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Resist

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A call to **RESIST** illegitimate authority

One Summer Street, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

617/623-5110

Board Meeting - Dec. 13, 1987 - 11am
Connie Chan's House
47-18 Cogswell Ave. (near Porter Sq.)
Cambridge, MA 02140 Tel (617)576-3547

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
George Vickers
Nancy Wechsler

Dear Resist board member,

I'm trying something a little different with the format of this agenda letter. At the last board meeting, there was discussion that we'd like to have more participation from board members who can't make a particular meeting. People expressed how they appreciated having the opinions of absent board members through their proxy votes on proposals. We'd like to encourage members to participate in our meetings by sending in your proxies (if you receive the board packet per your request) as well as express your opinion on any of the business or policy discussions below. They're important decisions and we all would like your input. If you need further info on either proposals or discussion items please call me at the office.

If you won't be at this Board meeting, please let us know which date would be good for you for the next meeting. You'll find the form on the last page of this agenda letter.

AGENDA

* Supplemental funding for Accessibility for Disabled- As directed at the September board meeting, a subcommittee was asked to work on a proposal for guidelines/procedures on how to implement our decision. That proposal is enclosed.

* Social service funding - Postponed from last meeting. Resist seems to have not formal policy decision on this. Enclosed is a letter for Liberty Hill Foundation about how they deal with proposals. I've also gotten some phone feedback from McKenzie River Gathering and the Fund for Southern Communities. Some board members suggested that we not set a policy but deal with this subject as proposals come up. We should decide at this meeting if we want a policy or will deal with this on a case by case basis.

* Subcommittee report on "expectations of active board members"
- Kate and Tess will have suggestions for discussion.

* Re-evaluation of policy decision to not fund Line of March, and general policy of funding/not funding party-related groups.

* Office - finances and other miscellaneous happenings

* Request by Z Magazine to use the Resist mailing list

GRANT REQUESTS

Central America Solidarity Work

- 1) Guatemala Publications (NYC) - \$600 requested for expenses of producing a pamphlet
- 2) Committee in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NYC) - Request of \$600 toward cost of producing a slide show and report of their Aug. 1987 tour to Guate. as well as a pamphlet
- 3) Salvadoran/Guatemalan Refugee Program (Seattle, WA) - \$600 asked for cost of producing a fund raising brochure for bail funds for refugees in IRS detention
- 4) Center for the Study of the Americas (Berkeley, CA) - \$600 requested for costs of mailing their Strategic Report to groups. Postponed from last meeting. We were confused by the request and asked for more info.
- 5) Central American Response Team (Lincoln, NE) - Request of \$150 for leaflets and mailing costs for workshop in March '88
- 6) Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (OR) - \$525 for purchase of typewriter and for hard disk for their computer
- 7) St. Louis Inter Faith Committee on Latin America (MO) - Request of \$600 for printing of two issues of their newsletter
- 8) Portland-Corinto Sister City Assoc. (OR) - \$332 asked for costs of printing and mailing promotional material on their video
- 9) Casa Nicaragua (Chicago, IL) - Request of \$600 for costs of upgrading of quality of their information booklets on Nica.
- 10) Women's Skills & Resource Exchange (Seattle, WA) - \$600 requested toward costs of a membership drive

Peace/Anti Militarism work

- 11) Fellowship of Reconciliation (Nyack, NY) - Request of \$400 for expenses of printing of program for their Plowshare Coffee House at the United Nations
- 12) Veterans' Education Project (Amherst, MA) - \$600 asked for purchase of literature about the draft, military and issues of peace and war for distribution to young people in their program
- 13) Waging Peace (Hayward, WI) - Requesting grant of \$600 for expenses of literature for their work in high schools on alternatives to the military
- 14) Nebraskans for Peace (Omaha, NE) - \$400 requested toward

costs of mailing of resources list list to 1500 social studies teachers throughout Nebraska

15) Rural Southern Voice for Peace (Burnsville, NC) - Request of \$600 toward cost of a desk top publishing computer program for their newsletter. We turned down their request at the last board meeting but told them they could submit another project for consideration. They did and here it is.

16) Citizens for Peace in Space (Colorado Springs, CO) - \$600 requested for expenses of a national rally in May of 1988

Middle East Work

17) Network for Peace & Justice in the Middle East (New York, NY) - Request of \$525 toward costs of producing slide show on the U.S. and the Gulf War

18) Center for Palestinian Information (Seattle, WA) - They're asking for \$600 toward general expenses of their office

Miscellaneous

19) New England Coaliton Against Surroqacy (W. Somerville, MA)- \$470 to \$500 requested toward expenses of their public forum in January, 1988

20) Radio West (Venice, CA) - Requesting \$613 toward costs of a documentary on American-Soviet Peace Walk

21) Uchetemel A Llach Er Belau El Madedok (Portland, OR) - \$475 requested for costs of producing and mailing information packet on Belau to Congress people, groups and individuals

22) Books for Prisoners (Seattle, WA) - Request of \$500 for costs of advertising project to prisoners; for dictionaries; and for copying costs for their resources list


23) Vermont CARES (Burlington) - \$479 requested for purchase of typewriter

24) Atlantis/ADAPT of Dallas (TX) - \$600 requested for expenses of Effective Action Seminar

25) Maine CALC (Portland) - Request of \$500 toward expenses of training and of resource materials for their Diversity Project for public schools

I hope everyone has a good holiday season.

