3-17-1991

Resist Board Meeting, Mar. 17, 1991

Resist

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Dear board member,

I was somewhat concerned that we’d only gotten 18 proposals for the February board meeting. I became more concerned when, as of the day before the deadline for proposals for this March meeting, we’d only received 7 requests. Not to worry - we received twenty on the deadline day. Obviously, everyone around the country was busy protesting the war, or doing other good organizing things.

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

Community/Anti-racism

1) Survivors, Inc./Survival News (W. Roxbury, MA) - $600 asked for production of the newspaper (copies at meeting). This was postponed from the last meeting. There was a question if this newspaper was used for organizing. I was asked to check with several groups about this.

   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

2) Citizens for Fair Utility Regulation (Ft. Worth, TX) - Requesting $500 for production of a monthly newsletter.

   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

3) Cambridgeport Action for Community Development (Cambridge, MA) - They’re asking for $200 for a mailing of petitions about a
zoning proposal, an for an architect's rendition of their zoning plan.

Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ____

4) Somerville Coalition for Racial & Ethnic Justice (MA) - $400 requested for translation, printing and distribution of a brochure describing their Rapid Response Network.

Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ____

5) People Organized & Working to Eliminate Racism (Harrisburg, PA) - Request of $600 toward postage for their monthly mailings.

Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ____

Middle East/Anti-militarism

6) Nebraskans for Peace (Lincoln, NE) - They're asking for $572 for expenses of their Persian Gulf War Resource & Organizing Kits for organizing across the state. I've asked them to send Kit.

Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ____

7) Iraq Report Committee (Brookline, MA) - $600 requested for xeroxing and postage for their "Iraq Report: Digest of Key Press Clippings."

Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ____

8) Activists of Color Committee (Oakland, CA) - $600 asked to cover publicity costs of their "Toward a New Majority" Conference in April.

Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ____

9) Military Rights Counseling Project/National Lawyers Guild-Mass. Chapter (Boston, MA) - They're asking for $600 for general expenses of this project for conscientious objectors in the military against the war in the Gulf.

Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ____

10) Anti-Racist Task Force Against the Mideast War (Albany, NY) - They're asking for $600 for salary for a part-time staff person to organize in the African-American and Latino communities.

Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ____
11) City Life/Vida Urbana (Jamaica Plain, MA) - $600 requested for printing and copying expenses for their project of anti-Gulf War organizing in the Latino community.
  Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

12) Queens Peace & Solidarity Council (Flushing, NY) - $600 asked for expenses of their anti-militarism project.
  Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

13) Youth Against Militarism Project (Minneapolis, MN) - Request of $600 for production of one issues of this newspaper by high school students.
  Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

14) Nuclear Resister (Tucson, AZ) - $600 requested for expenses of their newsletter, or toward purchase of a computer.
  Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

15) Western New York Voter Identification Project (Buffalo, NY) - Request of $600 to purchase a list of registered voters for a canvas of pro-choice voters in Erie County.
  Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

16) "Homeless Women Speak" (Boston, MA) - $600 requested for expenses of a forum in May.
  Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

17) Somerville Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women (MA) - $145 asked to rent a sound system for a march and rally in May.
  Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

Central America

18) Guatemala Committee/CASA (Cambridge, MA) - Request of $300 for printing a 4 page insert on Guatemala for the Central America Reporter.
  Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____
19) Comite Hondureno Francisco Morazan (Boston, MA) - $600 asked for the purchase of typewriter/word processor, and for office expenses.
   Yes ___  No ___  Maybe ___

20) Semilla de Libertad Foundation (Chicago, IL) - They’re asking for $600 for production of a brochure. I’ve asked them to send the proposed text of the brochure.
   Yes ___  No ___  Maybe ___

21) National Central America Health Rights Network (New York, NY) - A request for $600 to help cover the expenses of production of a slide show, "Nicaragua: Uncertain Prognosis."
   Yes ___  No ___  Maybe ___

22) Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Central America (Raleigh, NC) - $500 requested ??
   Yes ___  No ___  Maybe ___

Environmental

23) Earth Day/Wall St. Action (New York, NY) - Request of $600 toward printing and mailing costs of their Wall St. Action Handbook. I’ll be asking a board member to review the book.
   Yes ___  No ___  Maybe ___

24) Transportation Alternatives (New York, NY) - $600 requested toward expenses of their International Conference for Auto-Free Cities.
   Yes ___  No ___  Maybe ___

Miscellaneous

25) Columbus in Context/Exhibition Committee (New Haven, CT) - They’re asking for $500 (less the $150 emergency grant we made in January) for expenses of their exhibition, "1492, What Really Happened."
   Yes ___  No ___  Maybe ___
26) ACT UP/Columbus (OH) - Request of $600 toward expenses of their newsletter.
   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

27) Texans Against State Killing (Dallas, TX) - $600 requested toward expenses of marchers in the March Against the Death Penalty.
   Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

BUSINESS/POLICY ITEMS

* A Call to Resist - (Postponed from the last meeting) A suggestion from the Board/Staff lunch on 12/26/90: a discussion by board members at this 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?

* Resist's 25th Anniversary - This happens in 1992. Suggestion to start planning for this now.

