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Resist Board Meeting Minutes

Resist Collection

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2-3-1991

### Resist Board Meeting, Feb. 3, 1991

Resist

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1991

MM

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Central & Latin America

8) Colombia Human Rights Committee/DC (Washington, DC) - \$600 GRANT for production & mailing costs of their quarterly newsletter, Colombia Update, and (119) \$1000 LOAN for a direct mail fund raising campaign. Very positive references. Why haven't they applied to other foundations? We shouldn't be the only source of foundation funding for them. Yes to grant, Yes to loan. We need to ask them how long they need the loan for.

9) N.H. Central America Network (Concord, NH) - \$600 GRANT for expenses of a fund raising campaign. We've funded them before. They've been working on Middle East issues as well.

Community Organizing/Anti-racist work

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Women

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15) Refuse & Resist (New York, NY) - NO GRANT. They had asked for \$200 for mailing costs for project to shut down the Supreme Court in response to decisions

restricting women's rights. They want to know why they keep getting turned down. They never send us information about other groups they have worked with. We should put a box in our newsletter letting people know that Refuse and Resist has nothing to do with us. Tell them that we don't fund them because they are a sect that is interested solely in promoting themselves, not in working with other groups. One example is your statement on Middle East. You don't condemn S. Hussein's invasion of Kuwait. Also, we find your appropriation of our name extremely dishonest and manipulative. (Calling your benefit concert "Resist! in concert" is bound to confuse many people who have supported us since 1967.) We don't encourage you to come back to us again.

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16) Alliance for Cultural Democracy (Minneapolis, MN) - \$600 GRANT for an outreach/advertising campaign for subscribers to their magazine. Good important project. Very important work. Will do well giving people resources.

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18) Intentional Future (Seattle, WA) - \$200 (SOME). They had requested \$600 for expenses of their Community Events Forums. Questions raised about whether or not this was need of community or have they just decided the community needs this? Skill sharing seminars are important. Roundtable- who knows? What about a SOME?

### BUSINESS/POLICY ITEMS

\* A Call to Resist - A suggestion from the Board/Staff lunch on 12/26/90: a discussion by board members at this Feb. 3rd meeting about a new Call to Resist. Do we feel a new Call should be done, based on our discussion at the last board meeting? This would commit us to a process over a period of time. We could set up a sub-committee to work on this. What is the feeling of the board on this issue? Should we put out a new Call? THIS DISCUSSION WAS POSTPONED DUE TO SMALL MEETING TURNOUT.

\* Board Search Committee - Got a few invitations to speak at groups. Ken and Tatiana will speak at Centro Hispano de Chelsea. We will also be sending someone to Comite Hondureno as soon as we find a date.

\* Newsletter- Tatiana is still planning on going to Mexico to learn Spanish. She has arranged coverage of the newsletter for April and May when she will be gone. Rachel Martin will edit April issue. Eileen Bolinsky will lay it out. Leigh Peake (from RA) will edit and layout May issue. We agreed to pay \$12/hour at 40 hours an issue plus 10 hours for paste up.

\* 25th Anniversary- Louis reminded us that our 25th anniversary is coming up in late September/early October of 1992. We should start thinking of things we want to do to celebrate it. We agreed to put this on the agenda of an upcoming board meeting so that we could brainstorm ideas.

\* Office - Finances: Total figure \$278,411.86

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Cambridge Trust     | \$ 14,442.60 |
| Working Assets Cash | \$138,748.16 |

A call to **RESIST** illegitimate authority

One Summer Street, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

617/623-5110

February 5, 1991

Frank Brodhead  
Pam Chamberlain  
Connie Chan  
Bell Chevigny  
Noam Chomsky  
Kate Cloud  
Tess Ewing  
Norm Fruchter  
Mitchell Goodman  
Kenneth Hale  
Oscar Hernandez  
Frank Joyce  
Louis Kampf  
Hans Koning  
Paul Lauter  
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  
Iran White

Clark Kissinger  
Refuse & Resist  
305 Madison Ave., Suite 1166  
New York, NY 10165

Dear Clark,

The board of Resist met on February 3rd to consider proposals for funding. It was decided not to fund your request.

You had asked if we apply criteria other than in our Guidelines in our decisions for funding. Yes, we do apply criteria of politics, effectiveness, working relationships with other groups, among other factors.

In the past we have asked you to list groups that you work with. You have not done this, except to mention ACLU. It has come to our attention from trusted contacts that your organization is a sect, the Revolutionary Communist Party. We do not fund sects that are primarily interested in promoting themselves and not in working with other groups. We have problems with other aspects of your politics, for example your statement on the Middle East. You don't condemn Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Finally, we find your appropriation of our name extremely dishonest and manipulative. Calling your benefit concert "Resist! in Concert" was bound to confuse many people who have supported us since 1967.

In conclusion, please do not apply to us for funding in the future.

For peace and justice,

The Board of Resist

No Signature ?

Karisa will answer  
for RR  
FYI  
Received  
2/11  
though  
you  
might  
want

# **Refuse & Resist!**

305 Madison Avenue, Suite 1166, New York, NY 10165 • 212-941-5474



February 11, 1991

Dear The Board of Resist:

We just received a letter from you (copy attached).

We wanted to check on the authenticity of such a petty, misinformed letter.

With so much of the FBI COINTELPRO bullshit harming the hard work of many good people, it is important to check on such things, and most importantly to keep good relations between organizations who opposing the same forces of reaction.

Just off the top of my head, we work with:

Food Not Bombs, SF  
BACORR (Bay Area Coalition Our Reproductive Rights)  
WHAM! (NYC)  
ACT UP  
Catholics for a Free Choice  
Interfaith Foundation for Community Organizing  
Center for Constitutional Rights  
Intercommunity Center for Justice and Peace  
New York Pro-Choice Coalition  
Rock Against Racism  
Rock Against Sexism  
NOW  
ACLU  
and many others.

Please let us know what's up with you all.

Karisa Durr

The enclosed brochure from the last concert should give you some glimpse at the kind of people we work with, check out Advisory Board and artists and articles. Another event is in the works, much bigger in tempo with the times.

March 9, 1991

The Board of Directors  
Resist  
One Summer Street  
Somerville, MA 02143

Dear Friends:

Last December a member of our National Council, Clark Kissinger, submitted a grant request to Resist for an action project directed at the Supreme Court in support of women's rights. This Supreme Court action is now being co-sponsored by OUT!/DC (a lesbian and gay direct action group) and the Capital City chapter of NOW, and is being publicized through the mailing list of the Washington Area Clinic Defense Task Force.

In early February we received a reply on behalf of the Board of Resist. Because of the highly unusual content of the reply, we sought and received confirmation of its authenticity. Our concern is not with Resist's decision on the funding of this particular project. What has disturbed everyone who has seen the letter is its tone and the unwarranted attacks on Refuse & Resist! contained in it. It smacks of a bygone era that no one wants to see return, and seems totally out of keeping with the reputations of the many wonderful people who serve on Resist's board.

We are more than happy to discuss any of the issues you raised, and we have always been open to and available for such discussion. We feel that problems that arise between organizations should be resolved by open discussion based on mutual respect, and not through unilateral denunciations based on misinformation. We hope that you share our approach.

We would like to arrange a meeting between a representative group from your Board and a similar group from our National Council as soon as possible. Since we both have a number of people in the New York area, could this meeting be arranged there? Could you give us a call to work out the arrangements?

We look forward to resolving whatever problems have arisen and to working more closely given our many shared goals.

Yours in resistance,

*Mara Margolis*  
Mara Margolis

National Secretary, R&R!

cc: National Executive Committee  
Clark Kissinger

Dear Nancy,

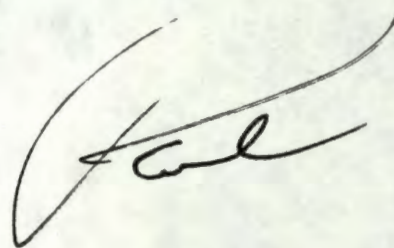
Enclosed is my letter to Kissinger, plus one of the many things he sent me. I got sufficiently irritated with his letter, etc. to write, though maybe it adds fuel to the fire.

You see my view in the letter. I don't think it's useful to get into questions of their stand on Iraq (I agree with you on that) or the substance of what we hear from people we ask (I do think that was awkwardly phrased--but that's very minor). I think, one, that we should say that no useful purpose can be served by further discussion, especially given their continued effort to suggest some link between R&R and Resist. And, two, if they do something like send a letter to people or to some mag, I'd come down very hard--it's wrong, all of my experience tells me, to ignore sectarians. And where I'd begin is by saying that long political experience has led me to conclude that people accuse you of what they are doing.

This is a fucking waste of time. Which, of course, is its purpose.

I haven't opened the board packet, so I have nothing to say on requests and, because I've been submerged in work, not much on anything else either.

cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul', written in a cursive style.

500 East 77th St.  
New York, NY 10162  
March 11

Come on, Clark. We've both been around too long and this is too old a game to waste time on. Even writing this letter is a greater expenditure of time than I really want to make.

Yes, I thought it would have been better for a particular person at the office to sign the letter to you, and perhaps it might have been more tactfully phrased. But, then again, why beat around the bush?--if one can still use that metaphor--the letter summarized the conclusions of the discussion, as is our practice. And I have no problem with the substance.

Quite the contrary: to be perfectly honest, I've been very unhappy--think it's dishonest--the way you guys have played around with the name "Resist"--e.g., on your leaflet for the March 3, 1991, action, as well as on the concert. If you want some friendly criticism, it's precisely that kind of thing that has always characterized the sectarian tactic of ripping off other organizations. If it walks like a duck. . .

My recommendation to the board will be that the discussion go no further. To push it further can only produce the objective result--also often associated with sectarianism--of providing aid and comfort to Bush. I don't really think you want to spend your organizational resources toward that end.

cheers,



# DON'T LET THEM SANITIZE THIS BLOODY WAR!

PROTEST PENTAGON CENSORSHIP OF  
THE RETURN OF DEAD U.S. TROOPS.

**WHEN: Sunday, March 3rd, 1991**

**WHERE: Dover Air Force Base--  
Dover, Delaware.**

**HOW TO GET A RIDE:** All those from the Washington Area wishing to attend the protest should meet on **Sunday morning at 9 am** at the **Burger King** located on **16th & K Streets, NW**. Transportation will be provided, though we strongly encourage anyone with a vehicle to bring it. We should be arriving back around 6 pm..

The Department of Defense has refused to let the media cover the return of the dead bodies of U.S. Soldiers killed in the Persian Gulf.

By limiting what the media can cover, the Government is making sure that the American public lacks any information that would spur a wide-scale recognition of the human costs of the war and the actual reasons behind the genocide of the Iraqi people.

## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

please leave your name, number and brief message at  
**Refuse & Resist! (301) 231-3586.**



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  
Oscar Hernandez  
Frank Joyce  
Louis Kampf  
Hans Koning  
Paul Lauter  
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 - Feb. 3, 1991 - 11am  
Place to be arranged

Dear board member,

As you've noticed above, we don't have a place for the meeting yet. I'll send you the information as soon as a place has been arranged.

As usual you'll find the business items of the meeting at the end of the grants agenda portion of this letter.

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**

**Native Americans**

1) Sovereignty Network (Palmer, Alaska) -\$600 requested to develop an educational & training packet for organizing Alaskan Native Americans.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

2) Minnesota Peace & Justice Coalition (Minneapolis) - Requesting \$600 for expenses of their Native American "Spearfishing Treaty Rights Project."