For peace and justice,


Nancy Moniz
Resist staff

PLEASE FILL OUT & RETURN TO RESIST

Since I can't attend the Dec. 13th board meeting, below is
my choice of the date I can attend the December meeting in Boston

Jan. 24 _____ Jan. 31 _____ Other _____

NAME

A call to

RESIST

illegitimate authority

One Summer Street, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

617/623-5110

Proposal for Funding of Disability Rights Work

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
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Grace Paley
Roxanna Pastor
Henry Rosemont
Tatiana Schreiber
Meredith Smith
Amy Swerdlow
Ken Tangvik
Rene Valle
George Vickers
Nancy Wechsler

Supplemental funding would be available to groups that might submit a proposal solely to make events/organizing tools accessible, but whose work is not primarily in the area of disability rights. Such grants would be considered according to the same criteria as all other proposals.

There is also the second issue of supplementary funding for assessability expenses for groups which have applied to us for grants. In other words, this would be extra money available to groups to make accessible the event for which they've asked us for funds.

Suggestions that the subcommittee of Roxanna, Tatiana and Nancy M. are putting forth for discussion are:

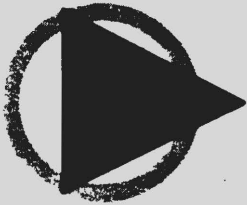
- a) Assessability encompasses extra costs to a group for rental of space for events, signing, taping.
- b) That these requests be considered on a case-by-case basis
- c) That aggregate funding for these requests not exceed \$600 per funding cycle
- d) That they would be considered at board meetings when possible and that if this is not possible, a sub-committee be constituted by the board and given power to consider

Additional suggestions -

e) when proposals of any kind are received by office, staff will analyze request for ways accessibility could enhance the event. A letter would be sent to the group informing them of supplemental funding possibilities. They would then need to submit a supplemental request and budget to be considered at the board meeting.

f) when the office receives inquiries for application forms the letter that accompanies the form would mention the supplemental funding

g) A paragraph on supplemental funding would be added to the 1988 guidelines



Liberty Hill Foundation

The Progressive Community Foundation of Southern California

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 alot 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
Sunday, December 13, 1987

Present: Roxanna Pastor, Louis Kampf, Pam Chamberlain, Paul Lauter, Nancy Wechsler, Nancy Moniz, Tatiana Schreiber, Ken Hale, Connie Chan.

Discussion of Minute Taking: Do we want to continue having the minutes taken in the way they have been taken, or just have summaries of the discussion...without comments attributed to specific people? On the one side is the problem of someone feeling they were misrepresented in the minutes and on the other side is the possibility that even the summaries will misrepresent the discussion. Some people wanted the minutes to continue as they were, feeling it was helpful to get a sense of who said what...knowing that it was from the perspective of the notetaker. Others felt that when we had a contentious meeting you didn't want the minutes to become a part of the contention. Tatiana proposed a compromise where the discussions would not be detailed as extensively unless it seemed crucial to represent a diversity of opinion. Wechsler proposed that the minutes would have more summary of discussion and less specific attribution. She suggested we give that a try for a few months and see how people were feeling about it all at that point. PASSED.

We then had a discussion of whether or not it was possible and personally/politically worth while to rotate the task of minute taking and writing up the minutes. We agreed to give it a try. Louis will take minutes at the next meeting, and Tatiana will take them at the meeting after that. Wechsler is still willing to take them, but prefers not having to take them every time.

Next Board Meeting: Sunday, January 31st, 11am, at Nancy Wechsler's, 57 Moore St., Somerville, MA (near the Davis Square Red line "t" stop). 776-9252

Accessibility Funding: First we went over the proposal in our packets and made some changes in it. Proposal then read: Funding would be available to groups whose work is not primarily in the area of disability rights. Such grants would be considered according to the same criteria as all other proposals. Supplementary funding should be made available for accessibility expenses for groups which have applied to us for grants. In other words, this would be extra money available to groups to make accessible the event for which they've asked us for funds.

a) accessibility encompasses extra costs to a group for rental space for events, signing, taping, b) that these requests be considered on a case-by-case basis, c) that aggregate funding for these requests not exceed \$600 per funding cycle, d) that they would be considered at board meetings when possible and that if this is not possible, a sub-committee be constituted by the board and given power to consider. Additional suggestions: e) when proposals of any kind are received by office, staff will analyze request for ways accessibility could enhance the event. A letter would be sent to the group informing them of supplemental funding possibilities. They would then need to submit a supplemental request and budget to be considered at the board meeting, f) when the office receives inquiries for application forms the letter that accompanies the form would encourage groups to make events accessible and say that they may submit grants to make the events accessible, g) a paragraph on supplemental funding would be added to the

1988 grant guidelines."

The question was raised about how real our supplemental funding was. For example, if a group applied to us for \$600 to do a forum (or some project) and another \$200 for supplemental funding to tape the forum--they are telling us they need \$800. But we rarely give groups the full \$600 they ask for, so at best this group may end up with \$600 instead of \$800...which doesn't really then give them the money to make their event accessible. It was suggested this was a token effort, and we discussed whether or not it would have the desired effect of making groups think more about these issues. We agreed as a group that it was important to find a way to get groups thinking about accessibility. We scrapped the supplemental funding notion and proposed the following (which will be decided upon at our next board meeting: (1) In order to push groups to make events accessible, and concretely support projects to do so, Resist will send out a note with the grant guidelines mentioning its commitment to accessibility and letting people know that if they have projects/events they want to make accessible they can apply to Resist for a grant for such project. These grants will be considered at regular board meetings along with all other grants and be judged in the same way as all other grants. (2) The limit of only applying once a year would not apply. If a group applied to us once for making an event accessible they could also apply to us again for another project. (3) we would add a note to our 1988 grant guidelines including accessibility projects as one of the things we fund. (4) we would add an explanation in the 1988 guidelines that Resist sets 6 month priorities and that if your organizing project falls within these priorities it allows you to get funding from us more than once a year. We would not mention the specific priorities we have set, but urge people to be in touch with the office about this.

