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Resist Board Meeting, July 23, 1989

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A call to **RESIST** illegitimate authority

One Summer Street, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

617/623-5110

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

Board Meeting - July 23, 1989 - noon - 12pm
Pam Chamberlain's apartment
65 Antrim St.
Cambridge, MA 02139 / Tel (617) 864-2992

Dear board member,

The time mentioned above is not a misprint. Since Louis and Paul will be coming from out of town that morning, we decided to have the meeting start at 12 noon. We also decided to get right into the meeting at noon (no breakfast at Pam's, folks.)

I would suggest people try to get to Pam's 10 or 15 minutes before noon so that we really can start at 12.

You'll find the business items of the meeting at the end of the grants agenda portion of this letter. There won't be the usual "if you can't make this meeting..." sheet to send back to the office this time since, at the last meeting, we set the dates of coming meetings as: Sept. 10th and October 22nd.

If you have any comments and can't come to the meeting, please send in your feedback as well as your proxy.

AGENDA

**** Any last minute items of information by staff which are important to meeting.**

GRANT REQUESTS

Middle East

1) Najda: Women Concerned about the Middle East (Berkeley, CA) - \$600 requested for production costs of "Middle East Resources" quarterly newsletter for Social Studies teachers.

2) Middle East Information & Research Project (MERIP) (Washington, DC) - Requesting \$600 to update and print additional copies of the primer "Palestine for Beginners."

Community Organizing

3) Hospitality House, Inc. (Hinkley, ME) - They're asking for \$500 for expenses of a campaign against City Hall. Postponed from last meeting; we needed a reference on them.

- 4) Maineshare (Stillwater) - \$500 request for production of brochures and other materials for 1989 campaign.
- 5) City Life/Vida Urbana (Jamaica Plain, MA) - \$500 for stipend for intern from the Center for Third World Organizing to work on the Eviction Free Zone Project.

Central, Latin America & the Caribbean

- 6) Centro de Desarrollo Integral..(Boston, MA) - They're asking for \$600 for expenses for mobilizing people for a march on the U.N. concerning Puerto Rico in August. Postponed from last meeting; board wanted more references from our contacts.
- 7) CUSLAR- Committee on U.S./L.A. Relations (Ithaca, NY) - \$609 request for pre-25th-anniversary issue mailing of the CUSLAR newsletter.
- 8) Los Angeles CISPES (CA) - Request of \$600 for an outreach campaign.

Disabilities Access

- 9) Feminist Task Force (Sarasota, FL) - \$300 requested for fee for sign language access needs for their workshop on "Combatting Oppression: Race & Class". We funded other expenses of the workshop in March, 1989. This additional request for access needs falls under the Resist policy decision made last year. Postponed from the last meeting since they'd postponed retreat.

Peace and Anti-Militarism

- 10) American Friends Service Committee/New Hampshire Office (Concord) - \$600 asked toward purchase of a computer.
- 11) Syracuse Peace Council (NY) - Request of \$595 for expenses of installation of business phone lines & equipment.
- 12) Coalition for a Nuclear Free Harbor (New York, NY) - \$600 asked for production & distribution of a "Homeport" brochure and other literature.
- 13) "Peace Planter"/Nukewatch (Madison, WI) - \$500 requested for production a "Peacemakers' Guide to Jails of Western Missouri & Federal Prisons of the Midwest" for people thinking about civil disobedience at missile silo sites.
- 14) New Call for Peacemaking/Fellowship of Reconciliation (Eugene, OR) - Asking for \$825 for production of text book covers to counter U.S. militarism in schools. I've asked them to send covers.

Miscellaneous

15) Native Action (Lame Deer, MT) - \$600 asked for expenses of video taping at their Montana Indian Voter Education Pow-wow on August 18th.

16) Media Network (NY, NY) - They're asking for \$500 for production and distribution cost of a Guide to Media on Reproductive Freedom and Health.

17) Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment (Seattle, WA) - \$500 requested for scholarships to their convention on October 27 through October 29.

18) Coalition for Prisoners' Rights/Women's Prison Project (Santa Fe, NM) - Request of \$500 for costs of mailing their newsletter to prisoners.

LOAN REQUEST

19) Dollars & Sense (Somerville, MA) - \$1,000 asked for six months for printing and production of "Real World Micro", a new classroom reader.

BUSINESS/POLICY ITEMS

* Windfall gift - Discussion on the sub-committee's recommendations for use of an anonymous donor's offer of \$60,000 per year for the next three years to Resist.

* Rose endowment - We'll need further discussion on this possible large gift. We received an answer from him on our suggestions. You'll find his letter in this packet.

* Board Outreach Committee update

* Office - Finances and other miscellaneous items.

* Next board meeting - We have a date, September 10th, but we'll need a place for the meeting.

When I receive any additional info before the meeting on any of the above, I'll send you copies.

For peace and justice,

Nancy

Nancy Moniz
Resist staff

Resist Board Meeting, July 23rd, 1989 Proxy Sheet

1) Najda ____Y ____N ____Maybe

2) MERIP ____Y ____N ____Maybe

3) Hospitality House ____Y ____N ____Maybe

4) Maineshare ____Y ____N ____Maybe

5) City Life ____Y ____N ____Maybe

6) Centro de Desarrollo ____Y ____N ____Maybe

7) CUSLAR ____Y ____N ____Maybe

8) L.A. CISPES ____Y ____N ____Maybe

9) Feminist Task Force ____Y ____N ____Maybe

- 10) AFSC/New Hampshire ____Y ____N ____Maybe
- 11) Syracuse Peace Council ____Y ____N ____Maybe
- 12) Coal. for a Nuke Free Harbor ____Y ____N ____Maybe
- 13) Peace Planter/Nukewatch ____Y ____N ____Maybe
- 14) NCP/FOR ____Y ____N ____Maybe
- 15) Native Action ____Y ____N ____Maybe
- 16) Media Network ____Y ____N ____Maybe
- 17) NW Coal.Against Mal. Harassm. ____Y ____N ____Maybe
- 18) Coal. for Prisoners Rights ____Y ____N ____Maybe
- 19) (Loan) Dollars & Sense ____Y ____N ____Maybe

Resist Board Meeting
July 23, 1989
Pam Chamberlain's House

Present: Nancy Moniz, Louis Kampf, Paul Lauter, Connie Chan, Pam Chamberlain, Ken Hale, Oscar Hernandez, Nancy Wechsler (minutes).

Proxies: Hans Koning and Kate Cloud (thanks).

GRANT REQUESTS: We gave out a total of \$6300 to 15 groups (13 "full grants"-- including one "Yes, contingent" and two "tokens."

NOTE: We agreed that when we send groups grant checks we would ask them to publicly acknowledge the Resist grant in their newsletter, if they have one. It would be most helpful to us if in their acknowledgement they included our name, address and phone number. (Maybe this can be a PS in the letters with the checks.)

1) Najda: Women Concerned about the Middle East (Berkeley, CA) - \$470 for production costs of "Middle East Resources" quarterly newsletter for Social Studies teachers. Ref: Dan P. didn't know much about them. Margaret Collins from the Peace Development Fund in Amherst had heard of them and was impressed by the group. High level quality of materials. Good workshops for teachers. We thought this was important work. Questions were raised about the size of budget.

2) Middle East Information & Research Project (MERIP) (Washington, DC) - \$500 to update and print additional copies of the primer "Palestine for Beginners." No outside reference. Louis says that they are deeply involved with everything that goes on in this country about the Middle East.