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

**Gay & Lesbian**

3) Alliance of Mass. Asian Lesbians & Gay Men (Boston, MA) - They're asking for \$512 for production of a special AIDS supplement for their newsletter.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

4) WeWah & BarCheeAmpe (New York, NY) - \$600 request for production & mailing costs for their newsletter, and for post office box fees.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

#### Middle East

5) Los Angeles Coalition Against Intervention in the Middle East (CA) - They're asking for \$600 toward expenses of their upcoming events.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

6) Mobilization for Survival/National Office (New York, NY) - \$600 request to cover part of costs of conference facilities for their Jan. 18 Gulf Strategy Conference.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

7) American Friends Service Committee (San Francisco, CA) - \$600 requested for expenses of a national effort for support of the "Desert Shield Memorial Walls."

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

#### Central & Latin America

8) Colombia Human Rights Committee/DC (Washington, DC) - Request of a grant of \$600 for production & mailing costs of their quarterly newsletter, Colombia Update. (Also asking for loan, see below.)

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

9) N.H. Central America Network (Concord, NH) - \$600 requested for expenses of a fund raising campaign.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

#### Community Organizing/Anti-racist work

10) Coalition for Community Control of Development (Boston, MA) - \$600 asked to print a brochure about their 2nd annual "State of the Neighborhoods" Convention.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

11) Survivors, Inc./Survival News (W. Roxbury, MA) - \$600 asked for production of the newspaper (copies at meeting).

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

12) Midwest Housing Network (Ann Arbor, MI) - Request of \$300 for production of their regional housing newsletter.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

13) Robeson Defense Committee (Pembroke, NC) - \$600 asked for the purchase of a camera and an answering machine.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

#### Women

14) Silkswings/Women's Action Group (Duluth, MN) - They're asking for \$600 for production expenses of a new newsletter. I've asked them to send a copy or an outline.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

15) Refuse & Resist (New York, NY) - They're asking for \$200 for costs of a mailing for organizing a project to shut down the Supreme Court in response to decisions restricting women's rights.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

#### Miscellaneous

16) Alliance for Cultural Democracy (Minneapolis, MN) - \$600 requested for an outreach/advertising campaign for subscribers to their magazine. (It's long. I'll have it at the meeting.)

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

17) Maine Citizens to Defend the Bill of Rights (Augusta, ME) - Request of \$600 for general expenses of the Fourth Annual "Conference Investigating Crimes Committed by the FBI" on March 2, 1991.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

18) Intentional Future (Seattle, WA) - \$600 requested for expenses of their Community Events Forums for the Puget Sound

activist community. Their newspapers will be at the meeting.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

**LOAN REQUEST**

19) Colombia Human Rights Committee/DC (Washington, DC) - They're asking for a loan of \$1,000 for a direct mail fund raising campaign.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

**BUSINESS/POLICY ITEMS**

\* A Call to Resist - A suggestion from the Board/Staff lunch on 12/26/90: a discussion by board members at this Feb. 3rd meeting about a new Call to Resist. Do we feel a new Call should be done, based on our discussion at the last board meeting? This would commit us to a process over a period of time. We could set up a sub-committee to work on this. What is the feeling of the board on this issue? Should we put out a new Call?

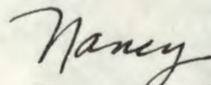
\* Board Search Committee - report.

\* Office - Finances and other miscellaneous items.

\* Next board meeting - We have to set a date and place for the next meeting.

I'll send you any additional info before the meeting on any of the above when I receive it.

For peace and justice,



Nancy Moniz, Resist staff

**CLIP AND SEND TO RESIST OFFICE**

-----  
I won't be able to attend the Feb. 3rd meeting in the Boston area. My preference for a date for a following meeting in Boston is

\_\_\_\_\_ March 17 \_\_\_\_\_ March 24

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**Resist Board Meeting - Feb. 3, 1991  
Nancy Wechsler's, 57 Moore St., Som., MA**

**Present:** Louis Kampf, Nancy Moniz, Nancy Wechsler (minutes), and Wayne O'Neil.

People expressed concern at low turnout of board members to a Boston meeting. We need to discuss commitments of board members. We understand people are tired from other meetings, demos and commitments. But it was discouraging to have only four people at this meeting.

**GRANT REQUESTS:** We gave out a total of \$6412 to 13 groups, but then National MOBE withdrew their request (see below), which means we gave out a total of \$5812 to 12 groups.

**Native Americans**

1) Sovereignty Network (Palmer, Alaska) -\$600 GRANT to develop an educational & training packet for organizing Alaskan Native Americans. We had funded them in the past. They didn't send us specifications of what is going to be in training packet. We should ask them for a copy.

2) Minnesota Peace & Justice Coalition (Minneapolis) - \$600 GRANT for expenses of their Native American "Spearfishing Treaty Rights Project." No formal position on abortion. Decision: Yes to a grant. Tell them we are happy they are discussing the issue of abortion and not just avoiding it. We hope they will come out with a position in support of a woman's right to choose abortion.

**Gay & Lesbian**

3) Alliance of Mass. Asian Lesbians & Gay Men (Boston, MA) - \$512 GRANT for production of a special AIDS supplement for their newsletter.

4) WeWah & BarCheeAmpe (New York, NY) - \$200 (SOME) for production & mailing costs for their newsletter, and for post office box fees. Do we fund this kind of group? They don't have radical edge. They play at nationalism. Decision: SOME. We want to support your work, but don't have a clear picture yet of what your politics are, and where you are heading. Feel free to apply again next year.

**Middle East**

5) Los Angeles Coalition Against Intervention in the Middle East (CA) - \$600 GRANT toward expenses of upcoming events. They did recently adopt a statement condemning Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. There is another coalition which formed recently--more mainstream groups. Not sure why another organization formed.

6) Mobilization for Survival/National Office (New York, NY) - \*WITHDRAWN (see note below). At the board meeting we decided to award MOBE a \$600 grant to cover part of costs of conference facilities for their Jan. 18 Gulf Strategy Conference. Discussion: NM asked them to send update, but we didn't receive it. We don't have a full report of meeting. Peter told Nancy it went well. Should we put aside money until we see update, or just give them the grant? We decided to give them the grant, but would still like to see update. (\*Please note that when I got to the office Monday morning, Peter had left a message that he hadn't sent the update because they had decided to withdraw their application. They felt their financial emergency had passed for now, and that they didn't feel we needed to bend our "once a year" rule for them at this time.

7) American Friends Service Committee (San Francisco, CA) - NO GRANT. They had

requested \$600 for "Desert Shield Memorial Walls" project. With thousands of Iraqi civilians being killed it's inappropriate to have a memorial wall for only US soldiers. With all the different organizing work going on around the country this was not a priority for us. We don't support a project which only includes the names of US casualties, and it also does not hook into an effort to organize action against the war.

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\* A Call to Resist - A suggestion from the Board/Staff lunch on 12/26/90: a discussion by board members at this Feb. 3rd meeting about a new Call to Resist. Do we feel a new Call should be done, based on our discussion at the last board meeting? This would commit us to a process over a period of time. We could set up a sub-committee to work on this. What is the feeling of the board on this issue? Should we put out a new Call? THIS DISCUSSION WAS POSTPONED DUE TO SMALL MEETING TURNOUT.

\* Board Search Committee - Got a few invitations to speak at groups. Ken and Tatiana will speak at Centro Hispano de Chelsea. We will also be sending someone to Comite Hondureno as soon as we find a date.

\* Newsletter- Tatiana is still planning on going to Mexico to learn Spanish. She has arranged coverage of the newsletter for April and May when she will be gone. Rachel Martin will edit April issue. Eileen Bolinsky will lay it out. Leigh Peake (from RA) will edit and layout May issue. We agreed to pay \$12/hour at 40 hours an issue plus 10 hours for paste up.

\* 25th Anniversary- Louis reminded us that our 25th anniversary is coming up in late September/early October of 1992. We should start thinking of things we want to do to celebrate it. We agreed to put this on the agenda of an upcoming board meeting so that we could brainstorm ideas.

\* Office - Finances: Total figure \$278,411.86

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Cambridge Trust     | \$ 14,442.60 |
| Working Assets Cash | \$138,748.16 |



|                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| WA LOAN              | \$ 5,233.85  |
| Calvert Bond         | \$ 53,034.71 |
| First Trade CD       | \$ 51,106.04 |
| Calvert Resist Endmt | \$ 5,562.40  |
| Cohen Endowment      | \$ 10,284.10 |

Our total income for 1990 is above 1989, but only by about 5%. You hope for a 10% increase. December 1990 and January 1991 totals are down significantly from last year. This is due partially to the recession, partially to the fact that last year was exceptionally good, and partially because last year we were receiving income from prospecting mailings. Our large prospecting mailing is just going out this week to about 90,000 names. Wechsler hopes this will pick us up between 500-1000 new donors. We had 100,000 brochures printed and she will be sending some more out over the next few months. A friends of contributors mailing will also be going out.

We will be receiving one more check in May for \$75,000 from our anonymous donor. We are also expecting David Kennedy's estate to be settled in March. We should receive a check from that for about \$45-\$50,000. No other big checks are anticipated. We have about 700 regular pledges, accounting for about 27% of our income.

\* Staff Bonus. Staff raised issue of staff bonus for 1990. Last year we received \$375, after a particularly successful fundraising year. Since we just received a hefty 7 percent cost of living raise, we proposed \$100 or \$150 for this year. Board agreed to \$150.

\* Maternity/Paternity/Adoptive leave - Wechsler brought up the fact that our present personnel policy gives 2 months paid "maternity/paternity/adoptive" leave. She assumes this covers lesbian co-parents when the partner is the biological parent. (But which is it--maternity, paternity, or adoptive?) We decided to change the language to parental leave and agree it covers the lesbian non-biological parent. Wechsler said her girlfriend is trying to get pregnant. If they end up having or adopting a kid she's planning on taking the leave. She said she was thinking of taking 1-2 full time weeks, then work 1/2 time (2 days a week) for the remainder of the leave. This would enable her to do some work and coordinate other people filling in. She'll update us on this as the need arises.

\* Next board meeting - MARCH 17th, in Boston. The following meeting will be the end of April or beginning of May in NYC.

January 31, 1991

REFERENCES for February 3, 1991 Resist Board meeting

1) Sovereignty Network - Ray Santiago of the Funding Exchange (which has funded this group) spoke highly of them. It's the resource group for Native Alaskan organizations, they provide most of the technical assistance, resource & networking. They're well respected and have a good staff. They lend assistance in starting projects, develop leadership on many Native Alaskan issues such as land issues. Highly recommended.

2) MN Peace & Justice Network - I talked with Dan Petegorsky of the Pacific Peace Fund. He said they're "great." Probably the biggest, longest standing multi-issue organization around. Really do the work. Have good programs, newsletter; they've been doing a lot on the Middle East in the past few years. Real energetic, bring in lots of groups, do demos, events. Good decision making process, great staff, excellent range of issues. They've also done a lot on Native American issues. They go a lot of folks from MN to spear fishing lakes/have good working relationships with Native American groups. They've made a real impact. This is a solid organization; Dan likes them a lot.

3) AMALGM - Stephanie Poggi thinks they're "a really good group." Over the past few years there seems to be new energy & growth. They've had good events, very multi-cultural. Willing to look at many different issues. People in the group are also involved in other issues. The people in the group who she knows have good politics. Group endorses other groups' projects. They had a speaker at an R2N2 demo against Cardinal Law. Worked on March to DC. Wrote an article for GCN's Class supplement. Recommends.

