11-8-1987

Resist Board Meeting, Nov. 8, 1987

Resist

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AGENDA

* 20th Anniversary Committee Report - The party on Dec. 5th is feeling more & more imminent. Since Resist is in charge of food, we need to get crackin'. There are some suggestions from a recent board/staff lunch and we'll need board member volunteers.

* Office/Finances

* Guidelines for supplemental funding on disabled rights - At the last meeting, we decided to have a priority monthly funding option for groups coming to Resist for grants. The staff and Roxanna P. will have a proposal for discussion on exactly how we will be doing that in the future.

* Discussion of Sept. 27th board meeting - It seems important to evaluate and discuss the last board meeting since some members did not feel satisfied with the dynamics of the meeting. We are encouraging all board members who were at the meeting to attend this one or, if they can't, to send in their thoughts to the office before November 5th in order to make this a full and productive discussion. It might also be helpful for board members who can attend to put their thoughts in writing as well.

* Social service groups - I've been talking to staff at progressive foundations around the U.S. & found out that many are dealing with this issue. Since it keeps coming up (social service/political), I've asked for their guidelines on the subject. Included in this packet is a letter from Liberty Hill. I expect we won't talk about it at this meeting but I wanted to at least raise the subject for future discussion.

GRANT REQUESTS

Pacific/Asia Work

1) Friends of Hibakusha (San Francisco, CA) - $600 requested for a brochure to be used in educational & organizing process

2) International Fund for Development of Tibet (Middleton, CT) - Request of $600 for fund raising brochure

3) Philippine Support Committee (Washington, DC) - $940 (?) asked to cover phone, mailing and copying costs of planning/
promoting a tour of North Americans to the Philippines

Prisoners/Criminal Justice Work

4) Aid to Imprisoned Mothers (Atlanta, GA) - Request of $600 to advertise their work to the public throughout Georgia

5) Coalition for Prisoners' Rights (Santa Fe, NM) - $600 asked for bulk mailing costs for their newsletter

6) Mississippi Prisoners' Union (Parchman, MS) - Requesting grant for manual typewriter and $100 for expenses for MPU Voice

7) Judicial Process Commission (Rochester, NY) - $600 requested toward costs of newsletter, Justicia, on criminal justice change activities and information

CENTRAL AMERICA SOLIDARITY

8) Placa Nica (San Francisco, CA) - $600 request toward cost of mural project on US intervention in C.A. for Latina/o district. Postponed from last meeting for further references

9) Nicaragua Cultural Alliance (Washington, DC) - $550 asked for expenses of their Cultural Alliance Bulletin

10) Boston Labor/Student Delegation to El Salvador (MA) - $600 requested for production and publicity costs of slide show. Postponed from last meeting: we now have draft of copy of ss.

11) San Diego Interfaith Task Force on Central America (CA) - They're asking for $600 toward cost of a computer

12) Center for the Study of the Americas (Berkeley, CA) - $600 requested for costs of mailing their Strategic Report to groups

13) New Mexico Construction Brigade to Nicaragua (Albuquerque) - Request of $500 toward expenses of their monthly newsletter and their slide show

14) Santa Barbara CISPES (CA) - They're asking for $500 toward expenses of a Rapid Response Network

15) Campaign for Change (Roxbury, MA) - $600 requested toward expenses of their phone tree and organizing mechanism to community organizations

16) Central American Refugee Center (Hempstead, NY) - Requesting $584 for expenses of photo-documentary traveling exhibit on El Salvador as educational tool for high school & college students

17) Chicago Religious Task Force on Central America (IL) - $600 requested toward costs of Basta, the national journal of CRTFCA and the Sanctuary Movement
18) Comite Hondureno Francisco Morazan (Boston, MA) - Request of $600 for outreach expenses for planned community forums

PEACE/ANTI-MILITARISM WORK

19) Washington Peace Center (DC) - $600 requested for production and printing of brochure

20) Gray Panthers of Greater Boston (MA) - Request of $500 toward expenses of their "Stop War Toys Campaign"

21) Rural Southern Voice for Peace (Burnsville, NC) - They're asking for $600 for installation of new telephone line & a year's cost of line

22) Arms Control Research Center (San Francisco, CA) - Requesting $600 for production of brochure on economic impact of home porting on city of carriers/warships in S.F. Bay