* 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 March 17th meeting in the Boston area. My preference for a date for a following meeting in New York City is

   ____ April 28   ____ May 5

   Signature
RESIST BOARD MEETING - Mar. 17, 1991
Renae Scott's house
Cambridge, MA

PRESENT: Pam, Ken, Tatiana, Nancy M., Louis, Renae, Tess, Wechsler (minutes).

GRANT REQUESTS: We had $9450 to give out, and gave out a total of $8817 to 19 groups (including two conditional grants). We also allocated an additional $300 for the Typewriters for Prisoners Project. 

(See separate sheet for references.)

COMMUNITY/ANTI-RACISM

1) Survivors, Inc./Survival News (W. Roxbury, MA) - YES to a grant of $600 for production of the newspaper. This had been postponed from the last meeting to check further with references re: was this actually used in organizing. Questions raised about cost of each issue. How do we know what is realistic? Paper has lots of pictures. Union printer. References said it was being used as organizing tool.

2) Citizens for Fair Utility Regulation (Ft. Worth, TX) - POSTPONED. They had been requesting $500 for production of a monthly newsletter. We didn’t get copy of newsletter or see an outline. They didn’t respond to Nancy Moniz’ letter.

3) Cambridgeport Action for Community Development (Cambridge, MA) - YES to a grant of $200 (as requested) to mail petitions about a zoning proposal, and for an architect’s rendition of their zoning plan. If we didn’t know these people and they lived in another part of the country, would we fund them? This is continuation of Simplex organizing. Lots of women involved. This is important. This isn’t fighting for exclusionary zoning, but the opposite. Organization not very diverse. Tess said it was important to her as someone who lives in the neighborhood. NM: This is important, nitty gritty work. Pam: maybe if we fund this group we should be more open to other groups around the country who aren’t as explicit about their politics, and who are doing this kind of organizing.

4) Somerville Coalition for Racial & Ethnic Justice (MA) - YES to a grant of $400 for translation, printing and distribution of a brochure describing their Rapid Response Network. Pam said they contacted her about racial incident at High School. Discussion: Rapid Response Network good. The money they got from Lotus and Polaroid was specifically for training with police. Brochure is written in style that requires quite a lot of education. Needs to be in simpler style. Also be careful about translation. How will they do the translation? How literal will it be/culturally sensitive? Maybe should include symbols as well as text. Make it clear the graffiti they are talking about is racist and anti-Semitic.

5) People Organized & Working to Eliminate Racism (Harrisburg, PA) - SOME ($200) of the $600 requested toward postage for their monthly mailings. Discussion: no politics, mildly liberal group, bi-partisan. Seems mostly this one woman. Postage used to be paid by state government. People were glad there are some liberals doing anti-racism work. We have to remember this is Harrisburg. Both Frank Brodhead and Teresa Amott described this area as a wasteland. We decided on a SOME.
Middle East/Anti-militarism (Middle East groups are continuing with work, maybe changing projects slightly since the war "ended.")

6) Nebraskans for Peace (Lincoln, NE) - YES to a grant of $572 for their Persian Gulf War Resource & Organizing Kits. Louis thought the packet was terrific. Tatiana was curious why income from selling their famous "Cat lovers against the bomb" calendar was not included in their budget. Let's ask them.

7) Iraq Report Committee (Brookline, MA) - NO GRANT. They had requested $600 for xeroxing and postage for their "Iraq Report: Digest of Key Press Clippings." They hadn't made final decision about continuing, but thought they would because things happening in the area would be important. They sent list of groups that they send packets to. Louis: Job well done, well organized. Not really a group, mostly Ed Greer. I don't think this is terribly important. Chomsky gets his sources from things no one else reads. Decision: NO. This is quite useful but our priority is to give to organizing projects. We hope you can find funding elsewhere.

8) Activists of Color Committee (Oakland, CA) - YES to a grant of $600 to cover publicity costs of their "Toward a New Majority" Conference in April. NM read from the conference brochure. Louis called Bill Hoffman, who was in town. He thought conference was very important. Some needless expenses. They didn't need to fly Manning Marable from Colorado, with so many good people already in the Bay Area. This is a very important event, though they are spending too much money.

9) Military Rights Counseling Project/National Lawyers Guild-Mass. Chapter (Boston, MA) - YES to a grant of $450 (we had already given them an emergency grant) for general expenses for their conscientious objectors in the military project. Very little discussion.

10) Anti-Racist Task Force Against the Mideast War (Albany, NY) - CONDITIONAL YES to a grant of $600 for salary for a part-time staff person to organize in the African-American and Latino communities. Grant is conditional on finding out more information about what the staff person is going to do. What kind of organizing is person going to do? For example, how are flyers going to be distributed? Talk to Ken, Renae, and Pam to decide if group gets grant.

11) City Life/Vida Urbana (Jamaica Plain, MA) - YES to a grant of $600 for printing and copying expenses for their project of anti-Gulf War organizing in the Latino community. Questions raised about City Life's role in Madison Park event on Gulf. Was Free My People upset with them, as they were with AFSC and MOBE? NM reported that Alexander, from FMP, had only talked to her about AFSC. He hadn't said anything about City Life. There is a movement to challenge the white organizations.