No vote on this was taken. We postponed a final decision until the next board meeting, giving people who were not at the meeting a chance to let us know what they think.

Social Service Funding Discussion: Nancy Moniz reported on McKenzie River and Fund for Southern Communities' guidelines. They make exceptions on a case by case basis for groups doing s.s. work in rural areas on issues such as gay/ lesbian, women, AIDS & anti-racist work as being basically political.

We agreed that if it is an apolitical group in NYC that was a different matter than a rural Vermont group.

X We discussed whether or not to write up guidelines or rely on period discussions. We agreed to have periodic discussions as well as write up something general about criteria. Someone volunteered to write this up and bring it back to the board.

It was suggested that any discussion postponed from one board meeting to the next should be placed first on the agenda.

Active Board Members Discussion: Postponed because neither Kate nor Tess were at the meeting.

* **Line of March Discussion:** In the past it has been our policy to fund projects of sects when we know the money is really going to the project, not just the sect, and we support the project. We agreed to go back to this

policy until it could be discussed further. Since Tess wasn't at this meeting we postponed a further discussion till the next meeting.

Office: Finances: approximately \$15,800 in Cambridge Trust; \$47,500 in Working Assets; \$3200 in loan fund. One outstanding loan from Dollars & Sense, due in February, for \$1000.

Other business: Meredith Smith needs to take a leave of absence from the board.

Paul Lauter mentioned that a group of individuals in NY who are part of the "Big Apple Club" have donated several hundred dollars to Resist. We should be getting it soon.

Newsletter: We received a letter from New England War Tax Resistance about our 20th anniversary issue. They were upset we didn't talk about our relationship to early war tax resistance. They raised other political points. Tatiana will call them and ask them if they want the letter published, and discuss it with them.

Paul raised the question of whether or not anyone was writing a response to Joanne Landy's article. Louis said he wouldn't want the response to be by a Soviet Union simp. Paul said the article was imbued with cold war thinking...in describing the problem they became part of the problem.

We are hoping to print responses. No one from the board seemed able to write anything right away.

20th Anniversary Party: A success!!! Over 500 people paid. Total income about \$6000, net income after expenses over \$4000. Resist made about \$600 plus about \$70 from selling t-shirts.

Z Magazine: They would like to use our mailing list. Should we sell them (at a reduced rate) our internal list, or have them go through Names in the News for our national list? We agreed to let them use our internal list at a cut rate if they only use it for getting subs, not fundraising.

Board/Staff lunches: It is getting hard to find board members to attend. Any volunteers? Roxanna can do it once every two months if we plan it out in advance. Louis will be able to do it next term. Ken can do it occasionally. We will bring sign up sheets to the next meeting.

GRANTS

We gave out a total of \$5050 to 14 groups

4. Center for the Study of the Americas (Berkeley, CA) \$400. This grant had been postponed from previous meeting to determine if they were really doing the forums, not just the Strategic Reports. They sent us a letter with a somewhat confusing response. We did believe the forums were a good idea and were happening. They had not yet finished the strategic reports. We would like to get a copy of the report and a report on the success of their forum.

6. Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (OR) \$400 for purchase of typewriter and for hard disk for computer. Reference from McKenzie River Gathering was positive. They said this was a good time to give them grant. We will send them along some copies of the Honduras Update to encourage them to include organizing/education around Honduras.

7. St. Louis Inter Faith Committee on Latin America (MO) \$400 towards printing of two issues of newsletter. References were positive. We found it troublesome they hadn't done any fundraising for two years. We agreed to give them a grant and encourage them to do outreach and coalition work with gay people and disabled people and to come up with a fundraising plan.

8. Portland-Corinto Sister City Association (OR) \$300 for costs of printing and mailing promotional material on their video. References positive. Good outreach to folks not usually involved. Long term sustained project. Work with rainbow and other organizations. We agreed to encourage them to get the sound levels equal on their video.

12. Veterans' Education Project (Amherst, MA) \$400 for purchase of literature about the draft, military and issues of peace and war for distribution to young people in their program. References were positive. A concern was raised that sexual orientation never came up in their discussions. It seems then they must not have discussed gays in the military. A concern was raised that there were no women or black people in their group. We have funded them in the past. We agreed to give them money and suggest they contact Julia Perez at the Oral History Vets Project at U/Mass Boston. Also we would send them a copy of the Sojourner article Julia did. Also encourage them to get material from CCCO on gays and women in the military.

13. Waging Peace (Hayward, WI) \$100 towards expenses for literature for their work in high schools on alternatives to the military.

14. Nebraskans for Peace (Omaha, NE) \$350 towards cost of mailing resources list to 1500 social studies teachers. We agreed that if they were a group in Boston we wouldn't fund them. They do the cats against bombs poster. We agreed to fund them but also to say that we would encourage them to hold some discussions and possibly do some work around the Middle East, reproductive rights, gays/lesbians, aids.