GAY/LESBIAN ISSUES

23) Southeastern Arts/Media & Education Project (Atlanta, GA) - Request of $600 for marketing services for new lesbian/gay newspaper for Atlanta and South East

24) Gay Community News (Boston, MA) - $600 asked for expenses of production of a supplement to GCN on "Class Politics and the Lesbian/Gay Movement"

MISCELLANEOUS

25) Salud (Jacksonville, OR) - Request of $600 for expenses of musical event in southern Oregon

26) Women in Theatre Festival (Jamaica Plain, MA) - They're asking for $600 for outreach campaign to Boston's Caribbean and minority communities about appearance of the Sistren Theatre Collective of Jamaica. We postponed this from last meeting because it was felt we needed more concrete info on their outreach plans. Their reply included in packet

27) Sonoma County Free Press (Occidental, CA) - $575 requested for purchase of paper and staplers for newspaper

28) Radical Student Notes Collective (Cambridge, MA) - Request of $600 for organizing work

29) Committee for National Health Program (Cambridge, MA) - $600 requested for printing of brochure and a stipend for writer

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There are several substantial agenda items we'll be discussing at this meeting, as well as all the above proposals,
so it would be good for members planning to attend to realize that this meeting might be longer than usual.

Please fill out your proxy and send it in if you can't make the meeting as well as the form below. Hope to see you soon.

For peace and justice,

Nancy Moniz
Resist staff

FILL OUT & RETURN TO RESIST

Since I can't attend the Nov. 8th board meeting, below is my choice of the date I can attend the December meeting in Boston

Dec. 13 _____ Dec. 20 _____ Other _____

_________________________
NAME
September 29, 1987

Nancy Maniz
RESIST
1 Summer Street
Somerville, MA 02143

Dear Nancy,

In our recent conversation you asked me to send you some information regarding some guidelines we use in determining how we should fund groups that do a lot of social-service organizing.

As you know, Liberty Hill funds organizations that work for social change. Because our grants are small, we have not funded social services, because they usually have access to larger funding sources (and because they often do not advocate beyond the services they provide).

However, given the economic hardships facing many local service-type groups, we have had to assess how we are responding to projects coming to us due to institutional or government cuts on their budgets. Many of these organizations have to think about other ways of fundraising, and perhaps doing a little bit more organizing as well.

We've come up with some ideas for evaluating these groups. I hope this helps you.

1. They should be providing educational work in the larger community (not just within their own constituency).

2. They should be advocating for real social change (not just alternatives).

3. They should be concerned with coalition building, or involved in it in some way.

4. They should be working to "empower" people, not just provide a needed service.

5. Consider whether the group cannot get funding elsewhere because of the controversial nature of their work, or issue (as in the case of gay and lesbian communities).

Sincerely,

Margarita Ramirez

1320 C Santa Monica Mall, Santa Monica, CA 90401 · 213/458-1450

Member of the Funding Exchange
Resist Board Meeting Minutes  
November 8, 1987


Agenda Discussion: Tess would like us to re-discuss decision about not funding groups connected to Line of March. Tatiana agreed we should re-discuss this. Wants to know if this is a general policy re: not funding any sectarian groups. Wechsler proposed talking about this at next meeting. PASSED.

We also agreed to postpone the social service discussion to next meeting. Louis suggested we discuss it at the point where we discuss grants.

20th Anniversary Report: Pam has been attending meetings. We did a mailing to our Massachusetts list about the event and also put an ad in our newsletter. Pam is seeing about getting some food donated with help from Nancy Moniz. Today we need to decide logistics of party day: who will help set up, Need 2 or 3 people on the day of the party to help take food to place and set up. Volunteers for day and evening: Nancy Moniz, Louis, Kate (would bake something), Wechsler (could work day of party), Roxanna, Tess (could bake or work evening). Childcare: There is no on site childcare. We will probably re-imburse parents for cost of sitters. We are still checking into finding a site nearby the event. (Possibly Keitha Fine, who lives at 170 A West Newton St. in Boston would be able to provide some space. We are checking this out.)

Office and finances: We are in the process of closing out our BayBank Harvard Trust account and transferring our account to an interest bearing, no fee account at Cambridge Trust Company. Here’s what we have on hand:

- BayBank/Harvard Trust: $3550
- Cambridge Trust Company: $9700
- Working Assets: $47,048 ($25,000 of it set aside for prospecting mailings)
- Working Assets Loan Fund: $2955
- Total: $63,261

Outstanding bills: taxes-- $850; Red Sun Press-- $1600.