4) WeWah & BarCheeAmpe - I talked with Charlie Fernandez of the Out Fund of the Funding Exchange. He said that this group doesn't have the most developed/radical politics yet but he takes a flexible approach with new groups/constituencies like this one. The issue is very important in itself and he's willing to give them some leeway. The group is involved with people of color coalition in the city/ there has been some concern about how they work in coalitions but people have said to give them a little time to develop wider awareness of issues. They're not a "showcase group for radical analysis but, on the other hand I'd take a chance on them & see how they develop." He'd like to see them nurtured.

5) LA Coalition Against Intervention - Louis suggested I talk with Emily Abel in LA. She didn't know much but thought they were the umbrella group for anti-war work in LA. She feels they are just fine but doesn't know for sure. Feels this would be for Resist. I then talked with Michelle Pritchard of the Liberty Hill Fund. They're funding them this cycle. She said that this has been the main force in pulling together all of the Middle East protest work in the L.A. area. On 1/26, they had a big demo which went well & had more attendance than in previous demos for other issues. Recently they adopted a statement condemning Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. She feels that this is the place to put funding on the issue in L.A. She did say that another coalition consisting of main stream

organizations had recently formed. It did endorse the 1/26 rally & she hadn't heard of any conflict between the two.

6) Mobilization for Survival/National - I checked with Margie Fine of North Star Fund in NYC. She said she's had very little contact with them recently but felt that this would be a particularly good time to support them for anti-war work. The last time I talked with her about Mobe (about seven months ago) she talked about Mobe being in a transition period, with some problems about strategy and direction. She, at that time, did say that Mobe was still doing things, had programs, etc. and was important to support. The situation we're in now with the Gulf War could galvanize national Mobe.

7) AFSC/SF, CA - I talked with both Josefina Vasquez Valle and Bill Hoffman. (Note from NM - maybe it goes without saying, but what follows from Josefina is confidential.) First, Josefina had many negative comments on SF AFSC mainly about their dealing with people of color\said they increasingly have a very bad name with people of color groups\Don't seem interested in inclusiveness, lack of sensitivity. She said there is more and more conservative influence in the organization. Difficult situation for her there. Real problems, power struggle with general secretary who's conservative. She's fighting but it's getting more difficult. She didn't seem to know much about the Desert Shield Walls project, which I find strange since Bill Hoffman told me that she's general director of P&J of which Middle East work is a part. Bill Hoffman of PSC hadn't heard of this project, no publicity about it that he's seen. He said PSC doesn't work much with AFSC because AFSC has problems with them and vice versa. The director of Middle East work, Alan Solomonow, is pro-Israel. (Note: Louis at meeting said this is not 100% true, AS is more Peace Now) AFSC has its own concept of M.E. work which doesn't match other groups; not popular with M.E. solidarity community. Bill mentioned Josefina positively = as P & J staff she had arranged for a tour of Palestinian women to Bay Area - this caused conflict within AFSC. Bill corroborated Josefina's critique on the issue of people of color from what he's heard. Also he said that AFSC hasn't played a role in Gulf actions in the area; it's isolated; he hadn't heard of them doing events on the issue. AFSC hasn't been active but then the traditional peace community (such as WRL) has also been fairly inactive.

8) Colombia H.R. Cmtee/Wash., DC - I called Coletta Youngers of the Washington Office on Latin America. She has a high opinion of the group/ WOLA works closely with them = for tours, WOLA handles political appointments, while CHRC does local groups contact. Group has played extremely important role in raising consciousness on Colombia/ very few groups working on Andean region. As Colombia has moved to the forefront of US policy, this group has filled a gap for info & resources. (Colombia is a primary recipient of US foreign aid, overtly for drug wars but really for counter-insurgency work.) Because this group has this 1 focus, they can do what WOLA can't in DC/ they have close ties with many groups in the region. Also well thought of in Colombia because they don't align themselves with any party of group there - deal with many sectors (unions, farm feds, h.r. orgs.) = seen there as a voice for all in DC. WOLA has collaborated with them on their Bulletin & on research also. they coordinate good tours -diverse sectors to visit groups, unions, churches,

Congress. WOLA & this group convened the Colombia Working Group = 15 organizations including Amn.Int., Am. Watch, IPS). Because of its location in DC, CHRC/DC does national focus, as well as local work. She's seen the fund raising packet & thinks it's very good direct mail thing, feels they have a good chance of raising some money, and are very responsible financially as far as paying back a loan. Highly recommended.

Hank Rosemont also checked with 2 of his contacts & organizations such as AI. He (they) really like this group. It is single issue but has the expertise & contacts in D.C. to be effective. His general sense on the issue of Colombia is that Colombia is very angry at Bush & that the issue of Colombia will become a hot issue again soon. Hank felt that this group is important to support.

9) New Hampshire CA Network - Arnie Alpert of AFSC/NH had a "totally glowing reference." Extremely good work/ no paid staff = great volunteer staff, very responsible. Network does good job of mobilizing for events & projects. Recently had an event with NH Coalition of the Homeless (work closely with them), made good connection of issues (an event on refugees was held in a homeless shelter). Very supportive of Middle East work also. They were part of founding meeting of NH Coalition on the Middle East. Recently worked with NECAN on a tour of Nica. labor leaders, had events with NH labor unions. In general, though, Arnie has seen a real drop in enthusiasm by the general public there for Central America work with corresponding drop in funding. They really do need to do this fund raising project. Recommends.

10) CCCD - I talked with Kathy Brown of City Life (also a former staff person at CASA). She said that City Life has worked with them for some time/ she's personally been to several of their events. Their focus is empowering of local neighborhood councils which makes the mayor nervous. Their work in Jamaica Plain has made a difference as far as zoning & housing issues. She has heard from various sources that another State of the N'ghbhd. Convention is needed & would be very good based on the last one. City Life will support & participate in this. CCCD consults with City Life for input & strategy suggestions. She said this is definitely key work & they are doing what they say they are. She sees on a reality level a real need for community control. City life has a concern that there will be enough resources to continue this important work. She highly recommends that we support this group.

Ken Tangvik is on CCCD's Steering Committee. He's been highly supportive of this in my past conversations with him.

11) Survivors, Inc. - Rena Scott said she knows of them through the Boston Women's Fund which made grant to them in past. As far as she knows, the articles are written by members of low income and welfare groups. It's a good newsletter/ covers upcoming actions, has questions & answers column for people's info/ seems to be distribution of Boston outward but more in Boston area = news seems to be more for Mass. than for national population. She has a question of fund raising by this group = so far there seems to always to be a funds crunch for the paper, they've done some fund raising, ads in paper, but can't expect to raise funds from readers, perhaps. Should Resist make a decision to support this, realizing that they might not be able to self-sustain?

I also talked with Fernando Melendez of Haymarket. I asked why

Haymarket had turned down the last proposal of this group. He said they like the group and have funded them year after year. But Haymarket has a new policy for repeaters, asking them to wait a year between requests (?). The board felt that they needed to use funds for other grants & issues.

12) Midwest Housing Network - Ray Santiago of the Funding Exchange suggested I talk with their Midwest board member. She did know of this newsletter & felt it is important for organizing & networking in the MW. Good politics, they work many issues into the NL. Recommends.

13) Robeson Defense Cmtee. - I'm having a hard time getting a definitive reference on this group. I talked with Mandy Carter of WRL/SE first. She said she knows of the group, has met some of the people in the past, and gets their mailings. But she couldn't say anything in detail for recent work. I then called Mab Seegrest of NCARRV. Mab said she knew this grew out of the situation of hostage taking in the County. The last thing she knew, they were working around AIDS in prison. All she could say is they are pretty much to the radical edge of County activists and that they "don't pull punches." She didn't know about their work or effectiveness at the present time. I then talked with Jenifer Morgan of Rural Southern Voice for Peace in NC. She said that some of the RSVP staff had been to Pembroke. In the past RSVP participated in a Witness for Nonviolence event there. She didn't know much of what they're doing now but did say there are 2 factions working there and there is some antagonism between the groups. RSVP works with the other group, the Center for Community Action, so she isn't sure of the solidity of the RDC. I then talked with Barry Williams of RSVP who had gone to a conference sponsored by RDC. He had a problem figuring out exactly what this group is doing, what their focus is. The conference seemed to be more about spiritual unity than practical or strategic work. They did mention building political coalitions & talked about Native Americans & African Americans running for electoral offices & about political empowerment but didn't talk about how. RSVP suggested I talk with FOR/SE. I'll try but I'm not sure how much further I should go. More info later.

I then talked with Rose Milligan of Peace Development Fund. They've funded this group. She spoke well of them. They're working to empower people. Seem to be getting a lot of community support but people are very fearful of the KKK. Their strength has been that they're able to involve people, hold elected officials accountable, raise critical issues. Financially, not doing well, very little money from area. Could definitely use a grant.

14) Silkings - I first talked with Steve Newcom of the Headwaters Fund. He didn't know much. They'd gotten a proposal from this group but they only fund Twin Cities. He did say that it seemed a very interesting group. I then talked with Ginger Ehrman of the MN Peace & Justice Coalition. She knew just a little about this group. It joined the Coalition about a year ago. They work with low income women on violence & battered women issues. Ginger's impression from meeting some of the group was that they were a solid and serious group.

15) Refuse & Resist - I called Maxine Wolfe in NYC. She "totally hates them." RCP - totally homophobic. In 1984, RCP put out a diatribe on lesbian & gay men which hadn't changed from 1964. She's confronted them

personally but no changes at all. She did know that they had been part of a Repro Rights Coalition in NYC but doesn't know if they're still active. The Coalition isn't doing much now in any case. She can't see Resist funding anything RCP is involved with.

16) Alliance for Cultural Democracy - I talked with Rosemarie Straijer-Amador of Flor de Cana. She's a member of ACD, has gone to most of the annual conferences. She thinks this is a fantastic group/ fantastic resource for her progressive Latino music group. Projects great, great for making connections from multi-cultural to intergenerational. Doors open more easily to groups around the US through this organization. They're very good with Latino community connections. Workshops offered at conferences speak to Flor de Cana's concerns such as marketing for alternative groups and skills sharing. The sharing of research is invaluable. Membership tends to be connected to communities of social change, universities, student groups, community groups, people of color groups, including Latino. It would be very hard for Flor's work without this organization. As far as the magazine- excellent, great for ideas to use in their work, for news from around the country. It's been focusing on Quincentennial work around the US - Flor wants to be involved in this work & will be able to do this through the contacts of this group. The recent conference in Albuquerque was fantastic. Among other things, Flor established a contact in the Native American community in Florida and an event has been set up in FL for Flor de Cana. She highly recommends our funding ACD.

17) Maine Citizens/Bill of Rights - Jane Guise of AFSC/NE knows of this. she said that the contact person "is a maverick kind of guy but has done significant work in Maine." The group has had contact with several universities there, has developed funding from several universities. The issue, she feels, doesn't get enough attention. There's an ACLU conference in March which, in part, will deal with the same issue but is broader in focus. She doesn't know about any follow-up work in past done on conferences. She would say that this is part of a process - initial educational phase on issue/ this, so far, has not stimulated direct organizing because most groups don't feel that this issue is at the top of their agenda. It is valuable to open people's eyes about secrecy of US intelligence organization. CCR, IPA, NCARL, ACLU are some of few groups doing this type of work in an ongoing way across US.