15. Rural Southern Voice for Peace (Burnsville, NC) \$400 towards cost of a desk top publishing program for their newsletter. References were good. They fill a void. We think they might be able to find the program cheaper. They should try PC connection (Mail order place) or shop around.

17. Network for Peace & Justice in the Middle East (NY, NY) \$400 towards costs of producing slide show on the U.S. and the Gulf War. Louis knows their contact person and thinks they are terrific. Script good. We discussed how the slide show would be used, and whether or not we thought it would be useful. We agreed there wasn't that much info out about this and it would be useful. Thought the script was informative but too long.

18. Center for Palestinian Information (Seattle, WA) \$350 towards general

expenses of their office. Dan P. from Seattle supports the group but doesn't know where it's going. We discussed whether or not we should wait and see what happens to them or give them money now in the hopes that this would help them make it. We discussed whether or not they could get money from the groups involved. We finally agreed to give them a grant.

21. Uchetemel A Llach Er Belau El Madedok (Portland, OR) \$400 for costs of producing and mailing information packet on Belau to Congress people, groups and individuals. We gave them a \$100 emergency grant. Frank Broadhead had steered them our way. AFSC and McKenzie River were positive about their work.

22. Books for Prisoners (Seattle, WA) \$400 for costs of advertising project to prisoners; for dictionaries; and for copying costs for their resources list. Mike R. from GCN was positive about them. They are one of two such programs in the US (the other being Boston's Red Book Prison Project). We discussed whether or not they needed the money, whether this was an organizing project or a social service project, the usefulness of getting political material into prisons, etc. It was argued that the project of sending books to prisoners is a political project as opposed to other projects that are more social servicey, such as job placement. The books/literature help prisoners organize inside prisons and educate themselves. Also hopefully the prisoners will get out of prison, and will have been influenced by the reading while in prison.

23. Vermont CARES (Burlington, VT) \$400 for purchase of a typewriter. Reference Kathy Hunter...knows contact person, doesn't know much about organization. Education/politically oriented analysis. They sent in more answers to questions which Nancy Moniz received on Friday and brought to meeting. We will send these out with the minutes. From reading the new information people felt they were sufficiently politically oriented to give them a grant. They do work on risk reduction education, prison aids project, irrational fear of aids, homophobia, testing debates etc. They say in their political philosophy that you can't deal with AIDS in isolation.

25. Maine Calc (Portland) \$350 towards expenses of training and of resource materials for their Diversity Project for public schools. Reference: good work on middle east and Native American issues. Much needed in Maine.

NO's

2. Salvadoran/Guatemala Refugee Program (Seattle) CAPC in Seattle says they do good work but not a lot of political work. Not political enough for Resist. "No political philosophy."

11. Fellowship of Reconciliation (Nyack, NY) FOR is going through reorganization. This project is part of that. They have a long and honorable history...Vietnam War/ draft resistance. What are they doing now? They haven't taken a position on women's issues, disabled, etc. NO. We'd like to hear from them again when they have developed positions on these issues (gay/lesbian, disabled, women, etc.)

16. Citizens for Peace in Space (Colorado Springs, CO) References: liberal

but learning. Too liberal a group/project for resist. Too single issue. Even though it is in Colorado Springs, it's still too liberal for us.

19. New England Coalition Against Surrogacy (Somerville, MA) Marlene Fried (reference): good thing, only feminist group dealing with the issue. meets once a month. R2N2 is participating. Credible group and important political work. We agreed to write them a supportive letter but felt they could get more mainstream/liberal feminist money. We suggested they talk to the MS foundation, NOW, Boston Women's Fund, and the Boston Women's Health Book Collective. Our funding is limited and we try to give it to groups who couldn't get money elsewhere.

20. Radio West (Venice, CA) Tatiana: I learned about it last year. Excited about it. Gives independent radio producers a group to work out of. Radio West sponsored the gay program Inside Out./ The general feeling was that this particular project was not very radical and not one Resist would want to fund. Too much about "we go take a walk with a group of people the Soviet Union lets us walk with and they are a very nice group of people...."

9. Casa Nicaragua (Chicago, IL) Crossroads (ref): do gd wk, gd publications, other grps use their info. disc: autonomy question not in pamphlet. Is the pamphlet needed? Duplication of efforts. Central America History Institute just published pamphlet on why we shouldn't fund contras. We should put a note about this pamphlet in our newsletter.

POSTPONE

1. Guatemala Publications (NYC) While Guatemala is a priority for Resist, we had a hard time evaluating this group and project. Some people thought the pamphlet was too jargony, that if you didn't already know a lot about Guatemala it wouldn't make a lot of sense to you. People liked the refugee section. It was suggested a mass circulation pamphlet might be more useful. Other people thought the pamphlet was good/informative. We postponed to wait for Roxanna to talk to a reference she knows.

3. Committee in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NYC) Script for slide show came into office on friday. We discussed whether the group was multi-racial. Roxanna said it was. They have existed for a long time. Used to be a part of Casa Nicaragua. North Star was positive about them. We have funded them in the past. We postponed to be able to read the script and to find out who went on the tour (was it a multi-racial group), and for Roxanna to check references.

5. Central American Response Team (Lincoln, NE) Postpone to wait for an answer to Nancy Moniz's letter.

10. Women's Skills & Resource Exchange (Seattle, WA) It was hard to get references. Don't seem to work with other groups. It was suggested we postpone so Tatiana can talk to Susanne Sowinski.