We now have just over 600 regular Resist pledge, who wechsler predicts will bring in about $60,000 a year.

Frank B. sent Nancy Moniz the names of groups that do Asian Pacific work. She sent them a mailing and has already gotten back some inquiries for application form.

Movement Building Coalition: No news on buying the building. Our lawyer says they are still considering our proposal, but we haven't been very hopeful that the Catholic Church will be willing to sell to us all.

Multi-Service Center/Accessibility: Nancy Moniz talked to the director of
the building we are presently in about the possibilities of making the second floor wheelchair accessible. They have been thinking about this, but it seems the cost might well be $100,000 to put in an elevator. We should encourage them to apply for funds to do this work from foundations who might support this kind of project.

More office space: There is a possibility that the Honduras Information Center will move to Jamaica Plain. Tatiana’s desk is now in the HIC office. We need to figure out what to do if they don’t move (Can Tatiana’s desk remain there or not) and if they do move, can we rent that space? Pam proposes that the Bd/staff lunch come up with a proposal and make decision in consultation with other people on board if a decision needs to be made before the next board meeting. Renting the HIC office would increase our monthly rent by approximately $100, but would give the staff needed extra space for themselves and storage.

20th Anniversary Newsletter: We have gotten basically positive feedback. Louis said he liked it a lot except for the cover photo of three white men. Tatiana explained that photo seemed to be the only printable one of the group shot at the NY board meeting. Pam said she really liked the issue. Staff has gotten lots of good feedback from our readers.

September 27th Board Meeting Discussion: Pam suggested we discuss what issues surfaced, how can we deal with them. Louis suggested we discuss the process of how it was dealt with. He said Wechsler sent out letter and suggested that a few people were going to write a letter to the board. That didn’t happen. Instead it ended up on the board agenda. Louis didn’t like that it ended up on the agenda. Thought that escalated it all. In the future when people have a problem he suggested that they should be out front and straightforward about it. The agenda was too vague. Nancy M. responded by saying that she had checked out putting this on agenda with other people. She had suggested people put things in writing and send them in because not everyone could make the meeting but it would be good to have their input. Tatiana said that she, Nancy Moniz and Roxanna met to discuss both the disability proposal and draft a letter about the September 27th meeting, but then decided not to do it that way. Wechsler said she was supposed to be at that meeting but missed it because she had to take the Resist printer in to get fixed. She thought it would have been better to have sent out a letter and seen what the response was, but could see why people would want to discuss it at the board meeting first.

Concerns about the September 27th board meeting: Tatiana-- I had a number of concerns about the meeting. Problem of trying to do policy questions and grant evaluations at the same meeting creates extra tensions. I would suggest we have priorities discussions/policies discussions once or twice a year, separate from regular board meetings. Re: Disability discussion. I had suggested that Roxanna bring up the disability proposal at the board meeting after reading what she wrote for the newsletter. I thought Boston members had already decided that disability was a priority. So...are the NY board members connected enough? Maybe there needs to be a certain number of board meetings per year that people have to go to. Also there was a disrespectful attitude towards people as they spoke. People weren’t listening. We need to be more careful and listen to one another. I felt there were a lot of problems around the social service question. It seemed certain groups were held to a higher standard, specifically gay
groups or autonomous people of color groups.

Pam: It seems there is a misunderstanding around disability as a priority.

Roxanna: While we hadn't sat down and decided disability was a priority, we have taken a stand around what other groups have to say. Those of us who come to all the meetings we have all been working under certain assumptions about this. In our letters to groups who have applied we often make comments about their responses to the disability question in the application form. General thoughts about NY: I felt very uncomfortable at the meeting. It was the first time in two years that I felt I didn't want to be a part of Resist. One of the things that I cherish about Resist is that despite where we are all coming from there has been a high degree of respect. I felt like there was no respect towards people at this meeting. Resist operates in two separate groups...the core is in Boston, and then there are the non-Boston people who have been involved from the beginning but who are no longer active in Resist every 6 weeks. There was a real discrepancy between early core of Resist and those of us who came later. The differences were around who we should be funding, and what are important issues. Resist has changed even in the last two years. Not sure how we can all work together unless the two groups are more integrated. I think there should be a minimum number of board meetings or proxy sheets that people have to come to or fill out.