3) Hospitality House, Inc. (Hinkley, ME) - NO GRANT. They had asked for \$500 for expenses of a campaign against City Hall. This was postponed from last meeting; we needed a reference on them. Ref: Maryann Hayes, Haymarket Board member. Haymarket had site visit in 1984. Service group, not political. Just one person. No strategy in place. Difficult to get clear info from Jan Lightfoot. Decision: No grant. Say something like: Social service work of this kind is not a priority for us, and we generally fund organizations not individuals. But we wish you the best in your work.

4) Maineshare (Stillwater) - \$500 (as requested) for production of brochures and other materials for 1989 campaign. Ref: Maryann from Haymarket gave a positive reference. We agreed to give them a (one time) grant.

5) City Life/Vida Urbana (Jamaica Plain, MA) - \$470 (CONTINGENT on them sending us a budget) for stipend for intern from the Center for Third World Organizing to work on the Eviction Free Zone Project. Nancy Moniz reports that Steve said they were too busy to fill out the application form for such a small amount of money, and had assumed their grant would not be considered at the meeting. We were all upset that they hadn't taken the time to fill out the application form. Questions raised about whether or not we can support them with an incomplete application form. Boston people felt mixed, feeling like we all think highly of them, and this particular project, but what would we do if this were an out of town group? Paul L. argued that we could support them. We agreed to give them a grant contingent on them sending us a budget for the organization and the project. We also agreed to tell them that in the future they need to submit the application form, filled out.

6) Centro de Desarrollo Integral - (Hartford, CT) - \$470 for expenses for mobilizing people for a march on the U.N. concerning Puerto Rico in August. Had been postponed from last meeting; board wanted more references from our contacts. Ref: Oscar talked to Juan Vargas, who gave a very favorable reference. Nancy Moniz talked to Annette Diaz and one other person who both raised some questions. Said this group was affiliated with Prisoners of War, National Liberation Movement of PR (MLN). Ultra left, nationalist, chauvinist, don't work well with other groups, purist, very little local input. Questions raised about what to do with such different references. Juan and Annette are themselves in the same group. We should say we think it is important that this organizing be a coalition effort as these are very complex issues. We didn't have a budget for this particular project. We should say we are giving the group the money because we want to encourage people to work together. People liked this particular project. Is Tatiana still trying to get articles for Newsletter on PR? Paul Lauter says he knows someone who might be able to write something.

7) CUSLAR- Committee on U.S./L.A. Relations (Ithaca, NY) - \$500 for pre-25th-anniversary issue mailing of the CUSLAR newsletter. Ref: Sylvia Sherman at Nica Network gave a very positive reference. Walter Cohen (Resist donor and Ithaca resident) also gave a very positive reference. Very successful activist group in County. Good film series, bring in international speakers, organize demonstrations, phone and write-in campaigns, work well with other groups. (That's what we like to hear.)

8) Los Angeles CISPES (CA) - \$470 for an outreach campaign. Ref: Liberty Hill Foundation. Very good group, they do a lot of coalition work.

9) Feminist Task Force (Sarasota, FL) - \$300 (as requested) for fee for sign language access needs for their workshop on

"Combatting Oppression: Race & Class". We funded other expenses of the workshop in March, 1989. This additional request for access needs falls under the Resist policy decision made last year. This was postponed from the last meeting until we knew when the retreat was going to take place. They asked us whether or not they could use the money for wheelchair accessibility if they ended up not needing to pay the ASL interpreters. We said they could use it for anything that had to do with accessibility.

10) American Friends Service Committee/New Hampshire Office (Concord) - \$500 toward purchase of a computer. Ref: NH Central America Network and NH Citizen Action both gave very positive references. Questions raised about whether we should be supporting local AFSC offices? National office seems to have cut back funding locals. It was brought up that in their application form they mention all the work they do around gay/lesbian issues, but that in their brochure they fail to mention this. We should mention this contradiction to them in our letter with grant. It was also raised that they should include elderly and disabled in their NH 2000 campaign.