18) Intentional Future - Dan Petegorsky knows of the paper they do. A while back he was approached about the idea of doing the paper, at the time he was skeptical about the feasibility of doing an alternative paper for the area. They have published 6 to 8 issues but he doesn't have a sense how widely distributed it is, to whom and to what effect. He felt the politics are good from the papers he's read/ Gulf stuff pretty fair. It's geared toward the activist community = resources, groups to get involved with. Fair minded in not picking sides in the movement. Groups mentioned in proposal are direct action environmental groups & mostly small ones. This group does deal with various issues and is a good group as far as he knows. His opinion of this particular project request - there is a need for technical assistance & training events. Those which have been done by different groups have been popular.

----Nancy Moniz, Resist staff

A call to **RESIST** illegitimate authority

38 Union Square, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

*MM copies*

*important + relevant points to emphasize*

*I*

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

A CALL TO RESIST ILLEGITIMATE AUTHORITY  
(Copy of 1st call, 4th December, 1967)

To the young men of America, to the whole of the American people, and to all men of good will everywhere:

1. An ever growing number of young American men are finding that the American war in Vietnam so outrages their deepest moral and religious sense that they cannot contribute to it in any way. We share their moral outrage.
2. We further believe that the war is unconstitutional and illegal. Congress has not declared a war as required by the constitution. Moreover, under the Constitution, treaties signed by the President and ratified by the Senate have the same force as the Constitution itself. The Charter of the United Nations is such a treaty. The Charter specifically obligates the United States to refrain from force or the threat of force in international relations. It requires member states to exhaust every peaceful means of settling disputes and to submit disputes which cannot be settled peacefully to the Security Council. The United States has systematically violated all of these Charter provisions for thirteen years.
3. Moreover, this war violates international agreements, treaties and principles of law which the United States Government has solemnly endorsed. The combat role of the United States troops in Vietnam violates the Geneva Accords of 1954 which our government pledged to support but has since subverted. The destruction of rice, crops and livestock; the burning and bulldozing of entire villages consisting exclusively of civilian structures; the internment of civilian non-combatants in concentration camps; the summary executions of civilians in captured villages who could not produce satisfactory evidence of their loyalties or did not wish to be removed to concentration camps; the slaughter of peasants who dared to stand up in their fields and shake their fists at American helicopters; -- these are all actions of the kind which the United States and the other victorious powers of World War II declared to be crimes against humanity for which individuals were to be held personally responsible even when acting under the orders of their governments and for which Germans were sentenced at Nuremberg to long prison terms and death. The prohibition of such acts as war crimes was incorporated in treaty law by the Geneva Conventions of 1949, ratified by the United States. These are commitments to other countries and to Mankind(sic), and they would claim our allegiance even if Congress should declare war.
4. We also believe it is an unconstitutional denial of religious liberty and equal protection of the laws to withhold draft exemptions from men whose religious or profound philosophical beliefs are opposed to what in the Western religious tradition have been long known as unjust wars.

5. Therefore, we believe on all these grounds that every free man(sic) has a legal right and a moral duty to exert every effort to end this war, to avoid collusion with it, and to encourage others to do the same. Young men in the armed forces or threatened with the draft face the most excruciating choices. For them various forms of resistance risk separation from their families and their country, destruction of their careers, loss of these freedoms and loss of their lives. Each must choose the course of resistance dictated by his conscience and circumstances. Among those already in the armed forces some are refusing to obey specific illegal and immoral orders, some are attempting to educate their fellow servicemen on the murderous and barbarous nature of the war, some are absenting themselves without official leave. Among those not in the armed forces some are applying for status as conscientious objectors to American aggression in Vietnam, some are refusing to be inducted. Among both groups some are resisting openly and paying a heavy penalty, some are organizing more resistance within the United States and some have sought sanctuary in other countries.

6. We believe that each of these forms of resistance against illegitimate authority is courageous and justified. Many of us believe that open resistance to the war and the draft is the course of action most likely to strengthen the moral resolve with which all of us can oppose the war and most likely to bring an end to the war.

7. We will continue to lend our support to those who undertake resistance to this war. We will raise funds to organize draft resistance unions, to supply legal defense and bail, to support families and other aid resistance to the war in whatever ways may seem appropriate.

8. We firmly believe that our statement is the sort of speech that under the First Amendment must be free, and that the actions we will undertake are as legal as is the war resistance of the young men themselves. But we recognize that the courts may find otherwise, and that if so we might all be liable to prosecution and severe punishment. In any case, we feel that we cannot shrink from fulfilling our responsibilities to the youth whom many of us teach, to the country whose freedom we cherish, and to the ancient traditions of religion and philosophy which we strive to preserve in this generation.

9. We call upon all men(sic) of good will to join us in this confrontation with immoral authority. Especially we call upon the universities to fulfill their mission of enlightenment and religious organizations to honor their heritage of brotherhood. Now is the time to resist.



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## A NEW CALL TO RESIST ILLEGITIMATE AUTHORITY

Opponents of the Vietnam War have worked to end it in many ways, some through conventional politics, some by supporting draft resistance or attacking university complicity in militarism. Others have carried resistance further, destroying draft files and developing opposition within the armed forces.

We believe that resistance to many forms of illegitimate authority is necessary to bring health to this country and make it a constructive force instead of a terror in the politics of nations.

Therefore, we support those who resist by

- refusing to register for the draft or submit to induction
- impeding the operations of draft boards and induction centers
- expressing anti-war views while in the armed forces, or refusing to obey illegal or immoral orders, or absenting themselves without leave
- conducting rent and workers' strikes, boycotts, and similar direct actions aimed at ending exploitation in the fields, in factories, in housing
- organizing against harassment by police, by the FBI, by the courts, and by Congress
- organizing sit-ins, strikes, and any principled actions at schools and universities, to end racist practices and direct complicity with militarism

SEPTEMBER  
1969

The Vietnam War has reminded us that major decisions can be made in the United States in cynical disregard of the clearly expressed will of the people and with little concern for those most affected, at home and abroad. The war has also illustrated the readiness of the U.S. to use violence to impose the social arrangements of its choice and to destroy those who attempt to achieve popular control over their affairs. Closely linked to the government, providing its top personnel and shaping its policies, are the centers of private power, the great corporations that control the economic life of the nation and, increasingly, of the world. They are governed not by popular will but by corporate interests as determined by a narrow autocratic elite. The government's resort to force to impose decisions of a ruling elite is one sign of failing democratic institutions and thus of the illegitimacy of the state. Both the use of police and the military and the absence of democratic control over major institutions underscore the illegitimacy of the authority that sets public policy in the U.S. and establishes the framework for social life. **But it is not enough to decry the exercise of illegitimate authority; if it is illegitimate, it must be resisted.**

Resistance to the war and the draft has brought peace groups into conflict with police, courts, and universities. This is not surprising, for the war has its roots deep in our society and to oppose it seriously is to attack a wide range of evils and the institutions that sponsor them. A brief review of five areas of illegitimate authority follows.

1. The war on Vietnam is neither a unique folly nor an error in judgment. Since the end of the last century, U.S. power has been used for economic, political and cultural exploitation of smaller and poorer nations. The "accelerated pacification," the most ferocious non-nuclear bombing in history, and

the deceitful maneuvering in Paris are recent manifestations of a global strategy aimed at building an integrated world system dominated by the U.S. Thus seen, Vietnam is one of a long series of interventions in the affairs of many nations: Greece, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Iran, Laos, Thailand, the Congo, the Philippines, and others. Motivated by a mixture of private interests and misplaced convictions, the Pax Americana continues to inflict suffering and subservience on much of the third world.

2. The Vietnam War has also brought the human and economic costs of the garrison state at home. It has allowed an insatiable military organization to claim over half of the federal budget, directly and indirectly. (A tenth is allocated to health, education, and welfare.) Beyond that, President Nixon has promoted the MIRV and the ABM, both bellicose gestures towards China and the Soviet Union as well as extravagant subsidies of aerospace industries. The Pentagon has insisted recently that military expenditures, even "after Vietnam," will remain at current levels, in order to "resupply and modernize" the armed forces. And in states and cities, a martial mood prevails as police and national guardsmen arm themselves with new weapons, gas the Berkeley campus from helicopters and, there and elsewhere, shoot at citizens, particularly the poor and the young. Dissidents in the army face heavy sentences; and for young men generally, the draft remains the prime symbol of social obligation. In brief, the violence of the state has come increasingly to threaten or control the lives of U.S. citizens.

3. This triumph of illegitimate force has continued to enrich the rich. Cost-plus defense and space contracts have guaranteed affluence to a handful of corporations and subsidized their

growth, while the real wages of workers, after inflation and spiraling taxes, have diminished. The non-unionized and the unemployed are, obviously, the worst victims: welfare programs, ill-conceived to begin with, have been cut back or left languishing, more an insult than an aid. Real welfare programs have been reserved for the wealthy: tax loopholes, the oil depletion allowance, airline subsidies, farm subsidies, highway projects, urban renewal, subsidies to elite universities, and so on. In the past government policy has characteristically preserved or increased the distance between rich and poor. The policy of permanent preparation for war is no exception.

4. Like wealth, control over institutions has been unequally distributed and irresponsibly used. The mistreatment by police of the people they supposedly serve has been only the most blatant example. Schools have failed to educate the children of poor and working class families, thus guaranteeing their impotence in a technological society: in most inner cities, fewer than half the students who enter high school graduate; in New York City, where blacks and Puerto Ricans make up about half of the student population, only a fifth of the graduates of academic (i.e., college-oriented) high schools are black or Puerto Rican — and only a fifth of those graduates go on to college. Yet attempts by parents to improve the schools through community control have been fought bitterly by New York's educational bureaucracy. Or to take a rather different instance, heavily subsidized highways have displaced families and foreclosed possibilities for mass transport systems that might serve all — hardly a surprise, given the dependence of the nation's largest corporations on the automobile. Industrial wastes, oil leakages, and municipal sewage rob citizens of beaches and streams and, with the fouling of the atmosphere, literally threaten the

continuation of life. In short, most people have little control over the conditions of their work, their education, their protection, their means of transport — indeed, the air they breathe and the water they drink.

5. The most powerless have been people of color. U.S. history has included the systematic conquest and slaughter of American Indians, the enslavement, degradation, and murder of Afro-Americans, the callous exploitation of Chicanos, the detention and robbery of Japanese-Americans, and the use of atomic weapons, napalm, gas, and crop-destroying chemicals against people of the third world. Consequently, U.S. citizens inherit a nation in which white privilege and white power are part of the "natural" order and structure of society. People of color die at a disproportionate rate in warfare or "peace." They are unemployed disproportionately, receive inferior education disproportionately, are humiliated disproportionately. Despite the recent recognition of some mystical, undefined "racism" by official government commissions, the living conditions of non-whites have remained intolerable. Every effort by non-whites to gain power, even in their own communities, has been met by violent opposition; militant blacks, determined to bring about the promised changes, are harassed, jailed, killed, or forced into exile. In many ghettos, there is virtual war between blacks and predominantly white police.

Two years ago, the first Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority focused on the war and the draft. **But we cannot oppose the war without opposing the institutions that support and maintain it.** Imperialism, militarism, economic exploitation, undemocratic power, racism: though the words may seem stale, they describe the exercise of illegitimate authority in the United States today. Again, we call upon all to join us in the struggle against illegitimate authority. **Now is the time to resist.**

*In reversing the convictions of the Boston Four, the First Circuit Court of Appeals left open the possibility that signing the original Call to Resist or this New Call could, in conjunction with other acts, be viewed as illegal. We believe it is the government's actions, not ours, which are illegal. However, signers and contributors should be aware that their actions might be found illegal.*

send to: RESIST/Room 4/763 Mass. Ave./Cambridge, Mass. 01239

- Add my name to the list of signers of the "New Call"; you may make my endorsement public.
- I enclose a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support the work of RESIST. (Please make checks payable to RESIST.)
- I pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly to support the work of RESIST.
- I am interested in organizing or joining a group in my community.