Wechsler: As far as the disability issue I think Resist isn't clear about it. Two years ago it was a priority in terms of getting disabled people on the board. This last year the sub-committee made a clear determination to limit the priority to people of color. We do ask questions about disability in our application form and write to groups whose answers we find lacking. The bottom line for me at the NY meeting was not political differences, which I am used to dealing with in every group I am in, but the lack of respect shown to a few of us...particularly myself and Roxanna and Tatiana. I felt George and Paul were being condescending, patronizing and lecturing. It pushed my buttons and then I didn't behave in the best of all possible ways either. I've been active in the left, women's movement and gay movements for about 20 years and don't like being treated that way. I also thought there was a double standard used on evaluating groups. Gay groups, and people of color groups (and gay people of color groups) were held to a higher standard. I didn't like the comment made that implied Roxanna and I were only interested in our particular single issue...which was my single issue? Not supporting democrats, being more critical of Cuba or the Sandinistas, abortion, gay/lesbian liberation? What was Roxanna's single issue? Disability rights? How about Honduras? I also thought that some of the comments made at the meeting bordered on being racist and we needed to think about that stuff more.

Kate: I felt discomfort around disability issue. Felt like we had more work to do on that. Most of the stuff people are mentioning went right by me, though I have felt patronized at times. There is a problem with understanding things when some of us meet every 6-8 weeks.

Nancy Moniz: Upset with myself for not speaking up more at the meeting. There were political differences, but also bad dynamics. Several people hadn't been around in at least 2 1/2 years...nor had they sent in proxies. Some board members came late, others left early, everyone felt a time pressure, people didn't know each others biographies. Maybe we need to have people write something up about who they are...new staff, new board, old board. All board members need to meet more regularly. People outside of
Boston need to come to Boston more regularly. I objected to the lectures, and the point about "single issues." There seemed to be a real lack of trust or knowledge of some members. Paul and George's letters to me implied that some of us had caucused before the last meeting. We hadn't. Some of the problems might come from people not knowing each other.

George: We used to alternate between NY and Boston. NY Resisters dwindled down, NY people used to come up here regularly. But the air fares went up. It was a large meeting in NY. We need to find a way to increase board participation. I suggest that the board should meet in NY 3-4 times a year. I was caught totally off guard by the disability proposal. It was out of the blue. I felt there were sharp political differences/disagreements. As the meeting went on I increasingly got the feeling that Nancy Moniz, Roxanna, Tatiana and Wechsler were caucusing, discussing what they had won or lost during breaks, writing notes...etc. I didn't feel there was a double standard as to how groups were dealt with. There were sharp disagreements as to what Resist is. We need to have these disagreements more often.

Pam: Can we think of concrete proposals?

Louis: I felt caught in the middle. I could understand how George and Paul could feel like people were caucusing but I also knew that Roxanna and Nancy Wechsler felt very uncomfortable about the dynamics of the meeting. But when you look over the minutes and look at the decisions we made, the whole board did end up agreeing on a lot of things and we should keep that in mind. We did, for the first time in our history, pass a proposal on supplemental funding around disability issues. The logical thing to happen would be for New York board members, and others who are serious about their commitment to Resist to come up here more often.

Tess: If NY Board members could come up here 2x a year that would make a big difference. Some of the other Resist work that we do in subcommittees could possible happen in NY.

Nancy Moniz: We spent $400 to subsidize travel to the last NY board meeting. Each packet I send out costs $10-$12 xerox plus postage. I very rarely get proxies back from people.

Tess: If we got a lot of proxies there might be a problem...people change their minds during the discussion. A proxy could never count as much as a vote.

Tatiana: Agree there is a problem that 5-6 people don't send in proxies and are very active. But people who want to be active should be active.

Wechsler: I am against formalizing a certain number of meetings that board members have to attend, or a certain number of times they have to send proxies. I think we don't need to formalize it now. That only escalates the situation. I'd like to propose that we continue to meet 2x a year in NY and encourage the NY'ers and other Non-Boston folks to come to Boston 2x a year. I'd also like to propose we encourage everyone not coming to a meeting to send in their proxies, with the understanding that they might have changed their vote had they gotten to hear the discussion. I find people's proxies, when they are sent in, very useful.