11) Syracuse Peace Council (NY) - \$500 for expenses of installation of business phone lines & equipment. Ref: Syracuse Cultural Workers--SPC is an umbrella organization for peace community. Phone lines are definitely not adequate. Questions raised about their membership in the Rainbow. What does this mean now?

12) Coalition for a Nuclear Free Harbor (New York, NY) - \$470 for production & distribution of a "Homeport" brochure and other literature. We don't have update of new brochure. It will include update of Iowa explosion. Ref: George V.: Knows group, War Resisters' League people. Northstar: they do good work. Paul: Talked to one person who had mixed feelings. How successful have they been in organizing resources of groups in coalition? Haven't had enormous impact on NY media.

13) "Peace Planter"/Nukewatch (Madison, WI) - \$450 for production a "Peacemakers' Guide to Jails of Western Missouri & Federal Prisons of the Midwest" for people thinking about civil disobedience at missile silo sites. Ref: Betsy Lawrence, Wisconsin Community Fund. This is a good group, respected, highly recommends them. Questions raised about staff dominated organization and about what we think of these particular demonstrations. These are not ploughshares folks who try to destroy missiles and end up with long prison sentences. Yet people involved in these demonstrations have gotten 6 months to 2 years.

14) New Call for Peacemaking/Fellowship of Reconciliation (Eugene, OR) - NO GRANT. They had asked for \$825 for production of text book covers to counter U.S. militarism in schools. Ref: Linda Rimmers, McKenzie River Gathering. They did not fund this

project, felt it wasn't on cutting edge. Group is older retired women. They seem to have access to other money. Not socialist. Good hearted but not radical. Pam says most kids don't use army book covers, except for the die-hard army types. This isn't a priority for us. We'd rather fund counter-recruitment efforts.

15) Native Action (Lame Deer, MT) - TOKEN \$100 for expenses of video taping at their Montana Indian Voter Education Pow-wow on August 18th. Ref: A Territory Resource (foundation): They do good work. Respected people. We agreed to give them token and send with letter that encourages their work but explains that because of the size of the other grants they get they are out of our range of who we fund. We should say we are excited they are bringing 7 different tribes together for this event, and we want to support their work, but their sources of funding are greater than the kinds of groups we usually fund.

16) Media Network (NY, NY) - TOKEN \$100 for production and distribution cost of a Guide to Media on Reproductive Freedom and Health. Margie Fine of North Star: This group has done good work. Questions raised about usefulness of project and about budget. They have gotten lots of grant money (\$80,000), including government money. They probably distribute media guide free.

17) Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment (Seattle, WA) - NO GRANT. They had requested \$500 for scholarships to their convention on October 27 through October 29. Dan P. said they were a strong network, mixture of non-profit and governmental. Politics tricky. Puget Sound Task Force is much more left-wing than these folks. This group is too mainstream. We agreed with this view and declined to fund them. We agreed to mention that we disagreed with their contention that women were not the target of hate groups as women. After all, what about battering and rape?

18) Coalition for Prisoners' Rights/Women's Prison Project (Santa Fe, NM) - \$500 (as requested) for costs of mailing their newsletter to prisoners. Ref: Richard Moore, South West Organizing Project. They do very good work. We have funded them in past.

LOAN REQUEST

19) Dollars & Sense (Somerville, MA) - \$1,000 for six months for printing and production of "Real World Micro", a new classroom reader. There were general supportive comments from Resist board members who are also readers of D&S.

BUSINESS/POLICY ITEMS

* Windfall Gift:

Discussion of proposals from subcommittee made up of: Pam Chamberlain, Oscar Hernandez, Nancy Moniz, Nancy Wechsler
What follows are the subcommittees suggestions, and the board's actions.

