maybe

24) Labor Education & Research Project ____Y ____N ____Maybe

25) Low Income Students for Survival ____Y ____N ____Maybe

26) Black Rose ____Y ____N ____Maybe

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38 Union Square, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

617/623-5110

Resist Board Meeting Minutes 3/16/86

Present: Louis, Roxanna, Connie Chan, Kate, Nancy, Ken T., Tess, Wayne and Meredith

BUSINESS

****Board Search Committee.** First of all, there are two new board members: Roxanna Pastor who was at the last meeting, and Connie Chan who was mentioned in the last minutes and has decided to join the board.

The board outreach committee is working on a letter to send to James Brooks and Jean Wassel who we interviewed and decided not to invite to join the board. Some of the discussion around this decision was written up in the minutes from the January meeting.

Roxanna and Connie gave us feedback on the experience with the board outreach process. They both thought the process was fairly good but one suggestion was that we let people interested in being on the board, come to one meeting before they make a definite decision.

The committee also wants to try to set aside some time to discuss the issues that came up in our conversations about James and Jean. The summer would be a good time for this to happen with the intention of starting a new board search in the fall of '86.

****Staff Search Committee.** Tess, Roxanna, Louis and of course, Nancy M. have agreed to be on the hiring committee. Ken will be available to meet the final candidates. We had some discussion about policy regarding staff on the hiring committee. There is no consensus on any policy though Louis felt that it's better if not all the staff are on the hiring committee. Meredith felt that they should be, if they want to be. Since Ken didn't want to be, the point was kind of irrelevant. Next time.

****Finances.** The combination of all our account balances came to about \$52M. Our Loan Fund is getting a bit low since we are having problems getting some Loanees to pay back. Our annual audit was just completed and we will be sending out annual reports to all of you when we get them back from our accountant.

IRS advanced ruling period is ended and we are sending off data to support our claim that we are a publicly supported foundation. There shouldn't be any problem with this. If there is, we'll deal with it.

Mailings are going out and I've booked our mailing schedule through August this year, to give our new staff fundraiser a little lead time on getting organized. The little brochure is still doing well, believe it or not. So we'll keep using it through this year probably.

Frank Brodhead
Pam Chamberlain
Bell Chevigny
Noam Chomsky
Amanda Claiborne
Kate Cloud
Margery Davies
Norm Fruchter
Mitchell Goodman
Kenneth Hale
Hilde Hein
Florence Howe
Frank Joyce
Louis Kampf
Hans Koning
Paul Lauter
Beatriz Manz
Richard Ohmann
Wayne O'Neil
Carlos Otero
Grace Paley
Henry Rosemont
Meredith Smith
Amy Swerdlow
Ken Tangvik
George Vickers

****Mitch Goodman.** We will stick by our plan to get him to write an article about the work he is doing in Maine and in his bio there can be a little promo for his book of poetry. But other than that, we can't offer him ad space to promote his book.

****Requests for Mailing List Use.** C.A. Resource Center and Midwest CISPES both requested use of our in-house mailing list. We approved both.

****Newsletter.** Ken mentioned the following as possible and/or planned articles: Big Mountain Support, Women Demistifying the Middle East, Cultural Work in the Movement (Grace P.), AAWO on Women in S. Africa, Northern Ireland and the Left, George V. on the Nicaraguan Constitution, Karin Aguilar on the Left's role in the new Philippine Governemnt (when she returns from her 3 week visit). Other ideas mentioned as a result of our discussion on the 1st two grant proposals were an interview with Kath Gilbert of the NLG Military Law Task Force on her work with the left and work on defending military personel. And an article on the politics of AIDS.

GRANTS

This has never happened in my experience but we only gave \$3750 to a total of seven groups. The balance of \$1450 available for this meeting will be put toward the next meeting. We also gave one loan for \$

1. National Lawyers Guild Military Law Task Force (San Diego). We had a long discussion about this group and and this project - as we usually do when discussing work that involves helping military personel fight for their rights in the military. Roxanna met with them in San Diego when she was visiting the West Coast and was impressed with their work. They are really building coalitions in the area around this project. Some reservations were that This project, in some cases was to help people stay in the military. Another reservation was that while the coalition work is impressive, and important, that's not what they wanted the grant for. But, after long debate, and a lot because of the issue of AIDS and the viscousness of the military towards its personel on all levels, we decided to give them \$500

2 AIDS Council of Northeast NY (Albany). \$350 to support their work on AIDS, mostly in organizing support and provided information for drug abusers on the dangers of shared needles. Their letter outlining the political natrue of their work was very impressive and right on.

3. WIRE (NY,NY). Nancy passed around the draft of the booklet. We talked about the lack of information available on Honduras and esp. on Honduran women. WIRE has a lot of credibility with us, we've funded them several times in the past and decided to give \$500 for this project.

7. National Tour of the Secretary of ANDES (Boston). The tour was cancelled because the Secretary didn't get a Visa. But they still have to cover the expenses already incurred. So we gave them \$600.