They are asking for money for the organizing in the Latino Community. Should we get involved in this dispute? Should we talk directly with FMP? What if MOBE comes to us next month for a grant? Could the bd/search speakers group talk to FMP? Renae will talk to FMP. See if they want to have a meeting with us. Tess, Tatiana and Wechsler said they would be willing/interested in meeting with FMP. Renae talked to someone during the meeting, and it seemed like City Life was not involved. She talked to someone after the meeting and called the office to say that City Life is not involved in the dispute-- they were good, did all the right things.

12) Queens Peace & Solidarity Council (Flushing, NY) - CONDITIONAL YES to a grant of $600
or expenses of their anti-militarism project. On the face it looks good. Old time lefties doing work in area that is neglected. Doing good work. The Peace Council is a CP front. Cuba leaflet-- Eddie is an apologist for Castro. Not completely a front organization. Let's look at this particular project, not say no based completely on whether or not it's a front. What are they going to do, now that the war is in the state it is in? NM talked with contact person and asked him to send update. We didn't get it yet. The plan they wrote may not be as useful now. Should we postpone, or give them a conditional grant? If there wasn't a war, wouldn't we have supported a project on anti-militarism in the schools? Yes conditional on finding out if the are going ahead with work pretty much as planned. Also ask them if they use union printers.

13) Youth Against Militarism Project (Minneapolis, MN) - YES to a grant of $600 for production of one issue of this newspaper by high school students. Tatiana will get a report on group for newsletter. Shouldn't we change our grant application and ask people what work they are doing around youth/elders not just elders?

14) Nuclear Resister (Tucson, AZ) - NO GRANT. They had requested $600 for expenses of their newsletter, or toward purchase of a computer. This doesn't seem like a priority right now. Newsletter is their main work. Work is limited to people in prison who committed CD. Very narrow politics. Doesn't sound like they discuss wider prison issues. It's Arizona. Not much going on there. A lot of old lefties who moved down there to retire. The newsletter is widely used. We should say NO. Nice letter. Something like: We have a lot of requests, limited money, we admire your work, and have funded it previously, but can not this time.

Women

15) Western New York Voter Identification Project (Buffalo, NY) - NO GRANT. They had requested $600 to purchase a list of registered voters for a canvas of pro-choice voters in Erie County. Everyone seemed to agree it was too liberal for us. Some thought it was a useful project. We discussed whether or not we wanted to encourage the parent group to apply to us for another project, but decided against encouraging them.

16) "Homeless Women Speak" (Boston, MA) - NO GRANT. They had requested $600 for expenses of a forum in May. The Boston Women’s Fund gave them money and urged them to include homeless women more actively. Questions raised about budget: They should have been able to get more in kind contributions; What is the relationship of the advisory committee re: money; Who are the homeless women? They have submitted a lot of funding proposals. John Hancock is a sponsor. Nice project for academic. Social work, not organizing. We should write a nice letter, but say this is not what we fund. Good analysis of homelessness and women. We think you can get money elsewhere.

17) Somerville Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women (MA) -YES to a grant of $145 (as requested) to rent a sound system for a march and rally in May. Encourage them to apply to other foundations for money. Dick Luri of Blue Suede Boppers may have a sound system.

Central America

18) Guatemala Committee/CASA (Cambridge, MA) - YES to a grant of $300 (as requested) for printing a 4 page insert on Guatemala for the Central America Reporter. We discussed internal financial problems of CAEF, CASA's fiscal sponsor. People supported this project.
9) Comite Hondureno Francisco Morazan (Boston, MA) - YES to a grant of $600 for the purchase of a typewriter/word processor, and for office expenses. How are they doing? CORES has co-sponsored cultural events with them. They seem to continue to be a functioning active group.

20) Semilla de Libertad Foundation (Chicago, IL) - NO GRANT. They asked for $600 for production of a brochure. Brochure starts out very religious. It put off to some of us. They are great fundraisers. Very good group. They can fundraise for direct aid, but maybe it's harder to fundraise for work back here. Let them know we are open to application for political work they do in US, that they feel is too radical for their regular funding sources. (Not material aid.)

21) National Central America Health Rights Network (New York, NY) - YES to a grant of $600 to help cover the expenses of production of a slide show, "Nicaragua: Uncertain Prognosis." Large budget. About $60,000 seemed like material aid, and they act as fiscal sponsor for other projects. Last page of slide show script was missing from packet. Question raised about whether or not this would happen with or without our money? Script is ok. Good project. Everyone is wondering what is happening there now. Slide show budget is small. Perhaps project budget is too small, and unrealistic. Advisory board is staffed with Doctors. Can't they get money elsewhere?

22) Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Central America (Raleigh, NC) - YES to a grant of $400 out of $500 requested for outreach to youth (for postage and printing). People liked the fact that it is a youth project. More than just a trip to Central America. They didn't answer NM's letter asking for more information. Their financial statement needs some work. It was very confusing.