24. Atlantis/ADAPT of Dallas (TX) Live Oaks funded them. Very grassroots group. They sent in new request to us for printing and mailing flyers, food, scholarships for low income people to go to seminar. Questions were raised about their funding. Is the Campaign for Human Development federal money? Who is the guy who is doing the seminar and what are his politics? Is he

connected to an Alinsky organizing group? Criticisms were made of alinsky-type organizing in that it doesn't start from a political perspective but rather to organize people on what they feel, even at times if what they feel is politically reactionary.

A process point came up during the meeting around the issue of whether or not some groups get held to a higher standard than other groups. It was urged that if someone thinks we are holding a group to a higher standard they should ask if that is what is happening.

And that's it. Don't forget the meeting on January 31st. If you can't make it, let us hear from you with your proxies. Don't forget to let us know what you think of the accessibility proposal, since it will get decided at that next meeting.

Nancy Wechsler

3.) Other than the project for which you are requesting funds, please describe other current and planned future projects of your group?

Vermont C.A.R.E.S. provides a wide range of educational, advocacy and support services throughout Vermont. Those programs include:

-- Risk Reduction Education: informational sessions and counselling about safe sexual activities and drug use to empower people to make changes in their lives to avoid infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Our program addresses gay, lesbian, bisexual and heterosexual audiences and individuals. Our approach is positive and non-judgmental. As a part of this program, we also teach educators how to teach about risk reduction.

-- Professional Education: education for health care workers, mental health workers, social workers, and community volunteers about AIDS issues which they may encounter in their practice. This information includes basic AIDS facts, transmission precautions, and important psychosocial considerations in dealing with clients whose lives are affected by AIDS. Much of this effort involves educating service providers about issues relating to working with populations the health care system has historically abused: lesbians and gay men, IV drug users, people of color, women and young people.

-- General Education: presentations to community groups dealing with "AIDS 101," familiarizing people with the facts about AIDS and about many of the complex social issues which arise around it. These sessions are used to deal with irrational fears of AIDS, testing debates, homophobia, misperceptions about individual risk, and other relevant topics.

-- Prison AIDS Project: a special project of the organization which provides AIDS information and counselling to inmates in the Vermont Correctional System. We provide this ongoing service at each of the six state prisons. Among other things accomplished through this project have been two significant policy victories: Vermont is now the only state in the country which makes condoms available to all prisoners free, and prisoners may now learn their AIDS antibody status through the state Alternative Test Site System, without the prison system learning their results. In these efforts, we work closely with the Prisoners' Rights Office of the Vermont Defender General's Office. Currently we are at work on the development of educational materials specifically for prison populations.

-- Support Services: currently we provide a range of support services to people whose lives are affected by AIDS. These include support groups for people who have tested positive and people with AIDS, support groups for the "worried well," individual counselling for anyone with AIDS-

related concerns, legal and medical referrals, social work services (for government benefits, etc), family intervention work, a "buddy" system of volunteers (who provide home and hospital visits, and assistance with chores like shopping, cooking and cleaning if needed), an emergency fund for clients (for telephone, rent etc), and other related services as the need arises. All services are free and confidential.

-- Policy Efforts: Vermont C.A.R.E.S. devotes a significant amount of energy to dealing with a wide range of governmental and institutional policies concerning AIDS. Through the Vermont Health Department AIDS Task Force, testimony before legislative committees, appearances before school boards, and work with hospitals, prisons and other bodies, we have played a major role in advancing sane and reasonable policies regarding such issues as testing, school attendance, confidentiality, educational efforts, and other important questions.

-- Information: Vermont C.A.R.E.S. maintains a sizeable library of books, videos, brochures and pamphlets, and newspaper, magazine and journal articles about AIDS and related issues. This volume of background information is an important part of our educational, service and advocacy efforts, allowing us to respond to issues and questions with accurate and up to date information.

All of the above programs are expanding rapidly as the AIDS epidemic grows in Vermont. We anticipate further expansion of them, as well as new programs as the need arises.

4.) How does your group operate? How do you make decisions?

Vermont C.A.R.E.S. has 217 members across the state. Membership is defined by either (a) working as an active volunteer or (b) paying \$5 annual membership fee (waived upon request).

General membership meetings, held at least every six months, are the final decision making body of the organization. These meetings set general policy and direction, deal with major issues of controversy, and have full power over budget, operations and policies.

A general membership meeting in April elects a 15 member board of directors to oversee operations between meetings. This board meets at least quarterly (required by by-law), usually meeting every month and a half.

Between board meetings, a five member executive committee chosen by the board is empowered to make emergency decisions and oversee day to day operations.

Most day to day operations are handled by committees which deal with specific functions: Education, Fundraising, Office, and Support Services. Committee membership is open to any one who desires to participate.

7.) Briefly - what is the political philosophy of your group? What political work do you do and on what issues?

Vermont C.A.R.E.S. is an organization which deals with

AIDS in Vermont. We recognize that it is not possible to deal with AIDS in isolation, that the issues which go along with the epidemic must be addressed in order to deal effectively in that context.

As an organization awaiting determination of our tax exempt status, we do not and cannot take part in legally defined political activity: lobbying and elections. We are frequently called upon by government and institutions for advice and opinions on the impact of proposed legislation or regulations. By providing expert testimony and information, we are able to have a favorable impact on legislation and regulation dealing with AIDS, discrimination, education, testing and broader health care issues.