1. Where to invest the money? For now we will put it in our Working Assets account. Wechsler talked to Bob Zevin, who is willing to make recommendations to Resist on investing. We will take him up on this offer and hopefully get back to board at September 10th meeting with a more concrete proposal, which might include switching some of our money market accounts to Calvert. *

2. Should we keep the \$600 limit or raise it? Keep our \$250 formula or raise it? Forget the formula and just decide to give out up to \$600 per group? The subcommittee decided to keep the \$600 limit, and proposed raising the formula to \$300 for the next three meetings, and then re-evaluate if that's working. (The feeling was that if we didn't use the formula we might be too free with saying yes to groups. We also felt it was good to start out conservative.) DECISION: The board agreed to keep the \$600 limit for now, and raise the formula to \$350. The \$350 is based on the fact that we usually give grants to about 60% of the groups that apply, and that \$350 would allow us to give out \$600 to 60%. Once we are at the point where we are giving out \$600 to the groups we want to fund, we can discuss Paul Lauter's proposal that we go over the ceiling a few times at each meeting, for groups we feel the extra money would really help. DISCUSSION: Several people brought up wanting to raise the limit above \$600. People felt this would be more helpful to groups and attract more and different kinds of applications. It was pointed out that Haymarket often gives groups \$1000, and raising our limit might make us too similar to Haymarket in terms of which groups apply to us. It was suggested that we keep the limit, but allow ourselves to go over it a few times at each meeting. Many people liked this idea. Wechsler pointed out that we still don't give out \$600, and that until we are doing that, it might not make sense to talk about giving out more to some groups. She also raised concern that this would cause bickering among board members that we had been quite successful at avoiding up till this point. Someone else suggested giving out one larger grant per year. ← *

3. Should we put \$10,000 (or some other sum) into our revolving prospecting fund? We decided to take \$5000 during the second year and add it to the prospecting mail fund, and another \$5000 during the third year and add it to the prospecting mail fund. That would bring that fund up to \$35,000. This helps protect us against rising costs, etc. *

4. Should we increase our revolving loan fund? Since we don't get many requests for loans we felt it was not necessary at this time

to increase the loan fund. We can re-evaluate this in the future. OK'ed as is.

5. Should we increase the amount of an emergency grant? We decided not to increase the amount of an emergency grant largely because the process was not as strict as a regular grant and therefore there should be a big difference in the amount a group would get. OK'ed as is.

6. Should we set aside a specific amount for outreach/advertising or just leave it up to the staff? We decided to leave it up to the staff to decide on advertising/outreach on a case by case basis. OK'ed as is.

7. Should we raise staff salaries, and/or add more paid vacation time? We decided to raise Nancy Wechsler and Tatiana Schreiber's hourly wage to equal Nancy Moniz's. We also agreed to add one more week of paid vacation. Tatiana had raised the possibility that it would be hard for her to take an additional week because of the need to continue getting out the newsletter. We agreed that if she couldn't take the week, and didn't want to roll it over to the next year, she could get paid for that week of untaken leave at the end of the year (much as would happen if someone were leaving and still had unused vacation leave). OK'ed as is. Wechsler and Tatiana's salary is raised to match Nancy Moniz, and everyone gets additional weeks vacation (with special stipulation for Tatiana).

8. Should we set aside a specific amount for staff training? People felt we didn't need to set aside specific money. We thought some allotment existed in personnel policy. (But in fact the personnel policy says we should just bring up needs at board meeting.) The committee recommends that staff should come to board with requests for training. OK'ed as is.

9. Should we produce a guide to media funding? We decided it wasn't a priority (at this time) for Resist to hire a consultant to do a media resource list. We will discuss it again in the future. OK'ed as is.

10. Should we take on a short term project and develop resource/info sheets on funding sources for a number of issue areas? We decided to do a generic pamphlet of where to start looking for grants. Nancy Moniz will put together resources. Resist will pay for printing costs. We should check into getting an intern to do more in-depth reports. OK'ed as is.

11. Should we make this major donation public? For now we won't make it public. Maybe at the end of second or third year we can say we received this money--it allowed us to give out such and such amount more money and make these other changes--and now we need your help to continue what we have been able to achieve.

