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Resist Board Meeting, Feb. 9, 1987

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A call to

RESIST

illegitimate authority

One Summer Street, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

617/623-5110

Resist Special Board Meeting--February 9, 1987

Frank Brodhead
Connie Chan
Pam Chamberlain
Bell Chevigny
Noam Chomsky
Kate Cloud
Tess Ewing
Norm Fruchter
Mitchell Goodman
Kenneth Hale
Frank Joyce
Louis Kampf
Hans Koning
Paul Lauter
Nancy Moniz
Richard Ohmann
Wayne O'Neil
Carlos Otero
Grace Paley
Roxanna Pastor
Henry Rosemont
Tatiana Schreiber
Meredith Smith
Amy Swerdlow
Ken Tangvik
Rene Valle
Gedrg Vickers
Nancy Wechsler

Present: Nancy Moniz, Nancy Wechsler, Tatiana Schreiber, Ken Hale, Wayne O'Neil, Louis Kampf, Tess Ewing, Meredith Smith, Connie Chan, Rene Valle.

First order of business was to set up a time to see videos before next board meeting: Monday, February 23, 6:30pm, Nancy Wechsler's house, 57 Moore St., Somerville (near Davis Square T stop). Call Nancy if you need directions.

Priorities discussion: We agreed to let Casa and Mobe know that we now will be accepting proposals both from an organization and from a task force of an organization.

After making a long list of "priorities" (which at the beginning of the meeting included: Middle East work, gay/lesbian, feminist, Native American, anti-Racist work, Social Justice, Projects by Vets, and work on Guatemala and Honduras; and geographically, genuine radical groups from outside the usual urban centers) we started trying to figure out just what we meant by setting priorities for six months. It was suggested we look at it from the outreach point of view...that we are actively looking for proposals from groups working on certain issues because we don't get many proposals. We would target certain issues. So...finally we carved things down to the following: While Resist is clearly interested in continuing to fund a whole range of groups working on various issues, for the next six months it would give priority to good left/radical groups working on: Middle East; Sexual Politics (including anti-homophobia, gay/lesbian; feminist and reproductive rights); CA work around Honduras and Guatemala; and Anti-Racist work which includes the following: Native American issues and organizing, white or multi-racial groups doing anti-racist organizing, and organizing by autonomous people of color groups. There was very little discussion about the geographic distribution issue, and this note taker was confused as to whether or not we agreed to go with the proposal for giving priority to "genuinely radical groups from outside the usual urban centers." It seemed like people agreed with that formulation.

These six months priorities will guide us in doing outreach and in making exceptions as to which groups we would consider more than one proposal a year from.

We went back and forth on whether or not to print an editorial in the newsletter explaining the priorities, but decided against it. People felt it would be too easy to misinterpret what we meant by priorities. Wechsler will write up something for the pledges in the pledge letter. Nancy Moniz and Nancy Wechsler will work on outreach to groups in the areas we prioritized. This outreach will include: ads, exchange ads (in publications such as MERIP, GCN, Black/Out); mailings to lists of Native American groups, reproductive rights groups, gay/lesbian groups working on the March on Washington, groups who have applied to the Chicago Resource Center for grants, groups that have applied to other women's funds for grants, etc. The board should pass on to the staff any helpful information they have for this outreach project. If we end up doing a really large mailing staff may ask the board for some help.

At a future board meeting we still have to discuss the issue of how to get more groups to take up Middle East work. While this came up during this board meeting we agreed to needed to be talked about seperately.

That's it. Or at least all I can remember.

RESIST BOARD POLICY DECISIONS

February, 1982 through November, 1986

2/21/82 - Grants Application Deadline - three weeks before board meeting.

4/26/82 - Board and Staff Relationship - Board members to be more available to staff, i.e. regular board/staff meetings.

12/13/82 - Hiring of Additional Staff Person - This was decided on previously (I can't find out when from the minutes). But anyway, it was decided to postpone hiring until March of '82 because of lack of funds.

3/6/83 - Loan Fund - "The fund would be available for loans to groups planning different fundraisers..... We would give loans in increments of \$250 and suggest that when the loan is repaid that the loanee kick in a little extra (suggested 5%) to add to the fund...."

4/17/83 - Mailing List - "...decided we would be very cautious about who we gave our mailing list to Staff would consult with at least two board members before giving out the list..."

- Loan Fund - to place funds into socially-responsible investment fund.

5/22/83 - Black United Front - After continuing discussions, it was decided not to fund them in the future because of divisiveness,....separatist...nationalistic...sexism...anti-semitic."

- Board Packets - "...we will send them (only) to those who want them. Everyone else will get the cover letter only."

6/19/83 - Tax Exempt Status - approved at this meeting that Resist would apply.

- New York City Meetings - "We will try to meet there twice per year."

10/9/83 - Guidelines for Loan Fund - "...loans will go for fundraising mailings and not subscription campaigns, (staff) will put together a form letter promissory note stipulating that Resist will be repaid as soon as the returns of mailing come in. ...write up guidelines stressing that the fund is a movement fund..."

11/21/83- Staff Salaries - "After each year of working at Resist, staff people will receive a 10% increase in salary in addition to cost of living increase."