Environmental

23) Earth Day/Wall St. Action (New York, NY) - YES to a grant of $400 out of $600 requested for printing and mailing costs of their Wall St. Action Handbook. Problems with last year's handbook. Grab bag of left wing green rhetoric. Can't see giving this handbook to people. Scattered and disorganized. Some people felt the action was a good thing. Something more radical on Earth Day. What is purpose of earth day action this year? Is there a purpose for Wall St action this year? Should we support this as an annual event? Important to combine work on ecology and social justice. Long discussion about whether or not they were doing this, and with what success. Will they make connections with the Gulf War/eco at the demo? Booklet is not a good organizing tool. Is this another white group trying to reach out to people of color, that will fail? Some people felt more positive about their politics and attempts at making links. We discussed giving them a SOME, but decided on $400.

24) Transportation Alternatives (New York, NY) - NO GRANT. They had requested $600 for expenses of their International Conference for Auto-Free Cities. No one was for this.

Miscellaneous

25) Columbus in Context/Exhibition Committee (New Haven, CT) - YES to a grant of $350 (they had requested $500 and we had already given them a $150 emergency grant in January) for expenses of their exhibition, "1492, What Really Happened." Very important project. A truth squad, following around First Encounters exhibit. We need to discuss Columbus strategy. We will probably start getting more and more proposals from groups doing work on
26) ACT UP/Columbus (OH) - NO GRANT. They had requested $600 for their newsletter. NM had difficulty getting references. Newsletter more political than the T & D digest. Still focused on access to drugs. Should we ask them to submit a new proposal for organizing work? If they want to reapply for just the newsletter (not T & D digest), they need to tell us how they use it in organizing. Treatment seems like main focus. Application makes goals broader. What about homophobia? Do they work on that? They wrote about Philip Morris boycott. Why are they against Jesse Helms? It doesn’t seem like they made the obvious links to other issues/communities. This is too narrow a focus. If other issues of newsletter bring up broader issues they should resubmit for newsletter, or submit for something else. Decision: Say NO, and suggest they reapply if they feel they have a broader focus than treatment issues.

27) Texans Against State Killing (Dallas, TX) - YES to a grant of $600 for expenses of marchers in the March Against the Death Penalty. What is connection of AI that we just funded? They are in Austin, and are also working on this march. We funded AI for poll. This is important project. We were very split. We discussed further and took another vote. Questions raised about their access to money. This group seems more radical than some anti-death penalty groups we’ve funded. They talk about state killing.

BUSINESS/POLICY ITEMS

Refuse and Resist: NM went over the history of us turning them down for a grant. She handed out xerox’s of correspondence. We still need to write something in the newsletter, explaining to folks that Refuse and Resist is not Resist. We wondered if Keith Herrig actually designed the logo for R&R. There was great sentiment to leave things as they stood. Let Paul L. letter be the last word from us. If they write back, just stick it in the file. What if they send this stuff to the Movement Support Network? If MSN/Center for Constitutional Rights gets anything from them we are sure they will contact us. Don’t do anything now about this. We discussed further and took another vote. Questions raised about their access to money. This group seems more radical than some anti-death penalty groups we’ve funded. They talk about state killing.

A Call to Resist: (Postponed from the last meeting) A suggestion from the Board/Staff lunch on 12/26/90: a discussion by board members at this 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 subcommittee to work on this. What is the feeling of the board on this issue? Should we put out a new Call? We did not discuss this.

Newsletter, Free My People: At end of Free My People article in newsletter was a comment Tatiana had added about some graffiti she noticed downtown. Alexander called to complain, and say that the graffiti was an RCP slogan, not associated with their organization. They had real criticisms of it. Black slang and stereotyped language. There was no slang in their statement. He’s written a letter to us, which will appear in the next issue of the newsletter. Tatiana is including an editorial note at the end of it.
Desert Storm Memorial Wall Group: We received a letter asking us to reconsider funding. We decided against reconsidering.

Signing Board letters: Should NM sign grant rejection letters, or continue just signing "The Resist Board." NM should not sign her own name.

Resist's 25th Anniversary - Wechsler urged us to begin brainstorming. This is important event for us, should use it to increase our visibility and raise some money. Haymarket and the Funding Exchange did a good job with their anniversaries. Need to start thinking about this now. Wechsler needs to be able to do some long term planning as to what work this will all involve. When we celebrated our 20th anniversary the board did quite a lot of the work. We need to decide which year we will celebrate our anniversary in. Will it begin in September/October of 1992, or begin in 1991? What kinds of things do we want to do? Who will work on it?

Quick brainstorming: we could put out a new Call. We need active committees. Newsletter for 20th anniversary was very good. Tatiana, Kate and Roxanna worked on it. We might want to do something similar. We need a publicity committee. All board members should participate in some way in this celebration planning. Should we run a special year-long fundraising campaign? Do something in each issue of the newsletter? Print special mugs or t-shirts? Archives? We agreed to have a brainstorming session first on the agenda of the NYC meeting. If we get too many proposals for the NY meeting we'll put some off to another date.

* Board Search Committee - report.