Questions raised at board meeting about whether or not we should make this public. Were we being honest, were we hiding something? Do we usually say how much we got from how many donors? We agreed to go along with subcommittee's suggestion--but probably hold off till third year to make this pitch. *

* Rose endowment - Your board packet contained Wechsler's letter to him reporting on our decisions from last board meeting, and his response. Basically he said he wasn't interested in any of the suggestions we made-- to put the money in the Cohen endowment, to add it to our loan fund, or to add it to our revolving prospecting mail fund. He suggested we set up another endowment and call it the Resist endowment. He suggests we could keep track of donations over a certain amount, and that the interest from those donations could be given out in honor of X. (His original offer was to give Resist a one-time donation of between \$1000 and \$5000 from his private foundation, the Petal Fund.)

DECISION: After a long discussion we decided to postpone this till the next meeting so that we could have more time to think about all the complex issues that this brings up.

DISCUSSION: Resist is not an "endowed foundation." In other words, we don't sit on lots of money that we then use for all our grant making and operating expenses. Do we want to become an endowed foundation? Would that even be realistic? (Probably not.) Wouldn't that put us in more direct competition with Haymarket? Some people object to endowed foundations, feeling that the money should be used for support of groups, not for the foundation to live on. Can we have it both ways: in other words, we wouldn't run an endowment campaign, but we would set up a Resist Endowment Fund. It was pointed out that we have backed into this question by setting up the Cohen endowment, without a larger political discussion. Maybe the idea of setting up one "Resist" endowment fund would attract money and prevent us from having a million separate accounts in the future. How hard would it be to keep track of the various donations/interest to this account? Rose mentioned lawyers and contracts. Wechsler isn't thrilled with getting into having legal contracts for each gift. Is it realistic to avoid legal contracts? Wechsler argued that if we set up this endowment fund we should say that we prefer donations that are unrestricted and that go into our general fund, but that we do accept endowment gifts. We need to decide if there should be a minimum amount of money before we agree to keep special track of that particular interest.

People thought Rose had a point about setting up one Resist endowment fund, but were annoyed at how difficult he was being. Wechsler will write him and let him know that the board had a preliminary discussion of his new proposals and that we hope to make a decision at our September board meeting.

* Women for Social Justice - Discussion of their letter about our rejection of their grant proposal. Their letter just repeats the same political line that was in their grant application. They report studies about porn and violence that are very controversial as fact. This is very annoying. Nancy Moniz called around again to see if some of the references had heard of this group under their former name. Ref: Headwaters Fund board member-- had heard of them under other name. All she knew was that they did sit-ins. Hadn't heard about conference. Paula Rabinowitz: she is opposed to anti-porn movement. Has no patience with this stuff. Feels an anti-porn group would be exclusive of people with different opinions. We should write them back, refusing to give them the names of our references (tell them this is confidential), and say that the name change probably did cause some confusion but that while we are open to funding requests on issues of battering, we still have concerns that a conference you organize would not be inclusive of people with different views on this matter.

* Board Outreach Committee update - Nancy Moniz talked with Elba Crespo and Eva Jung, two people whom we were interested in for board. At present they were unable to make a commitment one way or another. They have all the material and will get back to us. Fran White (a recent new board member) should be back from her trip to Africa in August. We'll be writing her to welcome her back and make sure she knows about the September board meeting.

* Office -

Finances: Cambridge Trust:	\$ 9,120.41
Working Assets:	129,458.13
Loan Fund:	4,654.42
Cohen Endowment:	10,561.96
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>153,794.92</u>

Staff bought an air conditioner and had some wiring done to accommodate it. It is installed and running.

* Next board meeting - We have a date, September 10th. This might be at Wechsler's, but we are still checking other possible locations. October 22nd meeting will be in Boston, not NYC. The meeting after that will be in NYC or Hartford.

Nancy Wechsler