Our political philosophy as it relates to our work is that the AIDS epidemic must be viewed in the larger context of other issues of health care, discrimination and oppression, and national priorities. We refuse to believe that we should function only as a social service agency providing "band-aid" services to those who need them. We incorporate into our education, advocacy and services an analysis of the role homophobia, racism and sexism have played in individual, social, institutional and governmental reaction to AIDS, and attempt to address those issues.

We are committed to empowerment in the context of the epidemic: helping people with AIDS and AIDS-related health concerns to maintain maximum control over their lives; empowering gay men, drug users and sexually active people to retain a positive self-image in the face of negative educational efforts and media assaults on them; and giving people the information they need to turn their reactions to AIDS from fear to positive individual and community oriented efforts.

8.) Do you belong to a national organization or party? If so, which?

Vermont C.A.R.E.S. is a member of a number of national organizations, which include: The National AIDS Network, a national network of grassroots AIDS education and service organizations which serves as a clearinghouse and umbrella organization; The AIDS Action Council, a national group which lobbies in Washington on AIDS funding and policy issues; the Rural AIDS Network, a national coalition of AIDS organizations and health care providers working in non-urban areas. We also maintain organizational ties (although no formal membership) with the National Lawyers Guild AIDS Network, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (a lesbian/gay legal advocacy group), the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and numerous other lesbian/gay and AIDS organizations around the country.

Vermont C.A.R.E.S. is not affiliated with any political party.

9.) Do you work in coalitions? How do you work on other national and international issues and with which groups?

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Our coalition work focuses on AIDS, health care and lesbian/gay issues. We work with a wide range of community organizations around AIDS education issues: some of our presentations have been sponsored by political, feminist, low-income advocacy and similar groups.

We were one of the sponsors of the September 29th Moratorium to Stop the War in Central America in Burlington, designed to make the connection between money wasted on the war effort at the expense of human needs at home.

Vermont C.A.R.E.S. is one of the groups currently spearheading an effort to set up a statewide "Public Health Coalition" in Vermont to address the lack of any health care consumer advocacy or planning groups in the state.

Vermont C.A.R.E.S. is an active member of the Vermont Coalition of Lesbians and Gays, with whom we have worked on numerous education and legislative issues. We have also worked closely with Vermonters for Lesbian and Gay Rights in the annual Vermont Lesbian/Gay Pride Celebration and other projects, and have shared resources and facilities with many other lesbian/gay groups around the state.

Our legislative work has frequently involved close contact with the Vermont ACLU, NOW, Rainbow Coalition, the Low Income Advocacy Council and other liberal and progressive organizations.

Vermont C.A.R.E.S. is a member of the Burlington Women's Council and plans several upcoming joint events and fundraisers with them, as well as with HOWL (Help Open Women's Land).

We work closely as well with Champlain Drug and Alcohol Center on issues relating to drug use and education.

10.) What is the make up/diversity of your group in terms of age, race, sexual preference, class, men/women?

Our membership and our board of directors represent broad cross section of the Vermont population.

Our members' ages range from 16 to late 70's, with a full range represented in between.

Our membership and board of directors represent a strong degree of racial and ethnic diversity. Three of the fifteen board members are people of color (Black or Hispanic), a figure far higher than the two per cent of the Vermont population which is of third world ancestry. Similarly, at least 15 of our 217 members, including many key volunteers and supporters, are people of color (Black, Hispanic, Asian, Native American). Working in the whitest state in the union, we have tried to incorporate active outreach to people of color into our programs, and work to bring an awareness of racism into our educational and service programs.

A majority of our membership, board and clients are either lesbian or gay.

We do not have any detailed information about the class background/economic status of our membership. Our observation

is that it represents a wide range. We have attempted to make sure that class is not a barrier to participation in the organization: the nominal membership fee is waived automatically for anyone who requests, and our educational events and services are always free. Our board is divided approximately equally between working class and "professional" people. Officers and board members are selected for their expertise, knowledge, interest and energy level: we have intentionally avoided the trap of naming a board of monied people for fundraising purposes.

Our membership is approximately equally divided by gender, with a slightly higher number of men (111) to women (106). Our board has an 8 to 7 male to female balance, with a by-law requirement that Chair and Vice-chair be of opposite gender.

11.) What is the position of your group (including programs, coalition work) on the issues of the rights of:

a) people of color

AIDS in this country has disproportionately hit people of color, but our governmental and social response has not reflected that. Programs targeted at minority populations have been sparse and poorly funded, and as a result, the problem has been made worse.

It is difficult in Vermont to direct programs at communities of people of color. Only one per cent of the state's population consists of people of color, they are not concentrated in any geographic area, and there are no active organizations at this time within the community. Our only significant effort on this front has been a presentation for a minority students group at the University of Vermont.

We strive in our educational efforts to address questions of racism in the AIDS epidemic and health care. Among the elements of this critique are discussions of the racism inherent in the assumption that AIDS originated in Africa, the classification of Haitians as "high risk," the statistically lower average lifespan of people of color diagnosed with AIDS as it relates to access to health care and resources, and structural racism and economic factors which have contributed to the large number of cases of AIDS among people of color in large urban areas.

We maintain ties with national organizations addressing questions of AIDS as it relates to people of color, and have significant information files on those issues.

We hope to strengthen this element of our program as we develop, and welcome suggestions for doing racially conscious organizing in an overwhelmingly white environment.

b) working class and poor people

Vermont C.A.R.E.S. believes that class and economic should never be a bar to participation or access to services.