9. Montanans for Peace in Central America (Misoula). This is a contingency grant of \$500. It's unclear whether or not the conference will happen at this point because the two main speakers, Gus Newport and Frances Moore Lappe can't be there. Nancy will follow up on this and if the conference happens we will send the grant. *considered*

20. Pilgrimage Peace and Justice Center (New Orleans, LA). This group has made good connections to other issues besides death penalty work including anti-apartheid work. We granted them \$600 to reprint their brochure on the death penalty in LA.

21. Dallas Coalition Against the Death Penalty (TX). Their politics don't seem too broad and the Clarion, the newsletter they wanted money for, is pretty unexciting. But we decided to give them "some" which translates to \$200.

25. Low Income Students for Survival (Boston). We had some discussion on supporting work on poverty issues and questions about the ongoing nature of this but decided to give them \$500 based on the thought that all organization leads to something. (??) *(demo costs)*

Postponed

22. National Committee for Independent Political Action (NY). At face value this seemed like a good project. I think we get suspicious, though, when any organizations lists 50 board members, all of whom are already overcommitted activists. So we're gonna call Leslie Cagan (who's on the board) and find out what she knows about this project. Also it was mentioned that the family farm movement is generally right wing and we want to find out if this project is any different.

5. Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Central America (Charlotte, NC). War Resisters League, SE gave a very good recommendation, "best work on Central America in the state." We still need the follow up information that Nancy asked for in a letter to the Task Force. Hopefully we will have this by the next meeting.

12. Committee for a Free Grenada (NY) Lots of questions on this one. First of all they asked for money to print a newsletter about a conference that happened two years ago! Other questions were; Who is the Committee, who are they supporting in Grenada. There has been stuff in the media about howlously the situation in Grenada is. NM will call Phil Wheaton about a reference.

Withdrawn

24. Labor Education and Research Project (Detroit, MI). They raised the money they needed without us!

Rejections (I don't envy Nancy all these letters)

4. Central America Resource Center (Austin, TX). Not only has their budget gotten too big for us to be able to consider them but this project is not particularly good. Problems include

the choice of articles for the Newspack. Who decides what to reprint? The only other available packet of info like this on C.A. is a monthly packet but out by ISLA for \$80. At \$45 per year, for an 8 page bi-weekly, this isn't much more affordable. So we decided to offer our mailing list for a promo because this is one of the only services of this type available.

6. Mex-U.S. Law Institute (San Diego, CA). This is too academic and not an appropriate place for us to send grant \$\$.

8. Denver Peace and Justice Committee (CO). If their work was too radical for their traditional funding sources to support (mostly churches) we might say yes. But the project is pretty typical of their other work.

10. Women's Workshop in the Americas (NY, NY). Seems that they would have access to other \$. Their work seems really vague. And word of mouth has it that the workshop they did in Nicaragua was a real fiasco.

11. Chile Center for Education and Development (NY). A book of this sort is not a real priority for us. And Chile at this point is getting a fair amount of regular press coverage.

13. Marshall Action for Peaceful Solutions (Huntington, WV). This is a very on-campus student group. No references in the area knew of them.

14. Planet Drum (SF, CA). Politics? Besides, they had a \$10,000 surplus in 1985, why do they need a grant from us?

15. Pittsburgh Coalition to Prevent Nuclear War (PA). This is a candidates forum organized by DSA people. Not interested.

16. Syracuse Cultural Workers (NY). We turned down Syracuse Peace Council for 50th anniversary stuff at the last meeting. This book sounds good, but our priority is not to fund a book on the history of the SPC.

17. INFACT (Boston). It doesn't seem like their work against GE and the weapons makers is being done in coalition with other disarm groups in Boston who've been doing this type of organizing and direct action type stuff for years. Also they didn't mention anything about working with labor unions/labor groups at GE. They're using the same tactics that worked with the NESTLE boycott to organize against weapons makers, not necessarily the best tactic.

18. Boston Peace Council (Boston). Who's going to be reached by this conference who doesn't already understand how Anti-Sovietism is used to discredit the peace movement? And are these the people to do that type of education?

19. Friends Peace Committee (Philly). Good idea, but boy are they out of touch with what kids are into these days. I wouldn't be caught dead with wimpy book covers like theirs.

23 Impact Visuals (Brooklyn, NY). This type of graphics packet would be useful but at \$19/packet it is unreasonable to expect that they are going to be able to sustain themselves any better than CPF or LNS.

26. Black Rose (Cambridge). Good people, fun lectures. But this isn't a priority. We also had a good laugh over their designation of animal liberation and ecological direct action as everyday life issues. Esp. the animal liberation part. We're sorry for being so snide.

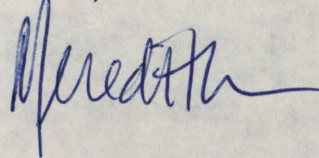
LOAN

27. Lesbians Choosing Children Network(Boston). \$~~6~~00 for advance \$ to be paid back through registration fees.

That's it for this time. And that's it for me. This is my last time sending out the Resist minutes and I guess my farewell to you all as a member of the Resist staff. I'll be out of town in May and back as a board member in June. It's been fun.

Next Meeting: May 4th at 11 AM
Louis Kampf's
14 Glenwood
Cambridge, MA
617/492-3468

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Meredith", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.