Please Print

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 address \_\_\_\_\_  
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# BANK OF AMERIKA

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PAY TO THE ORDER OF

CHARLES R. SMITH  
MARY D. SMITH  
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MILDALE CALIF. 90054



19

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## Complicity Statement--Draft

More than half a million young men have declined to register with the Selective Service System. One hundred sixty, who refused openly, have received letters threatening prosecution. Three have already been indicted.

WE SUPPORT THE ACTIONS OF ALL THESE MEN.  
WE DECLARE OUR COMPLICITY IN THEIR REFUSAL.  
WE WISH TO JOIN IN THE RISK THEY TAKE.

Who can believe that there will be mandatory registration ~~and~~ <sup>but</sup> no draft, for the first time in U.S. history? Bills to restore the draft have been introduced in both houses of Congress, and we hear many voices proclaiming that the so-called volunteer army is inadequate to our defense needs. Even as it carries forward the biggest weapons build-up ever, the government is preparing people for this further militarization of U.S. society. We must resist it now.

In opposing registration and a draft, however, we do not imply support of the military status quo. The "volunteer" army is a hoax. Twenty percent unemployment among teenagers, part of the severe and worsening inequality in our society, makes the idea of voluntary service a mockery. We call for a sharp reduction of the armed forces, of arms spending, and of all the government's policies which distort and regiment our society. We see in these policies no conceivable "defense" of a decent life, but only a cementing of illegitimate power, a heightening of inequality, an increasing danger of nuclear war, and a guarantee of bloody military intervention wherever popular resistance threatens the interests of U.S. corporations and the rule of "friendly" dictators and juntas.

Non-registration is an important mode of resistance to these policies, dramatizing the way the needs of the powerful cancel the rights of those with least power. But it is not a privileged form of resistance: we call for, and support, every principled action against the military, and against the ruthless grab for corporate and governmental power.

Fifteen years ago, RESIST put out the first "Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority." The mass movement of which that call was a part won some victories: most notably, it set limits to the use of arbitrary power, and established our willingness and ability to say no. We urgently need to reassert that ability now.

Here is our NO to registration, NO to the draft, NO to military power. Here is our solidarity with those who resist.

October 25, 1982

Dear Dick:

I'm writing as I promised about the New Call. Since you never saw the minutes from the August board meeting I am typing them up verbatim below and then I'll tell you what we came up with at the October meeting.

The New Call (from August minutes)

We discussed the first draft of the New Call which Dick Ohmann wrote. We felt that it succeeded in covering a lot of ground, and that it met the main requirements of being both short and substantive, and a complicity and a political statement. Specific criticisms were : in talking about the All Volunteer Army it should deal with the racism of the status quo; it should address the connections between draft resistance and other kinds of resistance (the resistance of everyday life?) in a more substantive way; it should be snappier and more poetic. Louis pointed out that the first Call took a year and a half to write, so we all felt relieved. The plans for this are as follows: 1) locate a copy of the first call to provide some political and stylistic continuity; 2) pass on our suggestions to Dick directly; 3) ask all of you to write your own drafts or make changes/comments/suggestions on the enclosed draft and send it directly to Dick. We really need the involvement of as many of you as possible if we are to produce a good statement.

As of the October meeting we decided to ask Hans Koning (per his suggestion in his letter to you ) to write a second draft. The question is, do you want to correspond with Hans directly or should I write to him from here? Where do you want to go with this? If you would like to rewrite your first draft considering the above criticisms that would be a good possibility too. Let me know what you think.

Thanks for your work on this.

Best from here,

# RESIST

## a call to resist illegitimate authority

August, 1976 - 720 Massachusetts Avenue, Room 4, Cambridge, Massachusetts #106

What follows is a draft of the new version of RESIST's Call to resist illegitimate authority. It is an attempt to define the political perspective which guides our allocation of grants. This draft emerged from long discussions held by RESIST people. We need responses-many of them- if this Call is to have any political significance. How do people feel about the content? And how should we use it? Should we publish it for an audience wider than the present RESIST constituency? Should we encourage people to publicly sign it as they did the original Call? Or should it be used strictly for internal political discussion? Please let us hear from you!

III?

Resist was formed in 1967 to oppose the Indochina war and the draft. The first Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority focussed on the issues of imperialism abroad and repression at home. Resist concentrated much of its energy on college and university campuses, which were an important source of the resistance movement at that time.

The war was not, however, a basic cause of the sickness of the United States: it was just its most obvious symptom, one that followed from a system built on imperialism, repression, and exploitation, one in which the victims of racism and sexism suffered the most cruelly. Resist then issued a revised Call in 1971, increasing its support for groups not only working to end the war but also for those working against many other forms of illegitimate authority.

We believe that now the major thrust of resistance to illegitimate authority must be to build toward socialism in the United States because the essential source of illegitimate authority in the United States today is capitalism. Successful opposition to capitalism must be rooted in the rich traditions and broad interests of working-class people, for socialism is essentially an expression of those traditions and interests.

But what, concretely, does it mean "to build toward socialism"? And just how are the methods of direct resistance to illegitimate authority to be brought to bear in this effort? Our work to support movements for change over the past nine years has led us to believe that we must shape our actions and our policies in light of the following points:

1. Attacking the roots of illegitimate authority must mean ending the system of private ownership and private profit.

Ending private ownership of steel mills and oil resources does not - history has made obvious - guarantee an end to the exercise of illegitimate authority. But we believe that in the United States today, the private ownership of the means of production and of distribution stands

as the main bar to real progress toward a healthy, egalitarian society.

The private profit system determines why the children of the poor are destined to remain poor; why so many people have no work and so few have work that they value and wish to do; why subways rust as the air fills up with fumes. This obsession with private profit determines that each person in the United States shall be forced to contribute over \$500 every year to making or preparing for war, while paying even more for wars past. For the price of just one B-1 bomber nine community colleges, each serving 10,000 students, could operate for a year. For the cost of the whole fleet, housing could be built for six million people.

To change any, much less all, of these realities in our lives means changing the central and overwhelming fact of American life today: the dominance of corporate capitalism. We do not intend this as any new insight; our intention is simply to write large what must be the fundamental goal of us all.

2. From its beginning Resist has strongly supported groups struggling for power and control in communities, institutions, workplaces, as well as in Southeast Asia and elsewhere in the world. The vision of socialist institutions we hold demands that people be able to participate fully in the decisions affecting them. Substituting another hierarchical structure such as state capitalism for private capitalism does not make for meaningful change.

Socialism, then, does not imply for us simply the nationalization of major enterprises, the substitution of the State for the Board. It is, rather, the development of different goals for and means of production and distribution. For workers need to make the decisions that establish critical matters like how much is produced, what is produced, for whose use and benefit. In their fullest sense, power and control mean the elimination of the masters who stand over the workers: those who do the work must be its masters. We agree with the slogan of the Shanghai dock workers: "Be the masters of the dock, not the slaves of the tonnage."  
(Continued next page)

3. The ideas and institutions of national chauvinism, white supremacy, and patriarchy are among the most obvious and ancient manifestations of illegitimate authority that affect us all. In a sense, as all whites gain in some measure from white supremacy, so all males gain in some measure from patriarchy and all of its citizens gain in some measure from U. S. chauvinism. These facts are not the occasion for expressions of guilt but for recognizing that racism and sexism and national chauvinism will persist as long as some groups in a society continue to gain advantage through them. A strategy for liberation must therefore be directed towards changing the institutions which sustain and apologize such privilege - institutions like schools, courts, real estate and banking industries, employment agencies, the media, the institutions of culture.

While any fundamental change in the society entails radical alteration of the economic system, that change will not come about - nor will racism, sexism, and national chauvinism be eliminated - without building a culture of equity and solidarity. Such a culture will encourage and support the distinctive values, aspirations, and achievements of all people, and it will help us to learn how to work together against our common oppressors.

In significant ways, therefore, the struggle against racism, sexism, and national chauvinism must be directed not only toward the oppressive institutions and attitudes of this society, but also toward the organizations and consciousness created by movements for change. This is, we believe, a healthy, a necessary process, one that will continue to be necessary after a socialist reconstruction of society.



4. We live in a period of great stress for capitalism and because we do, we can expect a period of more or less intense conflict and misery here in the United States, with continued high levels of unemployment; efforts to push more and more work onto ever fewer workers - whether in the mine or in the classroom; the wiping out of steps toward equal employment and pay made by minorities and women; higher prices for the things ordinary people need and use; deteriorating hospitals, decaying parks, dilapidated schools; the undermining of human services in the central cities; and the proliferation of government agencies and actions designed to produce cynicism, hopelessness, and division among people who might otherwise attack the private profit system. We see no reason to think that in the stormy period ahead the repressive activities of the vast intelligence and police network, so recently exposed, will not continue and indeed become more subtle and pervasive. Behind a major crisis for capitalism there always lies the danger of fascism.

But such a period presents opportunities for those of us working for change. The defeat of imperialism in Southeast Asia not only helped produce the conditions requiring capital to reorganize, but it also provided an inspiration to people everywhere to oppose imperialism. The problems of the domestic economy cannot now so easily be solved by widening foreign markets and it has become increasingly difficult to ease the burden on American workers by degrading workers overseas. Slowly, the control that U.S. corporate interests have exercised over economies and governments in the "third world" and in Europe is challenged and erodes - from Laos to Angola to Italy. The American empire continues, of course; but one meaning of the \$114 billion budget and of the greatly increased sale of U.S. arms to repressive regimes abroad is that it becomes everyday more difficult to hold. For the interests of the majority of Americans and of billions of poor and oppressed people overseas are rapidly converging in one demand: an end to American imperialism.

Whether we wish it or not, we and our children face a future of struggle. We should welcome it and prepare ourselves for it. Every institution in this society - the factories, schools, fields, media, the unions, churches, the neighborhoods and communities that we live in - all are arenas for that struggle. In them, the ideas and aspirations of socialism will contest the illegitimate authority of a decaying capitalism. Resist intends, so far as it can, to support these institutional struggles and to urge people to carry them out in the light of the points enumerated in this Call. The support of sustained organizing efforts in workplaces and communities has always had the highest priority for us. These efforts can now be strengthened, we believe, by the explicit advocacy of socialism as we have talked of it here.

(Continued next page)

propaganda?

# J O B S

Further we will continue to support direct actions which attack or expose the impositions of illegitimate authority - like boycotts against spiraling mass transit fares; sit-ins against shortened school days, the closing of daycare centers, and tuition hikes; strikes for both decent working conditions and better patient care; tax withholdings to dramatize the voraciousness of military budgets; traffic disruptions to insist that business cannot continue as usual while peoples' lives and futures are being destroyed or denied. Such actions have all occurred within the year. And we need more actions of this sort in order for the movement to be visible, to teach, to learn from practice, and to show how vulnerable the enemy really is. Just as we have supported resistance to the draft, to the military, to repressive grand juries and to the prisons, as we have supported raids on FBI files and on the Dow Chemical Company computer, Resist will continue to support the creative disruption of the institutions of capitalism.