Office: Finances:

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Restricted Funds:

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Total all funds: $281,415.31

We've just finished our Audit. Financial report for year should be available soon. Income for 1990 was $314,256.43. This is $16,268.13 (or 5.5%) over last year's income. Our Net INCOME (income over expenses) was $93,858.36. This is $18,858.36 over our $75,000 anonymous large donation. So even with our increase in grants given out, we still didn't dip into our large donation, plus we had an additional $18,858.36 which we put aside for future years.

Total expenses for 1990 (which included grants, as well as mailing costs for fundraising letters and newsletter) $220,398.07.

We are expecting one more $75,000 donation this May. This will be the last from this donor. We are also expecting about $45-50,000 very soon from the settlement of David Kennedy's estate. Given these two figures, even with the recession, I think we are safe to predict an income of around $300,000 at the very least. This should also leave us a surplus to use in future years, increasing our interest income and ability to survive lower times.
To check on how the recession was effecting us in 1991, I added up internal mailing income from January and February of 1990 and compared it to January and February of this year. We are doing ok. 1990 internal mail totals (just pledges, newsletter and abc donations) totaled: $49,242.56. Same totals for 1991 were: $53,186.25 (Pledge donations are up, newsletter donations are down.)

The 90,000 piece February prospecting mailing cost $36,669.66. We still have some leftovers and will be mailing to one or two more lists this year. Income from the mailing as of 3/14/91 was $15,817.15. We still need to recoup $20,852.51 to break even. So far we have 443 new donors. Target for new donors is 500-1000.

Wechsler would like to sit down with someone who really knows how to do projected budgets and do some 4-5 year projections. This would help us figure out if we can raise our grant ceiling, or in general give out more money. Julie Matthaei said she would help Wechsler with this. If that doesn’t work out, Wechsler will try to find someone else to sit down with.

People thought we were doing very well financially, and that even without these budget projections we seemed on target.

Office space and new phones: We now have two phone lines, so it should be easier for people to reach us, and for us to make calls out. We also have more office space. Nancy Moniz and Tatiana are sharing our larger, original office. And Wechsler has moved next door to an office we formerly shared with Dollars and Sense. It’s working out nicely.

Newsletter: Tatiana is going to Mexico in three weeks! She’s got other people covering for her. Leigh Peake will be doing May issue, and Rachel Martin will be doing June/July issue (on youth). Eileen Bolinsky will be doing some lay out. Tatiana will be back June 2nd. Elaine Bernard is working on an article on Lithuania, where she has just been. An article on the effect of the free trade movement on Mexico is expected, but hasn’t arrived yet.

Finding Funding Booklet: We are down to our last 55 copies. We sent them out to all our old grantees, as well as those we fund now. Should we revise and reprint it? YES to reprint. Renae would like a copy. Ask people if they find it useful/not helpful.

Typewriters for Prisoners Project, Round 2: Stephanie Poggi (formerly of GCN) is now working on this instead of Mike, who has been ill. She’s figured out who will get typewriters, just need to see who can actually receive them. In order to send to all the prisoners we now have that could make good use of them, the project could use another $300. We agreed to give them an additional $300 for this round of the project.

Question was raised as to whether or not we want to keep this project going. Stephanie seems willing to coordinate it. She couldn’t take typewriters in to be fixed, since she doesn’t have a car. Do we want to continue this project in an ongoing way? We need to think about it some. What is our commitment to this? What work would be involved for our staff? Who would do what? Discuss at board/staff lunch meeting, then put on agenda for future board meeting.

Board/Search: Ken and Tatiana went to speak with the Comite Hondureno. Went well. Small group. Followed procedure set up, plan of action. They were interested. Had comments and criticisms. They suggested guidelines should state application can be written in other languages. They suggested we put questions in Spanish. We should spend some more time asking questions of group members about their issues. A lot of time was spent answering questions about Resist. Question was raised as to whether speakers are making it clear that we are not just a funding organization for the local community, but fund nationally.
The group asked Ken and Tatiana if we were an activist organization or just a distant fundraising group. They answered that the board consisted of activists. This project needs someone to coordinate it a bit more. Tatiana will be away, and NM feels she can't do more than she's already doing. She can make the initial contact, but a committee member needs to follow it up. It's taken a lot of phone calls to find out if a group wants to meet with us, and then set up a time. NM talked with Elba Crespo from the Puerto Rican Women's Committee and the Resource Center. PR Women's Committee feels they know enough about Resist, wouldn't work for them for us to come. No women want to be on board. She's going to check re: resource center and let NM know. No one volunteered to coordinate this committee. It was suggested we meet with Free My People (see earlier discussion) and maybe the Latino Committee of City Life.

Board is very small. What is happening with people? It was suggested by one member that if things keep shrinking we may need to add more people, even straight white males. People felt we were still at the beginning of this new process of meeting with groups and we shouldn't be too discouraged yet.

Should applications be in Spanish? We agreed we would discuss this at an upcoming board/staff lunch. Tess will come to the next bd/staff lunch on Wednesday, April 3rd at or before 12.

Next board meeting: MAY 5th, NYC, George Vicker's apartment.
REFERENCES for the March 17, 1991 Resist Board meeting:

1) Survivors, Inc. - Postponed from the last meeting. References at the 2/3 board meeting: Renae 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 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.