11/21/83- Recruiting New Board Members - "Agreed to seek new board members, particularly women and people of color who could regularly attend meetings in Boston area."

1/15/84 - Question of focusing more attention/energy on Central America - Decision not to do so but to improve outreach to movement groups; to link issues; to use newsletter as a resource. Also to: print reports by or about groups we've funded issues; expand our mailing list to include groups who could be potential grantees; print bibliographies in the newsletter; break down our list of grantees into appropriate categories for the type of work they're doing.

2/21/84 - Maximum size of Resist grant - decided at \$600.

9/16/84 - Money market account - decision to put \$25,000 into a socially responsible account. The staff will borrow up to \$5,000 to \$10,000 for direct mailings with board approval and pay back the loan when the mailing comes in.

- Typewriter - agreed that staff spend up to \$800 for a new typewriter.

12/9/84 - Tax-exempt conduit - discussed letting other groups use Resist as a conduit for contributions. Need to find out more on how other groups do this. May consider taking a percentage.

3/3/85 - Staff vote in hiring process - decided that one staff would be a voting member but that both could participate in hiring process.

- New board members - to write up a job description and form a committee.

- Audit of books - decision to hire an accountant.

4/28/85 - Amount of \$ per grant - decided to allocate \$250 for each proposal received for each meeting.

- Finance planning committee - decided to constitute a committee to deal with the question of investments.

7/14/85 - Movement building - decision to set aside \$15,000 in a high interest certificate of deposit to be used as a downpayment on building as Resist's part of purchase price with other groups in Boston area.

- Fiscal sponsorship - to offer such for groups on a case by case basis with the following criteria: fiscal responsibility of the group, politics, and reliability. We'll charge a percentage of the income channeled through Resist for administrative costs. Decisions to be made at board meetings- same process as giving grants.

9/15/85 - National War Tax Resistance Committee - "decided to offer Resist as a fiscal sponsor for this organization contingent on the staff developing a process...."

10/20/85 - Time limit on grants - "We made official a fuzzy unofficial policy regarding how often groups can receive a grant. Groups can reapply for a grant one year after receiving one. Exceptions may include: task forces/special projects of an organization ie CISPES; groups working on issues prioritized by Resist board. Decisions regarding eligibility when above exceptions are in question will be made by the staff. There is not time limit on reapplication if a group is rejected."

12/1/85 - Fiscal sponsorship (cont'd) - Meredith and Nancy M. worked up a f.s. contract and guidelines for groups that want to work under our tax-exempt umbrella. On file in office.

1/26/86 - Board outreach - decision to recruit more people of color and disabled people for Resist board.

5/4/86 - New computer for Resist - though it's not explicit in the minutes, there was some decision to obtain a computer either by purchase or gift.

- New office - to move to 1 Summer St. with D&S & RA and to share space with Honduras Information Center. Also to cover phone moving expenses of HIC to smaller office.

- Movement Building - agreed formally to become part of a new non-profit corporation with other organizations and have a seat on that board.

8/10/86 - New grant application form - worked on by Nancy M., Roxanna P. and Nancy W.; approved by board.

- National CISPES - affirmed previous decision not to consider funding the national (big budget) but to continue to fund locals and regional groups.

9/21/86 - Computer bookkeeping - decided that Meredith S. will be hired to do this to be paid or her HCHP insurance paid. Nancy W. will work one day/month less.

- Newsletter editor job/salary - a staff position, not a consultant; \$7.50/hr., no health insurance paid; 10 hr/wk average per month, paid time for board and staff meetings; one year minimum commitment; any time not used on NL to be office time.

11/9/86 - Quarterly tax work - Meredith S. to be paid \$10/hr for the 2-3 hrs. every three months to do this.

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One Summer Street, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

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November 13, 1986

Frank Brodhead
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Pam Chamberlain
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Noam Chomsky
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Norm Fruchter
Mitchell Goodman
Kenneth Hale
Frank Joyce
Louis Kampf
Hans Koning
Paul Lauter
Nancy Moniz
Richard Ohmann
Wayne O'Neil
Carlos Otero
Grace Paley
Henry Rosemont
Meredith Smith
Amy Swerdlow
Ken Tangvik
Rene Valle
George Vickers
Nancy Wechsler

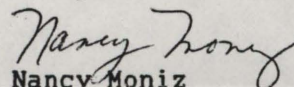
Dan Hodges
Boston Labor Conference
c/o Central America Education Fund
1151 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Dan,

The board of Resist met on November 9th to consider proposals for funding. It was decided not to fund your request. After reviewing your proposal and talking with Resist contacts in the labor and Central America movements, the board felt that, contrary to your statements, this was not a real coalition of groups but rather a project of the Central America Solidarity Association and its Labor Committee. The Resist board would rather consider another proposal from CASA directly. The board also felt that, although the conference might be interesting for already active progressives in the labor movement, our priority had to be on projects of education and organizing of the not-yet-convinced rank and file. The board felt that the theme of the conference was not the opening needed for that task.

We are looking forward to a proposal from CASA in the future and wish you well with the conference.

For peace and justice,



Nancy Moniz
Resist staff