Connie: Trust is an issue. It is a good idea for people to write up a one page biography. The NY meeting brought up the fact that people didn't know each other. It would be good if there was some kind of meeting where people could get to know each other better.

Nancy Moniz: Could we get together the day after the anniversary event and have brunch?

Kate: Maybe there could be active and inactive board status. With expectations from active members that they fill out proxies, and come to a
certain percentage of meetings.

George: People have always cycled in and out of meetings. While I come up to Cambridge from time to time, meetings are often scheduled the week I am not coming up. It would be helpful to be able to have input into when the next meeting is, even if you are not at the meeting.

Nancy Moniz: We've been asking for that kind of information on the bottom of the proxy sheets for over a year now.

Tatiana: Priorities and policies meetings should be separate from board meetings that deal with grants. There should be 1 year long priorities, and a meeting mid year to renew those priorities at a regular board meeting.

Louis: Against Tatiana's proposal. Retreats prove useful to get to know one another, but not so useful around policy. We should use the proposals that come in to get at the political issues. I'm not so into setting priorities.

Tess: I support Tatiana's proposal. People who have just joined have said there are a lot of unspoken assumptions about Resist. These discussions would clarify unspoken assumptions and help people get to know each other.

George: Would be useful to have meeting with policies discussion. Where we see things. On the other hand, I think it's a mistake to set priorities for a year. Things change. In 83 or 84 Paul and I suggested Central America be a real focus of Resist work.

Tatiana: Priorities have been useful in terms of being able to represent ourselves to the communities we fund and are part of.

Pam: Priorities did help direct the staff in terms of doing outreach.

SHOULD WE HAVE PRIORITIES OR NOT?

Vote on Tatiana's proposal: We would have a policy meeting of from 3-6 hours where no grants would be discussed. We would discuss priorities at this meeting unless we decided to change our policy on setting priorities. At a regular Resist meeting approximately 6 months later we would re-evaluate priorities and be able to add or subtract. PASSED

Kate: A committee should be formed to say what are the expectations of active board members.

The following proposal also PASSED: We encourage NY and other Non-Boston board members to come to at least two meetings in Boston. We encourage them to send in proxies if they can't come. We ask them to decide if they want to be considered active or inactive board members. (Active board members get the board packets.) We set up a subcommittee to clarify expectations of active board members. (Kate + Tess volunteers)

Connie's proposal: PASSED: Since there are a lot of new people involved in Resist and not everyone knows each other, everyone should write a one page personal/political biography that will be collected by the staff and mailed out to all board members. Staff will pick deadline for these bios.

Louis: I wanted to raise something about the minutes. I don't think they should say who said what. People get misrepresented, or say something early on in the meeting and then change their minds during the discussion, but the change doesn't get reflected in the minutes. People are locked into an early position that they may no longer agree with.

Roxanna: On the other hand it lets people know who don't go to the meetings what people are thinking and saying.
Tess: However they are taken is ok with me.
George: Minutes should try to make it clear what disagreements are.
Tess: However they are taken is ok with me.
George: Minutes should try to make it clear what disagreements are.

This discussion of what kind of minutes we want was not resolved. Wechsler would like feedback from board members on this.

GRANTS: We gave out a total of $5845 to 17 groups. With another board meeting set for December 13th it looks like this year will be record-breaking in terms of the amount of money we give away!

1. Friends of the Hibakusha (SF, CA) $300 towards a brochure for educational and outreach/organizing purposes. Connie Chan had references in SF area who felt very positive about the people involved in this group. They weren't sure if they made connections with other issues.
   Louis and Roxanna both questioned whether they needed Resist money. Roxanna liked their curriculum program more than the brochure. Pam: It's difficult for activists in Japanese American community to organize. There is a lot of discrimination against a-bomb survivors. Connie: Trusts the references, agrees with Pam.

4. Aid to Imprisoned Mothers (Atlanta, GA) $365 towards outreach. Ref: Renae Scott said they are similar to AIM in Boston. Fund for Southern Communities impressed by the woman who is pulling this together. Important project in Georgia. Louis: Why did Vanguard turn them down? (We don't know.) Roxanna, Kate: Yes to a grant. Roxanna: Brochure. I'd rather give the money for the legal custody brochure. We agreed to tell them something like this "we really liked your legal custody/foster care brochure and encourage you in that work. And we'd like to have a copy of it when you do it."