References for the 3/17/91 meeting: Donna Finn of the Dorchester Women's Committee said that the News is used for organizing. She also said that she's seen it in many places and feels that it is a good resource. I also talked with Kate Cloud. She said that Respond gets the paper & she reads it, feels it's really good, seems to be a grass roots effort & appreciates that it's a multi-racial. She feels that this is well known nationally & respected but not as well known locally. She felt it should be used for organizing but didn't know of specific groups using it. She has seen people using it at Som. Multi-service Center, cutting out clippings, etc. I then called Val Volmer of the Mass. Coalition for Basic Human Needs. She said that she knows that the News goes out to and is used by organizers, groups & their members. She "thinks it's great." She uses it when she's doing organizing as a resource & a tool.

2) Citizens for Fair Utility Regulation - I talked with Jude Filler of Texas Alliance for Human Needs. She said that one of the members of this group is "the best connected guy in Fort Worth, considered to be the tops in social justice organizing there." She first heard of them about 3 years ago; they're members of the Dallas Peace Center (the best in Dallas), which "is usually a good reference in itself." About 4 years ago, the group started in FW. She feels the group is a good one, their politics very good. Fort Worth is more conservative (both in business and social justice work) than Dallas. There's very little left political action there. Therefore this group is even more worthy of funding. She said that "it's still 1950's in FW....real hard to diversify membership of groups there...difficult to find organizers in the minority communities and those are mostly in churches." For all of the above, she recommends funding this group.

3) CANDO - Renae Scott knows of this. She's been to a few of their meetings. This is sort of like the Simplex work, fighting for neighborhood control. She feels they are managing to reach people not
sympathetic to the former Simplex group = people who live in the area, both homeowners and activists. There are both women and men in the group but women are taking leadership here which she feels is quite positive in his more technically based issue. Renae will be able to say more about them at the board meeting, if need be.

4) Somerville Coalition for Racial & Ethnic Justice - Kate Cloud was at the original meeting to start this but is not an active participant at this time. Coalition of some 20 groups: CAAS, Somerville Low Income Housing Project, GLOSS, Som. Hospital, Som. Progressive Alliance, CORES, Haitian community, CA Peace Project & others. The last meeting she attended about 25 folks were there. This is different than the SPA Anti-Racist Task Force in that that was formed for a specific outreach project (which Resist funded.) SCREJ is very different, a true coalition of Som. groups. "The Rapid Response Network is a real heartening thing...really does stuff: getting rid of racist graffiti, talking with people...they do work one on one with people experiencing racist problems....very much needed in Som......racist tensions really high right now." She says that there is a real need to get word out about the RRN. Feels that the people in the groups are responsible types. Kate also said that there really is no point in trying to get funded by the city - no funds, the city is strapped financially. Kate recommends funding this.

5) POWER - Anyone know a good contact in Harrisburg, PA?

6) Nebraskans for Peace - I called Ruth Thone in Nebraska. She feels that NfP is "the most honorable group around, totally reliable and great. The best activist group in the state." I asked her about their lack of a pro rights position. She feels that most people in group are pro-choice and that they just feel the need to focus on peace issues. There is an active pro-choice coalition in Nebraska, so she feels that this front is covered. She said that NfP work on the Middle East around the state is very good, have vigils, rallies, letters to the editor. Unfortunately, she said, the peace movement there is definitely in the minority; there are many big military bases in Nebraska. All in all, Ruth highly recommends funding this group.

7) Iraq Report Committee - I talked with Nora Lester first. She didn’t know of this but suggested I call Issam Nassar at Boston Mobe. He said that they’ve been receiving the Reports; he felt that the first Report was useful because it highlighted different things that Mobe had missed. From now on (3/1/91) though, he doesn’t know if this will be useful, since the situation in the Gulf is in progress.

I had also talked with Louis Kampf who had heard (or seen?) the NL.

8) Activists of Color Committee - Bill Hoffman of the Palestine Solidarity Committee in S.F. knows Josefina (as some of us do); a very good person, raises 3rd World issues at AFSC. He hadn’t heard of the conference yet but was very interested, feels that this sort of thing is necessary in the area for communities of color to network, really good thing. This is not redundant with other efforts since there are no large overall organization for people of color in the area.

I also talked with Tony Gonzalez of the International Indian Treaty Council in S.F. He hadn’t heard of the Conference yet but was very
interested and would be getting in touch with the group. He did say that one of the groups mentioned in the proposal, the Inter-Tribal House, is a very good organization.

Josefina and Bill had told me in the past that there is a real problem with the large peace organizations there not connecting with people of color, specifically AFSC.

9) Military Rights Counseling/NLG - Kathy Matthews of BAARD thinks that, so far, they’re doing really good work. MRC/NLG is doing the kind of counseling that BAARD is not experienced in, i.e. legal & military counseling. BAARD does have a few military counselors but doesn’t concentrate on this area. She feels that this Project is a very positive thing and recommends funding. (PS - We did make an emergency grant of $150 to this Project.)