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Many of our clients, because of diagnosis, face severe issues of poverty. We work to ensure maximum access to government programs for all, and to make sure that needed medical and support services are provided regardless of ability to pay. Our work on access to health care and reimbursements has implications beyond services for people with AIDS: the issues of health care access facing our clients are the same issues facing low income people.

All of our services and education are provided free of charge, and membership is open to everyone regardless of economic status.

c) women, including reproductive rights and the right to abortion

Women and AIDS is one of the most neglected and difficult issues of the entire epidemic. The tendency to downplay the risk for women has significantly increased the chance that many more women will ultimately develop AIDS. When issues of women and AIDS has been addressed they have all too often been in a negative, scapegoating context (e.g., the undocumented claims that female prostitutes are a major factor in spreading HIV infection). Materials around the issues relating to women and AIDS are scattered, inadequate and frequently inaccurate.

Vermont C.A.R.E.S. has attempted to address these issues in a number of ways. We have co-sponsored AIDS education workshops targeted at women with a number of organizations including the Burlington Women's Council, NOW, the state women's conference, Planned Parenthood and similar organizations. We are currently developing two educational brochures, one addressing issues of Women and AIDS, and one dealing specifically with Lesbians and AIDS. These brochures are being written by a group of women active in the group, and we viewed the project as such a high priority that we applied to the Haymarket People's Fund and received a \$2,000 grant specifically for them.

Our educational efforts attempt to deal with issues relating to women and AIDS. We try, in all educational and risk reduction presentations for mixed audiences, to ensure that we have male and female co-presenters. Our discussion of specific means of risk reduction always deals with the question of condoms as a mutual responsibility, addressing the long history of birth control being viewed as strictly female responsibility. Our presentations discuss all forms of sexual orientations, and we take great pains to ensure that the audience understands that the media image of "homosexuals" being a high incidence group for AIDS refers to gay men, not lesbians.

Women play a key role in the organization, and we have worked to deal directly with questions of sexism in organizational matters. We are proud of the fact that our outreach and educational efforts have helped bring strong support from the lesbian community.

Vermont C.A.R.E.S. strongly believes in the right of individuals to control their own bodies. Proposals for mandatory testing of women of child bearing age who are perceived to be at high risk for AIDS has been accompanied by discussions of mandatory sterilization or other restrictive measures. Such a policy would impact heavily upon poor women and women of color, and we strongly oppose them. We defend the right to abortion, especially in the context of AIDS issues: children born to seropositive mothers stand a strong chance of developing AIDS within the first year of life, and there is mounting evidence that the physical stress of pregnancy may enhance the chances that an asymptomatic seropositive woman will go on to develop full blown AIDS. Forcing a woman to carry a pregnancy to term in the face of such prospects is unthinkable.

d) lesbian and gay liberation

Vermont C.A.R.E.S. was born in the Vermont lesbian and gay community, and we continue to have a strong lesbian and gay identity. A majority of our board, members and clients are either lesbian or gay.

It is impossible to deal with AIDS without dealing directly with homophobia. In our educational and counselling work, we confront homophobia head on. One very important piece of our work involves sensitizing health care professionals to lesbian and gay issues and work with lesbian and gay clients. Perhaps most importantly, our AIDS risk reduction educational efforts emphasize a positive view of gay sexuality at a time when it is under siege.

Working as one of the few lesbian/gay identified resources in a rural state like Vermont means that we have a special function in our community beyond just AIDS work. We function informally as a lesbian/gay switchboard and community center, providing information, meeting space, referrals, and "safe space" to a broad cross section of the Vermont lesbian/gay community.

Vermont C.A.R.E.S. is a member of the Vermont Coalition of Lesbians and Gays, a statewide umbrella group with whom we work on community organizing and legislative efforts. Our office served as the Vermont headquarters for the October 1987 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, and we have been very involved in the annual Vermont Lesbian and Gay Pride March since our formation.

In a rural state, organizational distinctions frequently blur. Our Executive Director and many of our organizational leaders are frequently called upon by the Vermont press as spokespeople for the state lesbian and gay community. Many of our members are also active in other community efforts, including our statewide lesbian/gay newspaper and local lesbian/gay organizations across the state. Several of our board members were selected because of their organizational ties to lesbian/gay community organizations, providing representation on our board from their communities, and increasing our ties with those organizations.

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e) disabled people

Much of our work deals with people with AIDS, who are facing diagnosis with a life threatening illness, the stigma associated with that, and the realities of economic survival in a system of government bureaucracy, red tape, and inadequate resources.

We provide a strong level of social work services to clients with AIDS, and have had a remarkable degree of success in expediting claims processing, finding funding for AZT and other expensive drugs, developing home care support networks, and dealing with other pressing survival issues.

Beyond work with individuals who are considered disabled because of their AIDS diagnosis, we have advocated strongly for expansion of services for people in need. At our insistence, the Vermont Health Department AIDS Task Force created a subcommittee to study questions of reimbursements and financial support. The implications of that committee's work (which is studying increased reimbursement for home care options, health insurance programs for the "uninsurable," and a variety of other innovative programs) go far beyond services for people with AIDS and must be viewed in the context of provision of adequate care for all who are disabled or ill.