5. Coalition for Prisoner's Rights (Santa Fe, NM) $420 for bulk mailings costs for their newsletter. We funded them in the past. Mike R. from GCN prison project highly recommends them. Tatiana: I was impressed by the number of people subscribing and the number of prisoners involved.

7. Judicial Process Commission (Rochester, NY) $100 (Token) towards costs of newsletter Justicia, on criminal justice system. References were positive. Louis: Their responses to the questions were a model of honesty. Kate: Liked their answers in terms of disability. Pam: Proposes a Yes. Roxanna: I could be convinced either way. I like what they are doing but they can probably get money elsewhere. I could agree to a "some." We agreed finally to give them a token. They are political, but not as radical as the groups we usually fund. We agreed to tell them we were glad they brought up certain issues but we think they can get money elsewhere, and we are a small foundation. We also agreed to tell them we appreciated their honesty in answering our questions.

10. Boston Labor/Student Delegation to El Salvador (MA) $420 towards production and publicity costs of slide show. This was postponed from last time because of concerns about their budget and union representation. Roxanna: I liked the script because it gave point of view of what resistance in El Salvador is doing that wasn't interpreted as negative. All the news is about negative aspects of what the opposition is doing. Peace plan lumps opposition in El Salvador with Contras...when opposition doesn't agree with that they will be accused of being a block to the peace plan in Central
America. That is why Censa proposal is important. Tess: (Tess is a part of the group doing the slide show.) Agrees. One thing we want to change in slide show introduction is to explain explicitly who we went to visit—the unarmed opposition to the government—"the popular movement." Louis: Guerrillas just blew up the power lines, what do people think of that? Roxanna: One of the most outstanding civilian leader of the opposition was just assassinated. At the same time Duarte is negotiating a cease fire! Amnesty has meant freeing the right-wing death squads.

11. San Diego Interfaith Task Force on Central America (CA) $365 towards cost of a computer. References were positive. References believed people left the group who had wanted it to take an anti-abortion stand, which the group would not take. Louis: This is the main thing there is in San Diego around this stuff. We agreed to fund them and say something like: We don't usually fund groups like this but we understand San Diego is a conservative area and probably can't get church funding and you have resisted pressure to cave in to the pro-life sentiment in your area.


14. Santa Barbara CISPES (CA) $300 towards expenses of setting up Rapid Response Network. References were positive. They had done a good CD action in Congressman's office. Pam: Yes. We should send them info about El Salvador Labor Defense Network. Tess: has reference in Pasadena CISPES.

15. Campaign for Change (Roxbury, MA) $420 towards expenses of their phone tree and organizing mechanism to community organizations. Tess: Yes but don't feel like they have a great chance of succeeding, but I'd like to give them a chance. This came out of the April 25th March on Washington. Nancy Moniz: I'm very excited by this.

17. Chicago Religious Task Force on Central America (IL) $200 ("Some") towards costs of Basta, national journal of CRTFCA and the Sanctuary Movement. References: Crossroads said they were a good group. Left-wing of Catholic Church. Good at reaching out to "not usuals." Tess: Budget organization. They left out part of their income (See bottom on page two of application form.) Roxanna: Good group. Similar to Religious Task Force in Washington DC that we funded in past. Tess: When we have so many yes's the money won't make as much of a difference to them. Propose Some. because they are a big budget organization and have access to other money. We appreciate that they have something about Palestinians.

18. Comite Hondureno Francico Morazan (Boston, MA) $300 towards outreach expenses for planned community forums. They work with Necn and other groups. Invited to sit in on Casa Steering Committee. They are not formally a part of CASA. Roxanna: They are a good group. They used to focus on El Salvador, now they focus more on Honduras. They make copies of HIC information in Spanish and distribute it to Honduran community in Boston area.

20. Gray Panthers of Boston (MA) $300 towards expenses of their "Stop War Toys Campaign." This group had not known there was another War Toys Coalition, but they are now hooked up with them. Kate: The War Toys Coalition didn't do extensive outreach in political community, groups like Mobe and AFSC aren't that supportive of these efforts. But the Gray Panthers are now coming to our meetings. There is no organization except the Gray Panthers who are willing to do some of the work for this that needs to be done. Gray Panthers just want to get the work done, they don't care if they get all the money or not. They are willing for some of it to go to the Coalition. Louis: Would be happy to give money to the Coalition. What are Gray Panthers doing working on this particular project? Strikes me as highly inappropriate project for them. Kate: One of their staff has a young kid. Nancy Moniz: Impressed they brought up class issues. Tess: Intergenerational thing struck me too. Why would they want to do War Toys organizing? Nancy M. grandparents do buy a lot of toys for kids.