10) Anti-Racist Task Force - Carmen Rau of the Social Justice Center in Albany said that, although the SJC is not officially part of this, they are very supportive, feel it’s very useful. She said that there had been a real problem in Albany in the past with the main peace organizations which are middle class & white. It was difficult for them to make connections in the African-American and Latino communities/ they’ve tried but there is a gap. SJC doesn’t have Latino groups in their 23 group membership, but does have an Anti-Apartheid group. She feels that this coalition is not the result of conflict with the main groups but rather a form of benign neglect. Before she came on staff, there had not been a concerted effort for outreach. Since she is new staff, her role has been re-defined to include outreach to the Latino community, but, frankly, she doesn’t have enough time to do that & everything else. She feels that it would be great if this coalition takes off. She knows the group’s contact person who she feels is excellent, does great work, has good politics and is well respected. Carmen recommends funding.

11) City Life - Many board members know of the excellent work of this group. I did, though, call Lee Farriss of Boston Mobe for her opinion. She has a high opinion of the group….they do very good work. One of the few organizations in the city that does housing related work from a system changing and grass roots analysis rather than bandaid solutions. Local people and tenants who work with them feel empowered by the work. She said they come from the premise that if you “teach people to fish, they’ll be able to fish forever.” City Life is also one of the first groups in the city to organize neighborhood vigils about the Gulf crisis and war. Highly recommended.

12) Queens Peace & Solidarity Council - Betty Kapitanakis of North Star Fund said that NSF has funded them often in the past. They’re not a large and growing group but NSF always funds them because the group does push issues to the left in their part of Queens (predominately a white, middle class, family-type neighborhood with some Asian and African Americans). This is a small budget group which serves a good purpose and is able to bring different types of people together through networking different issues. They pass out flyers of other groups as well as their own, have vigils, forums with Black churches in adjacent communities, have events on different peace issues, do petitioning. Their part of Queens doesn’t have a lot of peace & justice stuff going on other than this, more social
service projects. She feels that they have good politics, a lot of older, seasoned activists. This does provide for a definite need in the community & they’re good at connecting various issues (example: they had an event which linked drugs, Panama & community issues.) Betty recommends funding this group.

13) Youth Against Militarism - I talked with Sandy Jones of the Women Against Military Madness in MN. She knows of this, a fine paper. She feels that "it’s great that youth does all the work for the newspaper." She knows that the NP is used as a resource for organizing by youth groups there & is empowering to youth in these groups. This bridges groups of people, mobilizes youth on new issues presented in the NP. The group’s politics seem progressive to her; she knows that people involved are progressive. She was very enthusiastic about this.

14) Nuclear Resister - Frances Crowe of AFSC/Western Mass. thinks this is excellent, they really do good work, do a lot of networking in US for CD at nuke weapons facilities and now around Middle East issues. The newsletter has a list of what’s happening with resisters & descriptions of actions. She feels that they do a tremendous job of getting the word out nationwide. They’re very responsible, committed people. She said that the NL is definitely used for organizing, people are empowered by it. She highly recommends funding.

15) Western NY Voter Identification Project - I called Liz Kennedy in Buffalo. She said that the Pro Choice Network (of which this is a project) is very solid, they do a good newsletter, a great job of resisting attacks by Operation Rescue (Buffalo’s a real target of OR). She’d just heard of the Voter Project recently, very reliable people involved. She said that the only slightly negative thing she’d say about the Pro Choice Network is that they don’t do as much as they should in crossing class & race lines. She does feel that this is a phenomena of the U.S. feminist movement in general. She says the PCN does do a great job otherwise and is a very powerful, important organization for Buffalo.

16) "Homeless Women Speak" - This is a tough one to get a reference for since it’s still early days on it. I called Val Volmer and Mary Quinn of the Mass. Coalition for Basic Human Needs. Neither had heard of it yet, but said that it sounds great and that the people involved are solid. They suggested I call Savina Martin of WINGS, a formerly homeless & women of color group. She had just heard of it, said it sounds great and had been invited to participate in the organizing. She’ll be attending a meeting on 3/9. I’ll try to talk with her further on this before our board meeting. I also talked with Renae Scott. This group was funded by the Boston Women’s Fund last year for the video. At that time the BWF recommended that the group involve homeless women themselves and they seem to have done this. This year BWF made a smaller emergency grant to them.

17) Somerville Committee to Stop Violence Against Women - I talked with Kate Cloud about this. This is "one of my favorite committees." She’s been involved in this since the beginning. She’s on the Som. Commission for Women which was established a few years ago. As time went on, they established sub-committees of which this is one. Though there are usually a couple of Commission members on a sub-committee, most of the people are
local folks. With this sub-committee, a lot of women joined; a nice mix of community people, NOW members, high school age women. They get no budget from the Commission only some in-kind copying, etc. Comm. for women is strapped financially. They plan to pass the can at the rally to raise funds. Last year’s rally was a great event, she said. First of a kind in Somerville; diverse audience, good press. This year’s planning meeting went very well, many came & decided to participate in the organizing for the rally. I asked Kate if they’d tried to borrow a sound system; they had, no luck (me either.) She highly recommends funding this. She feels that this is the best thing going in Som. as far as women’s stuff.