Two of our fifteen board members are disabled, and one spot on our board is filled, by policy, by a person with AIDS.

f) older people

Vermont C.A.R.E.S. believes in the inclusion of people of all ages in our programs and decision making. We have made a specific effort to welcome older people to our organization, and many of our most valued volunteers and organizers are retired people devoting a significant amount of time to our work. We are particularly conscious of the ageism which all too frequently exists in the lesbian/gay community, and have worked actively to guarantee the inclusion of older people in Vermont C.A.R.E.S. Our events have, as a result, been marked by a greater cross section of the community being in attendance than usually is the case in Vermont.

We have specifically attempted to make sure that the assumption that older people are not at risk for AIDS is confronted directly in our presentations, and our training for volunteers includes efforts to acknowledge and honor the sexuality of all individuals, in an effort to fight the many myths which surround the sexual activity of older people.

We also recognize that many of the issues we attempt to deal with on the health care policy front have very real implications for older people, for whom health care, services and finances are frequently pressing issues.

Twenty per cent of the cases of AIDS in Vermont have occurred among people over 50, more than double the national average. That reality has helped force us to confront our own ageism and incorporate understanding of it into our work.



SOMOS HERMANAS

West Coast Network of Women in Solidarity with our Central American Sisters

December 7, 1987

Board of Directors
Resist
One Summer Street
Somerville, MA 02143

Dear Board Members:

Thank you for your consideration of our proposal at your August 9th meeting and for clearly stating your reasons for denying our request. This letter is obviously long overdue and we apologize for the length of time it has taken us to respond to you.

We submitted our funding request in May 1987 without an application form because our files only contained the cover letter to our previous request. Nothing in our materials about Resist indicated that an application form was necessary.

Your letter clearly states, however, that procedure was not the determining factor in your decision to reject our request. The relationship of Somos Hermanas to the Line of March and your assumption that Somos Hermanas is dominated by that organization seems to have been the primary criteria used in eliminating us from consideration for funding.

We protest both your rationale and the process used in arriving at your decision.

Alleged domination of our National Steering Committee by Line of March members is patently untrue. In fact, only two of the six National Steering Committee members (at the time of our request) were members of the Line of March. Since then, one of these individuals has left, leaving Diane Jones as the sole Line of March member on our National Committee. As you might know from your interactions with the Boston Somos Hermanas, local Somos Hermanas chapters have few or no members associated in any way with the Line of March. Somos Hermanas members informed of your decision and your reasons for it are insulted and angry at the insinuation that there is no integrity to our work, that we are functioning merely as an arm of a party.

At the same time, we wish to make it clear that we defend the right of anyone who is in agreement with our principles of unity to participate in the work of Somos Hermanas. This criteria includes individuals who are or have been involved in socialist or communist organizations. Our decision is based on a considerable amount of discussion and struggle among Somos Hermanas members whose experience in the solidarity movement has repeatedly demonstrated to us the importance of refuting the divisive tactics of "communist" paranoia used by the U.S. in its efforts to weaken and invalidate national liberation forces and their allies.

3543 18th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110 (415)621-3870
Somos Hermanas is a sponsored project of San Francisco Women's Centers

rec'd 12/14/87

The political principle we defend here is, in fact, no different from that of other organizations you have funded, and from what we understood to be your own political perspective. In any case, the policy of not funding parties with sectarian politics is not relevant to Somos Hermanas and using it as a reason for rejecting our funding request is simply not defensible.

In addition to the political implications of your decision, we want to voice our concerns and disagreement with your decisionmaking process in this matter.

Our proposal was sent to you on May 20, 1987. You met on August 9. Resist had almost three full months to communicate its concerns and clarify the matter of our relationship to the Line of March. We are fully appreciative of staffing problems and time limitations, but we would have been happy to submit a new proposal or answer any questions you might have had prior to your August 9th meeting. No such request was ever made of us. Instead, it appears that unconfirmed and red-baiting innuendos made the difference in your decision.

Getting a "no" response from a funder that is based on factual criteria is not difficult for us to accept or understand. Your decision not to fund, however, was not based on factual information.

In summary, we would like to point out that regardless of what political perspective individual members of Somos Hermanas may have, the fact remains that Somos Hermanas is the only women's solidarity organization that organizes both lesbians and straight women and whose primary focus is on women of color. It is also a fact that less than 5% of all foundation funding goes to women's projects, progressive or otherwise. In this light, a poor decisionmaking process has significantly negative consequences for an organization such as ours and flies in the face of your own stated funding goals.

We hope that the Board of Directors of Resist will take a serious look at how the Somos Hermanas request was handled. We would appreciate a written response to our letter along with copies of whatever appropriate application forms we need in order to apply for your next funding cycle.

In Solidarity,

Diane Jones Carmen Vazquez

Carmen Vazquez
Diane Jones
Co-Chairs, Somos Hermanas

December 15, 1987

Diane Jones
Carmen Vasquez
Somos Hermanas
3543 18th St.
San Francisco, CA 94110

Dear Carmen and Diane,

We just received your letter about Resist's reasons for not funding your request. Your letter raises many points which we feel are important and useful to discuss. Therefore, your letter and the issues raised in it will be an agenda item at the next board meeting on January 31st. We will not be at that time re-considering your request but will write you after the meeting on our discussion.

To clarify on the reason that your request was not decided on until the August 9th meeting: it seems that your request missed the deadline for proposals for the June meeting and was then placed on the agenda of the next which was in August. It was not until that time that the concerns of board members about affiliation with Line of March were raised.

I hope this process and response at least satisfies your request in the interim.

For peace and justice,

Nancy Moniz
Resist staff