22. Arms Control Research Center (SF, CA) $365 towards production of brochure on economic impact of home porting. References: Vanguard: very good project. Work well with other groups. Tatiana: Liked this group. Roxanna: Doesn't excite me.

24. Gay Community News (Boston, MA) $420 towards expenses of special supplement on "Class Politics in the Lesbian/Gay Movement." We funded GCN seven months ago ($400) but since this is one of our priority areas I suggested they could come to us again with a proposal. Tatiana: Great project. I'll probably work on the supplement. Class issues have been avoided by gay publications. Tess: Yes. They should solicit input not only from organizations but from their readers.

26. Women in Theatre Festival (Jamaica Plain, MA) $365 for outreach campaign to Boston's Caribbean and minority communities about appearance of the Sistren Theatre Collective of Jamaica. Postponed from last meeting to get concrete information about their outreach plans. Tatiana: Was impressed by their response about outreach.

NO's

2. International Fund for Development of Tibet (Middleton, CT) Nancy Moniz spoke with Ohmann. He said this group tries to strengthen resistance against China thru cultural/educational work. Tess proposes: NO. Louis: IT seems that one person makes all the decisions.

3. Philippine Support Committee (Washington DC) they were asking for money to cover phone, mailing and copying costs of planning/promoting a tour of North Americans to Philippines. Karin Aquilar San Juan very positive about
the group. We originally agreed to give them money, then decided since we had so many yes's this time around it would be better for this group to come back to us after the tour. We agreed to write them very positive letter urging them to please come back after the tour and ask us for money for slide show or video or something else.

6. Mississippi Prisoners' Union (Parchman, MS) Requested grant for manual typewriter and $100 for expenses for MPU Voice. NO because of their pro-family, anti-homosexual, sexist stance. There is a problem of funding groups inside prisons—they don't have an outside sponsor. You can't give grants directly to inside groups.

8. Placa Nica (SF, CA) They had requested money towards cost of mural project on US intervention in CA for Latina/o district. Postponed from last meeting for further references. Talked with Friends of Nica Culture—got same negative reference as before. Also the city has funded this person to do murals in the pst. No: Mixed recommendations about group and not a Resist priority.

9. Nicaragua Cultural Alliance (Washington, DC) requested expenses for their Cultural Alliance Bulletin. Reference: Nica Network—budding organization, needed project. Louis: They do useful work, no paid staff. On the other hand if we are short—it's not of primary importance. Roxanna: Project isn't a priority. Could get money for that kind of work from other foundations. Cultural work with political meaning can get larger grants. Roxanna suggested we say NO to the grant and say we would either do a review or publish an ad for the book (by Daisy Zamora) when it comes out. We should say we like their work, but it isn't a Resist priority given our limited funds, etc.

16. Central American Refugee Center (Hempstead, NY) Requested funds for expenses for photo-documentary traveling exhibit on El Salvador as educational tool for high school and college students. References: Funding Exchange—There is another group that is much better politically.

18. Rural Southern Voice for Peace (Burnsville, NC) Requested funds for installation of new telephone line and a year's cost of line. Reference: Mandy Carter (Durham) positive about group. Nancy Moniz read more information about group. Pam: I'd propose giving them Some. Liked the idea, want to support it. Tess: Would rather postpone and ask for a different proposal, different project. Are they doing other projects? What are they doing? We agreed to say no and ask them to please submit another proposal because this isn't the kind of project we fund.

23. Southeastern Arts/Media & Education Project (Atlanta, GA) Requested funds for marketing services for new lesbian/gay newspaper for Atlanta and South East. References were positive, but there are other newspapers in Atlanta already. What about their relationship to ALFA (Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance)? Tatiana: Big question as to why they didn't mention ALFA or ALFA's paper. Louis: We don't have enough sense of the politics of their paper. Wechsler: This is an unrealistic proposal. You can't start a paper, particularly if you want it to be radical, and expect to be able to give it
away for free. Where will the money come from? If you are radical, it's hard to get advertisers. Their politics seem too liberal for us. I'd be for a NO. Nancy Moniz: No person of color on their board. We agreed to a NO for the following reasons: Financially unrealistic to give out paper for free, relationship of this organization to larger political community, not clear about your politics, radical gay paper won't sustain itself if you give it away for free, politics more liberal than what Resist usually funds.