18) Guatemala Committee/CASA - I talked with Mike Prokasch of NECAN. He said this is a small group but very competent, clear politically. He has a lot of respect for them. They do educational and cultural projects. Only group of its kind in the area. They also act as a resource on Guatemala for the New England area work thru' NECAN. Highly recommended.

19) Comite Hondureno - We’ve funded this group in the past and always gotten good references. They’ve had good links with a range of groups including local community groups. Good organizers, really stick with the issue of Honduras to make sure it’s included in Central America solidarity work. This time I talked with Oscar Hernandez. He knew that they continue to be an active group but hasn’t been too closely in contact with them lately. He said he’d talk with them before the board meeting.

I also talked with Marcos Garcia of the Committee of Refugees of El Salvador (CORES). He’s worked with them in the past, and, more recently, CORES has co-sponsored some of their cultural events. CORES also will be doing a Chelsea cable TV program with them on the new immigration law. He feels that the Comite is a "really good group." He said that they work with Hondurans in Chelsea on local issues as well as international ones. He feels they could use the funds well and recommends funding them.

20) Semilla de Libertad - I had talked with Jackie Shaad of Crossroads Fund when this group came to us for a grant last year. She said that CF had funded them. Thought that this group is very good, they’ve done what they planned. Their projects are realistic. The organizers are very active in the solidarity & also the Salvadoran community. The sister church angle is excellent. They do good outreach and they’re growing. When I talked with Jackie recently, she said she holds to the same reference as last year. Also, she knows that the group does good fund raising for the projects in El Salvador, most of the money raised goes to those projects. Otherwise they have a smallish operating budget. She highly recommends this group.

21) I asked George Vickers about this, he said that he knows of them but not about their current situation. He said he’d check around. I then called Martha Swan of Madre. She feels that they do important work mobilizing the health care community in the U.S. about Central America. Madre has worked with them in coalitions in the past. She said that, since the gains in health care in Nicaragua in the past 10 years are being eroded, the slide show would be very valuable and timely for use in organizing. More from George V.: He said that he does know the staff person in Nicaragua who, among other thing, is tracking AID money in Nica.
(anti-abortion group getting money among others). George called a couple of people here including a person at NLG and a doctor with a El Salv. and Su. project; both said that NCAHRN is still quite active. They recently ran a tour of a Salvadoran doctor which raised money for medical care in ES. Most of what this group is doing, besides organizing here, is raising money for projects in CA. He had a point about their large budget: about $60,000 of it is for material aid in CA, and also they act as a fiscal sponsor for other groups (?).

22) Carolina Interfaith Task Force on C.A. - Mandy Carter of WRL/SE "knows some of the people real well,... group around a while, one of the leading groups in state in Central America activities... great type of work... don't see much visibility of people of color (other than C.A. Latinos) in org.... otherwise excellent group, wonderful." She said this is a faith based group which she thinks is good; doesn’t know about their position on repro rights (tough issue in NC), but they’re very good on g/l issue, always there for g/l community. Do good networking with other issues, recently co-sponsored a state rally on the Middle East. She didn’t know about their fund raising, but said they’re fiscally responsible, seem to get funding for projects and seem to be on firm ground financially, but this is just her sense of it. Mandy recommends funding.

23) Earth Day/Wall St. Action - I called Grace Paley. She said that she was in favor of it last year, even though it started last year in a bad way: at first no CD training was proposed but that did change as the planning went along and they did have training. The main person was very solid. She didn’t know what was what this year but will check around.

I then called Peter Drucker of National Mobe. Mobe endorsed it last year. He definitely liked some of the thinking that has gone into the Action; fairly creative. They focus on CD Direct Action which can limit the constituency they reach but there are a good set of people involved, “mostly left Green anarchist types.” They’re also talking about doing an action at the Audubon Ballroom, which could involve more people of color than they’ve had in past.

24) Transportation Alternatives - Another tough one. I talked with Betty K. at North Star Fund. She said that NSF had funded them in early ’80s but hadn’t heard of them since then. I then talked with Peter Drucker at Mobe and he said that, although it struck "a faint bell", he didn’t know of the group or any folks involved.

25) Columbus in Context - Hans Koning is involved in this and feels it’s very important. Paul Lauter had said that it seemed like a good thing, when asked his opinion for an emergency grant. I called Franz Alt of CALC/NY (he’s also a Resist contributor). He said that the project is now independent of CALC but they do support it. CinC did a 1 day presentation of the Quin. work at a recent CALC annual meeting. He said the group is quite active, serious, dedicated people. They have meetings, do mailings. He feels that the exhibition is a good idea.

26) ACT UP/Columbus (OH) - Anyone know of a good contact in Columbus?

27) Texans Against State Killing - TAHN suggested I talk with Susan Lee
of the Dallas Peace Center. She said that the people involved in this have excellent reputations in the movement; do outstanding work; peace & justice activists who work on other issues as well. Dallas Peace Center knows of the April march and will be participating. They've had speakers at their general meetings from this group. There is a real need in Texas for this kind of work.

Nancy Moniz
Resist staff