Clergy and Laity Concerned  
235 E. 49th St. New York, N.Y. 10017

CALC is an action oriented, national interfaith network of people working on peace and social justice issues. CALC seeks to empower Americans to become "reflective and responsible sovereigns over the use of American power and resources". Their primary focus is on U.S. domestic and foreign policies, with special emphasis on the way in which those policies affect the lives of people at home and in the third world. There are two full time staff openings which are available immediately for a Newsletter Editor / Membership coordinator, and a Hunger Program Coordinator.

The NEWSLETTER EDITOR/ MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR would work on production of their monthly 16 page newsletter, CALC Report, which serves as a program update a resource directory of CALC's members, chapters and supporters. They would also be coordinating and developing CALC's membership program, which involves list maintenance, monthly renewals, outreach and development.

The HUNGER PROGRAM COORDINATOR would develop and coordinate CALC's agribusiness campaign, which was specified as the focus of the developing campaign for the world hunger program at the CALC national network conference in June 1976. CALC's hunger program "seeks to bring to the religious community an understanding of the political and economic factors which contribute to the perpetuation of hunger and poverty, and an action program which can change these factors".

Insofar as it is possible, the national CALC office strives toward collective decision-making and responsibility sharing. The hours are long, the pay is subsistence (according to need), but the reward of working with a network of socially concerned activists is great.

SEND RESUME AND INQUIRES to Rick Boardman.



## Thank you!

In the newsletter before this one, we informed people that the summer slowdown in contributions had kept us from funding a number of groups who needed money badly. We asked for special contributions. The response has been generous and heartening. As a result we shall be able to fund a substantial number of groups at our August meeting.

Please keep the contributions coming. Better yet, if you're not already a pledge, become one. Many thanks!

The Alternative School  
3950 Rainbow Blvd. Kansas City, Kansas 66103

The alternative School serves 20-30 junior and senior high age youth who have dropped out of, been suspended from, or who have chronic truancy problems at the public school. They are working to create a supportive, non-threatening educational environment emphasizing the mastery of basic skills essential for self directed learning, and provide courses directed towards student interests. They are looking for a full time Math Instructor and Counselor. Both positions are open in late August 1976, and salaries are around 5000, and negotiated according to need.

Interested people should contact Arlene Harnon.

July August 1970

## A Statement by *Resist* on Registration and the Draft

Ten years ago and more, resistance to the draft formed a vital part of a broad movement to turn the U.S. away from being a terror among nations. Many of us were among those who then supported young men resisting the draft—or ourselves were draft resisters. We helped organize the “Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority”, draft card turn-ins at the Justice Department and at selective service offices, networks to provide counselling and to support resistance. In the years between we have continued to support hundreds of efforts to achieve fundamental social change in the United States, and genuine human rights and equal opportunity around the world.

Then the U.S. government was engaged in an illegal, immoral, and ultimately futile war on Vietnam. Today, in a new decade, much has changed. But one thing remains absolutely clear: *the power to conscript IS the power to make war.*

Whether one talks of the U.S. invasion of Cambodia or the Chinese invasion of Vietnam, intervention in Afghanistan or in the Dominican Republic, or myriad other examples one could cite, history makes clear that, whatever the system of government, providing an army is encouraging its use. Many of us who are not pacifists can conceive circumstances, as during World War II, when a war seemed necessary; but we understand the particular dangers conscription presents, especially to a democracy. Indeed, it is likely that when a government cannot persuade the people that a war is worth fighting, it isn't.

In the United States (about which, as American citizens, we must primarily speak), peacetime conscription has invariably contributed to heightening social conflict and undermining democratic processes at home and to encouraging military adventures abroad. The reasons are not hard to find. To justify the anti-democratic practice of conscription, policy-makers have had to exaggerate fears of a real or potential enemy; they have had to try silencing domestic opposition by characterizing it as duplicitous or disloyal. They have invented specious rationalizations for taking over the lives of youth—like the assertion that two or three years of control by a rigid military bureaucracy is “good for” young people.

And once control over a conscript military was achieved, an executive could proceed to use it essentially free from Congressional or, for long periods of time, even popular opposition.

We see such a process beginning today. President Carter, wildly exaggerating the reprehensible Soviet invasion of Afghanistan as the “greatest crisis since World War II,” proposes reinstating conscription as one response. In turn, he links renewed draft registration (which is only a first step to conscription) to a new Carter Doctrine, describing the vast expanse of the Middle East as an American preserve and threatening to send American troops to counter any interference with what he defines as U.S. interests in the area. And predictably, certain of his advisers are already questioning the patriotism of those who oppose such militarization of U.S. policy.

Many Americans, frustrated by Iranian seizure of U.S. hostages, angry over obscene oil company profits, and fearful about losing fuel needed to heat their homes and run their cars, may well be inclined to sign the blank war check a renewed draft represents. Such a response is encouraged by those who say we must now “overcome the trauma of Vietnam” and reassert American military power in the world—as if we could simply turn the clock back to the days of Dwight Eisenhower, or perhaps Teddy Roosevelt, pretend that the world has itself not changed, and that sabre rattling and gunboat diplomacy will actually solve the problems that trouble us all.

The following principles seem to us clear and compelling:

—American military power should not be used to shore up hated dictatorships in client states; people around the world have come to see that they have as much right to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” as we, and they will oppose the U.S. so long as we stand in the way of such goals.

—Given the resources of a registered population, an American President will be tempted to pursue foreign military adventures.

—Excessive concentration of resources and energy on overseas adventures immediately diverts attention and money from the achievement of equality and stability at home, whether one is talking about ending inflation, providing opportunities for equal education and jobs for *all* Americans, or so changing the economy that young people, especially from poor and working class families, are no longer forced into the military as the only alternative to permanent unemployment.



We are committed to acting on these principles. We will work against the renewal of draft registration and the conscription which would inevitably follow. But should peacetime conscription be reestablished, we will renew our Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority, once again supporting young men and women who refuse conscription. We will help in reestablishing anti-draft groups and centers. We will encourage efforts to disrupt whatever "selective" service mechanisms may be set up. In short, we will aid and abet direct and unequivocal resistance to registration, conscription, the militarization of American society, and the waste of a new generation of American youth.

We hope that such actions will not be needed, and that the social disruption an effort to reinstitute the draft will inevitably produce will be prevented—by dropping the idea. But if the administration presses forward with its plans to conscript the youth of America, we will not blink at the consequences of an absolute opposition to that effort.

STATEMENT SUPPORTERS

- |                     |                         |                       |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Elaine Allen M.D.   | Paul Faler              | Scott Laughton        | Grace Paley             |
| Benedict Alper      | Michael K. Ferber       | Paul Lauter           | Lisa Peattie            |
| Ethel Alper         | W. H. Ferry             | Dick Lavine           | Barbara Perkins         |
| Warren Ambrose      | Gregory H. Finger       | Brenda Lazin          | John H. Perkins         |
| Pamela J. Annas     | Martin Fleisher         | Harold Levine         | Barry Phillips          |
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| Paul Avrich         | Kathleen Gilberd        | Jane Malone           | Robert F. Roberts       |
| Samuel L. Baker     | Sherna B. Gluck         | Dorothy Martin        | Robert Rosen            |
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| Carl Barus          | James R. Green          | Rosa M. Martinez      | Freda Salzman           |
| Philip L. Bereano   | David F. Greenberg      | Helen McCormick       | George Salzman          |
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| John Brattin        | Thomas W. Harris, Jr.   | Gloria J. Miller      | Herbert Semmel          |
| Frank Brodhead      | Franklin J. Hart        | Steven C. Miller      | Evelyn Rosskamm Shalom  |
| Gary Brown          | Hilde Hein              | Nancy Mitigny         | Stephen Rosskamm Shalom |
| Frieda J. Burke     | Nancy M. Henley         | Stanley Monroe        | Chula Sims              |
| Jim Campen          | Frank Hoffman           | Vicki Monroe          | Andrew E. Sledd         |
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| Jean S. Cherevas    | J. E. Humphreys         | Robert O. Morris, II  | Norton Starr            |
| William B. Cherevas | Ray Jackendoff          | Rosemary C. Morris    | Daniel Stern            |
| Noam Chomsky        | Vicki Dello Joio        | William C. Morris     | Judy Strassner          |
| Jean Christie       | Donald Kalish           | William C. Morris, II | Davis Taylor            |
| Amanda Claiborne    | Louis Kampf             | Elizabeth Murray      | Huntington Terrell      |
| Rev. James Counahan | Byron J. Koekkoek       | Barbara L. Myers      | George Vickers          |
| Constance G. Cutter | Herbert Kohl            | Janet N. Neuman       | Paul Julius Von Ende    |
| William C. Davidson | Judith Kohl             | Bob Nichols           | Prof. George Wald       |
| John Demeter        | Ellen Kolegar           | Jim O'Brien           | Thomas Wasow            |
| Margery Davies      | James H. Koplin         | Wayne O'Neil          | Hugh Wattles            |
| Thelma C. DuVinage  | Burton Lane             | Carlos Otero          | Thomas E. Weisskopf     |
| Phyllis Ewen        | Lynn Lane               | Michelle C. Otto      | Howard Zinn             |

*Resist asks your help in publicizing this statement and supporting the growing anti-draft, anti-war movement. If you would like to add your name to this statement, please fill out the coupon below and mail it to Resist, 38 Union Square, Somerville, MA 02143.*

-----  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Resist may use my name in publicizing this statement.

# RESIST

July-August, 1980 — 38 Union Square, Somerville, Mass. 02143 — Newsletter #133

*a call to resist illegitimate authority*

*report @ date*

## A TIME TO RESIST

The renewal of draft registration is a clear indication that the United States government is gearing up its military machine. This preliminary step toward mobilizing a fighting force could bring back the draft as early as this November.

In response to the government's war obsession, a national anti-draft campaign has been sparked into action. The anti-draft movement has also revived the work for which Resist was originally founded. Resist was established in 1967 to oppose the war in Vietnam and the draft. Since its inception, Resist has focussed on the issues of imperialism abroad and repression at home. The issues remain the same; the need for resistance is even stronger. Now that anti-draft organizations are appearing all over the country, Resist is anxious to respond to their widespread efforts. Several of these groups have appealed to us already. Community organizations have committed themselves to local educational projects, and joined in city-wide actions. Many individuals and groups have become involved in counseling. Parents and veterans are forming their own organizations and their numbers are growing.

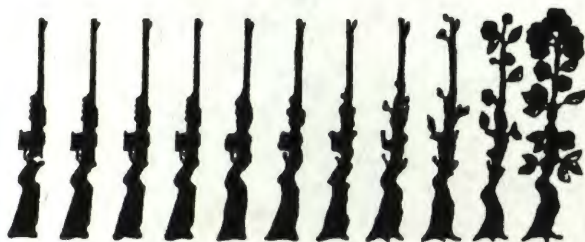
We are calling on you to continue your support of Resist and to help strengthen the anti-draft movement. We not only need to encourage young people to make a choice about military servitude; we must also put a stop to Carter's war hysteria and defeat militarism. The threat of nuclear destruction makes our response more urgent than ever before. If you have not sent a contribution this year, we encourage you to do it now. Or support Resist by becoming a monthly pledge, support that we can count on so that anti-war organizations can continue to count on us. We need your help.

## What Next for the Anti-Draft Movement?

It was Saturday morning, and in Cambridge the anti-draft movement felt they had won. In a demonstration capping two weeks of intensive picketing, sitting-in, and leafletting at post offices—the site picked by the government in an attempt to give a non-military appearance to draft registration—the demonstrators had succeeded in completely blocking access to the Cambridge post office. When local police refused to interfere, federal officials were forced to concede the struggle by locking the post office themselves. Meanwhile, demonstrators did a brisk business selling stamps; and after the final moments of the official draft registration period were counted down, a victory parade marched through Harvard Square.