27. Sonoma Country Free Press (Occidental, CA) Requested funds for purchase of paper and staplers for newspaper. Nancy Moniz couldn't get references for this one. Louis: Not a priority for Resist to fund this newsletter. Everyone agreed.

28. Radical Student Notes Collective (Cambridge, MA) Requested funds for organizing work. References: Couldn't find references. MIT board people didn't know about these folks. Margaret Cerullo (Radical America, MOBE, and teacher at Hampshire College) hadn't heard of them either. Louis: I suggest a NO. Irresponsible of them to put in grant application that is so hard to read. Tess: Liked the group, but didn't like newsletter. Part of their anti-authoritarian gestalt is to have the application look like this. But we should suggest to them that their application needs to be legible. Louis: I teach people that age. Most of them who take their politics seriously wouldn't hand in something like this. Wechsler: I agree with Louis that the application shouldn't have been so sloppy and so flip. But I can also identify with doing something like this perhaps 20 years ago. Nonetheless I would not give them a grant because we couldn't get any references. When none of our professor friends at these colleges has heard of them, particularly when Margaret hasn't heard of them (she is very in touch with what is happening with students at Hampshire) it just doesn't make sense to give them a grant. How effective could their outreach be? Tess: Since Margaret usually likes these kind of people (radical, anti-authoritarian youth) and she didn't know of them I'd go along with a NO. Their newsletter puts down the 1/2 of the group that doesn't think it's time to start a national organization. I'd say NO, but encourage them to continue and to feel free to submit another proposal (typed), to talk to radical professors at their universities and ask them for money. Not in a place to form a national organization. Say we couldn't find any references, so we have questions about the kind of outreach they are doing. Come back when this has changed.

29. Committee for National Health Program (Cambridge, MA) requested for printing of brochure and a stipend for writer. Tess: It's an important issue, glad people are working on it, but haven't seen stuff on it. Focus might be more on legislative work than grassroots work. Unions should be targeted. Kate: I'm confused about this. Is this a national effort? Louis: Monumental task. No paid staff. Pam: Any group that is working on health care and doesn't deal with gay health care is irresponsible. We agreed to a friendly NO: Unrealistic proposal, brochure doesn't tell us much. Tess: Good groups in coalition, but we don't really know what they are doing. Project this size needs thousands and thousands of dollars. Answer to question 11--any group working on national health care needs better answers to these questions-- gay/women's health care issues, AIDS, disability rights. We feel this work is important. Perhaps they could submit another proposal and answer these concerns.
POSTPONED

12. Center for the Study of the Americas (Berkeley, CA) They had requested funds for mailing their Strategic Report to groups. Vanguard references from last time were positive. Roxanna: Something needs to be written about the effect of the peace plan on each country. Nancy Moniz: I have a personal bias. Proposals are hand scribbled, disrespectful, things are left out. Roxanna: Less inclined to fund peace plan for Nicaragua than El Salvador or other countries. More has been written about the effect of plan on Nicaragua. When I was in bay area I met with different groups. They all talked about trying to find a way to work together. Pam: Proposes a YES. Nancy Moniz: They keep coming to us for funding for Strategic Reports. Are the forums really taking place. Strategic Reports seem more important than the forums. Louis: There seems to be a lot of confusion about all of this. Tatiana: Because we are unclear about what is happening with forums. Who comes, how effective are they. We think they are a good idea, but are they happening? We agreed to postpone to get more information. Also ask them for their proposals to be more organized and complete.

Next Resist Board Meeting
December 13, 1987
11am
Tentative location: Tess Ewing's
104 Auburn St., Cambridge
(Check your agenda for that meeting to confirm location)

That's it!

P.S. Given the questions Louis raised about taking minutes were not resolved, I continued to take them in the old fashion. One possibility that occurred to me was that if someone felt strongly that they were misrepresented they could send a note to the staff and ask the staff to send it around to the rest of the board. Nancy Wechsler