It will be several weeks before it is possible to measure the success or failure of the government's draft registration measures, but preliminary indications are that the government did not come close to its announced goal of 98% registration. In Greater Boston, for example, only 32,600, or 65% of the approximately 50,000 19- and 20-year old men in the area registered. Preliminary reports from other cities indicate a similar trend: Atlanta, 56%; Chicago, 68%; Seattle, 66%; and Phoenix, 80%. Of the four million men required to register for the draft, perhaps a million did not.

The government's plan to bring back draft registration, and eventually the draft, now confronts some difficulties; and what started as a move intended to signal U.S. resolve to the Soviet Union in the aftermath of the invasion of Afghanistan has instead become an effective rallying point for the anti-war forces in this country. For example, nearly a million young men are now in violation of the draft registration law. Except for those resisters who publicly announced their intention to refuse to register, none of these quiet refusers can be prosecuted until November, for that is the earliest that the time-consuming process of computerizing the registration records and mailing receipts to registrants can be completed. Moreover, the government faces the strong possibility that the full Supreme Court will uphold the Philadelphia court's finding that the Selective Service law is itself unconstitutional because it excludes women from its scope. Though the Court is expected to hear arguments on this issue in the fall, it is likely to be sev-



(continued on page 2)

# RESIST

February-March 1982 — 38 Union Square, Somerville, Mass, 02143 — Newsletter #146

*a call to resist illegitimate authority*

## WHAT KIND OF PEACE MOVEMENT?

Since its beginnings in 1967, Resist has been primarily an anti-war organization. And our funding has reflected this: in 1981, for example, 38 out of 72 grants went to peace or anti-draft organizations.

Yet we have always been conscious of the need to give strong support to organizations working in other areas: civil liberties, social justice, labor, feminism, and anti-racism. This reflects the view that not only are such movements important in themselves, but that our efforts to build the peace movement can not be successful unless we are also successful in creating a broad movement against "illegitimate authority" in all aspects of life.

The growing danger of war, and the consequent annihilation of our civilization raises the question of whether it is wise to continue to spread our resources across much of the spectrum of our movement's work, rather than to concentrate our energy and funds on anti-war work alone. It certainly can be argued, and is being argued, that the issue of survival is fundamental, and that all of our political hopes will be ended if the arms race is not brought quickly into check. Shouldn't we concentrate our forces, creating the largest possible coalition for nuclear disarmament? Aren't other issues diversions, or sources of disunity that should be temporarily put on the shelf until survival is assured?

These questions do not allow for a simple answer, and yet Resist must address them in a practical way each time we decide how to allocate our grant money. Our present understanding is that the peace movement has no choice but to see itself as part of a broad progressive movement if it is to achieve its goals. The sources of violence and potential nuclear destruction are deep, and do not depend on a particular set of leaders who occupy positions of power. For peace to be assured we must make substantial progress in limiting the concentration of power in the hands of the rich, in dismantling hierarchies of domination and exploitation, and in combating ideologies of inequality, white supremacy, and anti-feminism. Failing to address these issues will tend to limit anti-war activity to those for whom they are of little importance, and prevent us from becoming a majority in this country.

## THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT

FRANK BRODHEAD

The organizers of the demonstrations scheduled next June to coincide with the UN Special Session on Disarmament recently made an important decision. Faced with proposals to include issues of US intervention prominently in the demonstrations, the organizers voted these proposals down. The focus of the demonstrations will continue to be on the danger of the nuclear arms race and the enormous drain on human resources it causes.

While these are obviously important — life and death — issues, the decision raises some important questions. First, can the issues really be separated? What is the linkage in the real world between nuclear war and conventional war, whether intervention into Third World conflicts or a "conventional" war between nuclear powers? And second, does this emphasis on nuclear weapons alone really help build, and not divide, the peace movement? For it is argued that a focus on nuclear weapons is not only appropriate because of their danger, but that including other issues such as US intervention would be divisive within the consensus that is emerging about the threat of nuclear war. And hanging over this discussion is the dramatic growth of the peace movement in Europe, where a single focus — no nuclear weapons, East or West — has organized massive demonstrations against war. Wouldn't a similar focus create a mass movement here as well?

In the first place, this is not Europe, and it makes no sense whatsoever to derive the goals of the US peace movement from the experience of the peace movement in Britain or the Netherlands. We live in the heartland of not only *the* nuclear weapons power, but *the* imperial gendarme as well. It is *our* nation that has inflicted so much suffering on countries of the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and now Central America, and we have a moral obligation to do what we can to stop it. It is all very well to be mobilized for peace when *our* cities are threatened with destruction, and ourselves and our friends threatened with instant or lingering death. But death and destruction are no less real when they are inflicted by our armies or those of our surrogates on the

(continued on page 2)

# SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE

Women's History Program  
Extension 405

December 7, 1990

Dear Nancy and friends:

This may seem shortsighted, and probably is, but I suggest that at the next meeting priority in funding be given to groups organizing against US military intervention in the middle east. I anticipate that we will be getting more requests from new ad hoc groups. Let's give them as much as we can.

Sorry I can't be at the meeting.

Best,

*Amey*



St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's City, Maryland 20686

12/9/90

MEMORANDUM

Dear Nancy M. W.:

Enclosed is the draft of a New Call for Sunday's meeting; sorry it's tardy.

Only after reviewing it several times would I come to appreciate fully the wisdom of NOT having the author of a document present when it is collectively vetted.

For whatever it is worth in your deliberations, I was guided by the following principles in composing the draft:

- 1) To follow as closely as possible the letter & the spirit of earlier calls.
- 2) The need to introduce at least briefly more recent issues & events that demand resistance.
- 3) The need to keep a central focus on foreign policy, without altogether neglecting domestic issues.

4) The importance of conveying militance without becoming strident, in order to obtain broader bases of support (a difficult balance to achieve).

5) Brevity is a virtue.

If you have any questions now, or if anyone has any questions on Sunday, please call; I should be at home (301/863-5409).

Best wishes for the deliberations, I'll look forward to learning the results (→ re-writing the draft, if that is what you'd all like me to do).

Warmly,  
Hank

MM copy

Dec 19

Dear Nancy and others,

I am unhappy with the draft Call you sent me.

I am unhappy with the content and with the semantics.

Our original call was precisely in tune with the feelings of the thinking, progressive or left, minority of the country, at a time when the lies about what was happening in Vietnam were choking us, and we felt a sense of outrage difficult to translate into civilized language.

Clearly, the powers that be have not changed their morality or their greed or their ruthlessness. But that does not mean that it is proper or even correct to draw unending comparisons with situations that do not compare. We have had that for years and years when people told us that "Munich" showed you should not "appease" an opponent, by drawing false parallels between Hitler and the USSR.

The list of US foreign policy crimes is as long as Hank says, but that does not mean that the Gulf is necessarily simply one more item on the list. I am a political historian and I think it is not. I have no illusion, obviously, about the real motives of various participants, but that is not relevant. As of now, the action has -- for the first time in 45 years' existence -- given life to the legal-military brief of the United Nations. This is -- as of now -- very important indeed.

Hank's analysis is no analysis, it is simply a listing of evil deeds, too liberally sprinkled with strident and superfluous and redundant adjectives.

I feel it would do very great harm to our cause.

Our evaluation of the dangers should be very much more thoughtful; it should show that our moral origins precisely give us the necessary capacity, and credibility, for doing so.

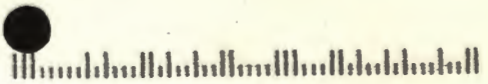
We can point out the slippery slope to which any military action must unavoidably lead, and how it could doom the brief breathing space we had this past few months. We must avoid adjectives which were understatement during our destruction of Vietnam but which are now out of place. Hussein is not Ho.

*Yours in struggle,  
Hans Koning* ★

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## In the Spirit of '67: Reaffirming The Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority

The occupation of Saudi-Kuwait borders by American troops is only the most contemporary exemplification of U.S. foreign policies developed a century ago, policies that have consistently rejected diplomacy in favor of the arrogant exercise of raw economic and military power. From the jingoistic Spanish-American War to the invasion of Panama, unjust and immoral foreign policy decisions have been made by successive U.S. governments, usually in cynical disregard of the wishes of the majority of Americans, and often in flagrant violation of international law.

Almost without exception, the legacies of U.S. foreign policies have been monstrous: economic and political exploitation of poorer peoples; cultural subjugation; the regular subversion of governments of other sovereign nations; large-scale degradation of many natural habitats; and death -- human slaughter in the millions, including many Americans who had no part in formulating those policies.

In 1967, when the U.S. juggernaut was destroying Vietnam and much of the rest of Southeast Asia -- and rending the American social fabric as well -- RESIST was formed to actively support the brave young people who refused to participate in that destruction. Two years later the original Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority was modified to include active resistance not only to the war and the draft, but to the many oppressive U.S. institutions which give rise to illegitimate authority: imperialism, militarism, sexism, racism.

So long as these foreign policies continue, and so long as these oppressive institutions exist, so long must active resistance be broadened and deepened. The agonies visited on Central American peoples in the recent past suggest strongly that unless policies are changed, similar agonies for Middle Eastern peoples -- and again, for many Americans -- are sure to follow. Moreover, the changes that have been taking place in Central Europe and the Soviet Union have removed the last shreds of plausibility for U.S. militaristic propaganda, making even more clear the basic thrust of the original Call, and the need for all people seeking peace and justice to reaffirm it now:

We believe resistance to many forms of illegitimate authority is necessary to bring health to this country and make it a constructive force instead of a terror in the politics of nations.

Join us. RESIST.



January 31, 1991

REFERENCES for February 3, 1991 Resist Board meeting

1) Sovereignty Network - Ray Santiago of the Funding Exchange (which has funded this group) spoke highly of them. It's the resource group for Native Alaskan organizations, they provide most of the technical assistance, resource & networking. They're well respected and have a good staff. They lend assistance in starting projects, develop leadership on many Native Alaskan issues such as land issues. Highly recommended.

2) MN Peace & Justice Network - I talked with Dan Petegorsky of the Pacific Peace Fund. He said they're "great." Probably the biggest, longest standing multi-issue organization around. Really do the work. Have good programs, newsletter; they've been doing a lot on the Middle East in the past few years. Real energetic, bring in lots of groups, do demos, events. Good decision making process, great staff, excellent range of issues. They've also don a lot on Native American issues. They go a lot of folks from MN to spear fishing lakes/have good working relationships with Native American groups. They've made a real impact. This is a solid organization; Dan likes them a lot.

3) AMALGM - Stephanie Poggi thinks they're "a really good group." Over the past few years there seems to be new energy & growth. They've had good events, very multi-cultural. Willing to look a many different issues. People in the group are also involved in other issues. The people in the group who she knows have good politics. Group endorses other groups' projects. They had a speaker at an R2N2 demo against Cardinal Law. Worked on March to DC. Wrote an article for GCN's Class supplement. Recommends.

4) WeWah & BarCheeAmpe - I talked with Charlie Fernandez of the Out Fund of the Funding Exchange. He said that this group doesn't have the most developed/radical politics yet but he takes a flexible approach with new groups/constituencies like this one. The issue is very important in itself and he's willing to give them some leeway. The group is involved with people of color coalition in the city/ there has been some concern about how they work in coalitions but people have say to give them a little time to develop wider awareness of issues. They're not a "showcase group for radical analysis but, on the other hand I'd take a chance on them & see how they develop." He'd like to see them nurtured.

5) LA Coalition Against Intervention - Louis suggested I talk with Emily Abel in LA. She didn't know much but thought they were the umbrella group for anti-war word in LA. She feels they are just fine but doesn't know for sure. Feels this would be for Resist. I then talked with Michelle Pritchard of the Liberty Hill Fund. They're funding them this cycle. She said that this has been the main force in pulling together all of the Middle East protest work in the L.A. area. On 1/26, they had a big demo which went well & had more attendance than in previous demos for other issues. Recently they adopted a statement condemning Iraqui invasion of Kuwait. She feels that this is the place to put funding on the issue in L.A. She did say that another coalition consisting of main stream

organizations had recently formed. It did endorse the 1/26 rally & she hadn't heard of any conflict between the two.

6) Mobilization for Survival/National - I checked with Margie Fine of North Star Fund in NYC. She said she's had very little contact with them recently but felt that this would be a particularly good time to support them for anti-war work. The last time I talked with her about Mobe (about seven months ago) she talked about Mobe being in a transition period, with some problems about strategy and direction. She, at that time, did say that Mobe was still doing things, had programs, etc. and was important to support. The situation we're in now with the Gulf War could galvanize national Mobe.

7) AFSC/SF, CA - I talked with both Josefina Vasquez Valle and Bill Hoffman. (Note from NM - maybe it goes without saying, but what follows from Josefina is confidential.) First, Josefina had many negative comments on SF AFSC mainly about their dealing with people of color\said they increasingly have a very bad name with people of color groups\Don't seem interested in inclusiveness, lack of sensitivity. She said there is more and more conservative influence in the organization. Difficult situation for her there. Real problems, power struggle with general secretary who's conservative. She's fighting but it's getting more difficult. She didn't seem to know much about the Desert Shield Walls project, which I find strange since Bill Hoffman told me that she's general director of P&J of which Middle East work is a part. Bill Hoffman of PSC hadn't heard of this project, no publicity about it that he's seen. He said PSC doesn't work much with AFSC because AFSC has problems with them and vice versa. The director of Middle East work, Alan Solomonow, is pro-Israel. (Note: Louis at meeting said this is not 100% true, AS is more Peace Now) AFSC has its own concept of M.E. work which doesn't match other groups; not popular with M.E. solidarity community. Bill mentioned Josefina positively - as P & J staff she had arranged for a tour of Palestinian women to Bay Area - this caused conflict within AFSC. Bill corroborated Josefina's critique on the issue of people of color from what he's heard. Also he said that AFSC hasn't played a role in Gulf actions in the area; it's isolated; he hadn't heard of them doing events on the issue. AFSC hasn't been active but then the traditional peace community (such as WRL) has also been fairly inactive.

8) Colombia H.R. Cmtee/Wash., DC - I called Coletta Youngers of the Washington Office on Latin America. She has a high opinion of the group/ WOLA works closely with them = for tours, WOLA handles political appointments, while CHRC does local groups contact. Group has played extremely important role in raising consciousness on Colombia/ very few groups working on Andean region. As Colombia has moved to the forefront of US policy, this group has filled a gap for info & resources. (Colombia is a primary recipient of US foreign aid, overtly for drug wars but really for counter-insurgency work.) Because this group has this 1 focus, they can do what WOLA can't in DC/ they have close ties with many groups in the region. Also well thought of in Colombia because they don't align themselves with any party of group there - deal with many sectors (unions, farm feds, h.r. orgs.) = seen there as a voice for all in DC. WOLA has collaborated with them on their Bulletin & on research also. they coordinate good tours -diverse sectors to visit groups, unions, churches,

Congress. WOLA & this group convened the Colombia Working Group - 15 organizations including Amn.Int., Am. Watch, IPS). Because of its location in DC, CHRC/DC does national focus, as well as local work. She's seen the fund raising packet & thinks it's very good direct mail thing, feels they have a good chance of raising some money, and are very responsible financially as far as paying back a loan. Highly recommended.

Hank Rosemont also checked with 2 of his contacts & organizations such as AI. He (they) really like this group. It is single issue but has the expertise & contacts in D.C. to be effective. His general sense on the issue of Colombia is that Colombia is very angry at Bush & that the issue of Colombia will become a hot issue again soon. Hank felt that this group is important to support.

9) New Hampshire CA Network - Arnie Alpert of AFSC/NH had a "totally glowing reference." Extremely good work/ no paid staff = great volunteer staff, very responsible. Network does good job of mobilizing for events & projects. Recently had an event with NH Coalition of the Homeless (work closely with them), made good connection of issues (an event on refugees was held in a homeless shelter). Very supportive of Middle East work also. They were part of founding meeting of NH Coalition on the Middle East. Recently worked with NECAN on a tour of Nica. labor leaders, had events with NH labor unions. In general, though, Arnie has seen a real drop in enthusiasm by the general public there for Central America work with corresponding drop in funding. They really do need to do this fund raising project. Recommends.

10) CCCD - I talked with Kathy Brown of City Life (also a former staff person at CASA). She said that City Life has worked with them for some time/ she's personally been to several of their events. Their focus is empowering of local neighborhood councils which makes the mayor nervous. Their work in Jamaica Plain has made a difference as far as zoning & housing issues. She has heard from various sources that another State of the N'ghbhd. Convention is needed & would be very good based on the last one. City Life will support & participate in this. CCCD consults with City Life for input & strategy suggestions. She said this is definitely key work & they are doing what they say they are. She sees on a reality level a real need for community control. City life has a concern that there will be enough resources to continue this important work. She highly recommends that we support this group.

Ken Tangvik is on CCCD's Steering Committee. He's been highly supportive of this in my past conversations with him.

11) Survivors, Inc. - Rena Scott said she knows of them through the Boston Women's Fund which made grant to them in past. As far as she knows, the articles are written by members of low income and welfare groups. It's a good newsletter/ covers upcoming actions, has questions & answers column for people's info/ seems to be distribution of Boston outward but more in Boston area = news seems to be more for Mass. than for national population. She has a question of fund raising by this group = so far there seems to always to be a funds crunch for the paper, they've done some fund raising, ads in paper, but can't expect to raise funds from readers, perhaps. Should Resist make a decision to support this, realizing that they might not be able to self-sustain?

I also talked with Fernando Melendez of Haymarket. I asked why

Haymarket had turned down the last proposal of this group. He said they like the group and have funded them year after year. But Haymarket has a new policy for repeaters, asking them to wait a year between requests (?). The board felt that they needed to use funds for other grants & issues.

12) Midwest Housing Network - Ray Santiago of the Funding Exchange suggested I talk with their Midwest board member. She did know of this newsletter & felt it is important for organizing & networking in the MW. Good politics, they work many issues into the NL. Recommends.

13) Robeson Defense Cmtee. - I'm having a hard time getting a definitive reference on this group. I talked with Mandy Carter of WRL/SE first. She said she knows of the group, has met some of the people in the past, and gets their mailings. But she couldn't say anything in detail for recent work. I then called Mab Seegrest of NCARRV. Mab said she knew this grew out of the situation of hostage taking in the County. The last thing she knew, they were working around AIDS in prison. All she could say is they are pretty much to the radical edge of County activists and that they "don't pull punches." She didn't know about their work or effectiveness at the present time. I then talked with Jenifer Morgan of Rural Southern Voice for Peace in NC. She said that some of the RSVP staff had been to Pembroke. In the past RSVP participated in a Witness for Nonviolence event there. She didn't know much of what they're doing now but did say there are 2 factions working there and there is some antagonism between the groups. RSVP works with the other group, the Center for Community Action, so she isn't sure of the solidity of the RDC. I then talked with Barry Williams of RSVP who had gone to a conference sponsored by RDC. He had a problem figuring out exactly what this group is doing, what their focus is. The conference seemed to be more about spiritual unity than practical or strategic work. They did mention building political coalitions & talked about Native Americans & African Americans running for electoral offices & about political empowerment but didn't talk about how. RSVP suggested I talk with FOR/SE. I'll try but I'm not sure how much further I should go. More info later.

I then talked with Rose Milligan of Peace Development Fund. They've funded this group. She spoke well of them. They're working to empower people. Seem to be getting a lot of community support but people are very fearful of the KKK. Their strength has been that they're able to involve people, hold elected officials accountable, raise critical issues. Financially, not doing well, very little money from area. Could definitely use a grant.

14) Silkings - I first talked with Steve Newcom of the Headwaters Fund. He didn't know much. They'd gotten a proposal from this group but they only fund Twin Cities. He did say that it seemed a very interesting group. I then talked with Ginger Ehrman of the MN Peace & Justice Coalition. She knew just a little about this group. It joined the Coalition about a year ago. They work with low income women on violence & battered women issues. Ginger's impression from meeting some of the group was that they were a solid and serious group.

15) Refuse & Resist - I called Maxine Wolfe in NYC. She "totally hates them." RCP - totally homophobic. In 1984, RCP put out a diatribe on lesbian & gay men which hadn't changed from 1964. She's confronted them

personally but no changes at all. She did know that they had been part of a Repro Rights Coalition in NYC but doesn't know if they're still active. The Coalition isn't doing much now in any case. She can't see Resist funding anything RCP is involved with.

16) Alliance for Cultural Democracy - I talked with Rosemarie Straijer-Amador of Flor de Cana. She's a member of ACD, has gone to most of the annual conferences. She thinks this is a fantastic group/ fantastic resource for her progressive Latino music group. Projects great, great for making connections from multi-cultural to intergenerational. Doors open more easily to groups around the US through this organization. They're very good with Latino community connections. Workshops offered at conferences speak to Flor de Cana's concerns such as marketing for alternative groups and skills sharing. The sharing of research is invaluable. Membership tends to be connected to communities of social change, universities, student groups, community groups, people of color groups, including Latino. It would be very hard for Flor's work without this organization. As far as the magazine- excellent, great for ideas to use in their work, for news from around the country. It's been focusing on Quincentennial work around the US - Flor wants to be involved in this work & will be able to do this through the contacts of this group. The recent conference in Albuquerque was fantastic. Among other things, Flor established a contact in the Native American community in Florida and an event has been set up in FL for Flor de Cana. She highly recommends our funding ACD.

17) Maine Citizens/Bill of Rights - Jane Guise of AFSC/NE knows of this. she said that the contact person "is a maverick kind of guy but has done significant work in Maine." The group has had contact with several universities there, has developed funding from several universities. The issue, she feels, doesn't get enough attention. There's an ACLU conference in March which, in part, will deal with the same issue but is broader in focus. She doesn't know about any follow-up work in past done on conferences. She would say that this is part of a process - initial educational phase on issue/ this, so far, has not stimulated direct organizing because most groups don't feel that this issue is at the top of their agenda. It is valuable to open people's eyes about secrecy of US intelligence organization. CCR, IPA, NCARL, ACLU are some of few groups doing this type of work in an ongoing way across US.

18) Intentional Future - Dan Petegorsky knows of the paper they do. A while back he was approached about the idea of doing the paper, at the time he was skeptical about the feasibility of doing an alternative paper for the area. They have published 6 to 8 issues but he doesn't have a sense how widely distributed it is, to whom and to what effect. He felt the politics are good from the papers he's read/ Gulf stuff pretty fair. It's geared toward the activist community - resources, groups to get involved with. Fair minded in not picking sides in the movement. Groups mentioned in proposal are direct action environmental groups & mostly small ones. This group does deal with various issues and is a good group as far as he knows. His opinion of this particular project request - there is a need for technical assistance & training events. Those which have been done by different groups have been popular.

----Nancy Moniz, Resist staff