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Resist Board Meeting
Thursday, May 16, 1991
Louis Kampf's apartment
Cambridge, MA

Present: Pam Chamberlain, Ken Hale, Tess Ewing, Nancy Wechsler (minutes), Nancy Moniz.

Grants: We gave out a total of \$7100 to 13 groups (\$450 more than our "formula").

2. Boston Jobs With Peace (MA) NO GRANT. They had requested \$600 for production and printing of a brochure promoting a Common Agenda Coalition. NM passed out additional material. Update: 60 people showed up, mostly middle class and white. Inconclusive as to what people should focus on. Many ideas came up. Next meeting is set for June 15. Additional references: Lee Ferus (MOBE)- kick off event went well. Some people of color came. Tony P.- more sophisticated guns and butter approach. They have done good outreach to reach people of color and low income people. NM: problems with proposal. Questions raised about brochure and outreach efforts. Organization not pro-choice. Jobs with Peace doesn't have the moral authority to do this. Good idea, but not right group to do it. Brochure is boring. NO: Idea of project is good, but we feel the brochure itself won't have the effect of involving the constituencies that need to be a part of this coalition. We think this is a good idea. We feel we cannot fund you at this time, but are open to consider a different proposal from the Coalition in the future. We hope the Coalition will support Reproductive Rights for women, including abortion rights, as part of its Common Agenda.

3. Women Against Violence (Norfolk, VA) POSTPONE. Questions raised about politics of Black Vanguard Center. Questions raised re: nationalism and afro-centrism. Do we want to fund installation of a phone in a person's house? Part of proposal was very condescending toward this woman. Problem getting reference. NM will keep trying, maybe write contact there, since she isn't answering the phone.

4. Chicago-Alexandria Sister City Community Project (Chicago, IL) \$500 (as requested) for production of brochure. Good reference. NM: recommends funding. Seems like good project. Can't they raise liberal money? It seems to be getting tighter. Now that Mandela is out, people think the problem is over.

6. Iowa Peace Network (Des Moines, IA) \$550 out of \$600 requested, toward the purchase of a computer. Questions raised about their answers to question #10. Reference says they are good on this stuff. Wechsler says yes, maybe ask them about brochure. They use the words "Alternative Lifestyles." Do they really mean Gay/Lesbian?

8. Women Against War (Iowa City, IA) \$550 out of \$600 requested, for expenses of setting up an office for a Center for Radical Political Change, and for copying costs of their newsletter. We liked that they were working away from campus. Reference was positive. Questions raised about "non-structure." What does it mean that anyone can write the newsletter who has time and energy for it? Person who wrote the proposal is a Resist pledge.

9. Dallas Peace Center (TX) \$600 (out of \$700 requested) for printing and mailing their brochure. Have they done any organizing around AIDS?

1. Gay and Lesbian Advocacy Research Project: Empathy (Columbia, SC) NO GRANT. They had requested \$575 for printing a promotional flyer for their magazine. Pam reviewed magazine. Thinks it's from subgroup of the national campaign to end homophobia. Mass-based group with national focus. Heavy bi-sexual influence. Some of stuff in magazine is

ood. Liked it better than Outlook. Question: re: how it will impact organizing? Many people didn't like the name. It comes out of human potential approach, but some of magazine is political. Do we need this? Not exciting. Who will subscribe? Is this used organizationally? We think it is a good magazine, but we usually fund magazines only when they are connected to organizing projects. Not for politicized gay community. No grant: We liked it, wish you luck, but when we fund magazines/literature it is literature whose purpose is for organizing, as opposed to just read.

14. The Lavender Network (Eugene, OR) \$600 (as requested) toward the purchase of a photocopier. NM passed around copies of news/mag. Questions raised re: class issues. They say publication is free and they have a toll free number. This seems to be their entire understanding of class issues. YES to grant. Answers gave limited understanding of effect of social class on gay/lesbian community. Single issue focus. But given hate crimes in Oregon, we should fund them. (We decided not to mention class issues, since we hadn't articulated them very clearly.)

15. Lesbian Community Project (Portland, OR) \$500 (as requested) for their Women of Color/Anti-Violence Project. Good newsletter, wider focus, group is involved in many issues.

16. Witness for Non-Violence for Treaty and Rural Rights in Wisconsin (Milwaukee) \$500 as requested to subsidize the publication of a book on Chippewa treaty rights. Good group. Don't like idea of putting up money to fund book. Should we say no to this project,, but encourage them to come back with organizing project? How about a loan for this project? Is this project realistic? We found it hard to turn down this group, since they are doing such good work. Ken Hale argued we fund this project, and his arguments convinced the rest of us.

21. Seattle CISPES (WA) \$600 toward the purchase of a computer. Good group. While many peace and justice groups and CA activist groups do not participate in reproductive rights or gay/lesbian issues (and defend that in their applications), these folks seem to actually get involved.

22. Segundo Montes/Minneapolis: Sister Cities in Development (Minn., MN) \$400 for slide projector and equipment. They can come back to us later (even this year) for the actual slide show. Since they didn't have the slide show script done yet, they asked us if we would be willing to fund the slide projector now, and the script later. The references were positive. At the NYC meeting George had urged us to fund this group. It is important to work around Segundo Montes. They are under attack by the Salvadoran government. (This is tied in with the ERP, which support negotiations.)

25. Wisconsin Coordinating Council on Nicaragua (Madison) NO GRANT. They had requested \$600 for production of a brochure. Reference recommended parent group, but said nothing about this offspring. We didn't like the attitude and politics expressed in proposal. "Us folks from North America going to go down and empower these women." Questions raised about what organizing will happen in US after they have been in Nicaragua? Sounds a bit missionary. Question #10- d,e,f. Isn't that nice we can join, how big of them.

Nicaraguan women will be coming here. Decision: No, but. We are mainly interested in political work you can do here. So when you are actually at the point of doing education work here, or bringing Nicaraguan women here to do political work, we might be interested in funding those projects. (No, come back later.)

27. Farmworkers Support Committee, Church Council of Greater Seattle (WA) \$600 (as requested) for production and duplication of a cover letter for their video, for bulk mailing costs, and for 15 copies of video to promote a boycott of local wine. Tess and NM saw video. Thought it was perfectly adequate. Didn't excite Tess, but is well done. Can

● e used in organizing work. Tess was in favor of funding. NM in favor of funding, also.

32. Mujer a Mujer/Woman to Woman (San Antonio, TX) \$600 (as requested) to launch a subscription campaign for their newsletter, "Correspondencia." It is good a woman's group is taking lead in labor movement. Mexico free trade stuff is really hot. They were at Labor Notes Conference. Selling crafts to pay for plane tickets. They were also selling T-shirts (Tess had one). Tess wants to know what their Peacenet address is.

34. Institute for Global Security Studies (Seattle, WA) NO GRANT. They had requested \$500 for software and for salary for a person to create a database of information about the Pacific Basin, and for office expenses. Discussion: This is useful, but not a priority for us. Do people need all this information to deal with these issues? Glad to see a proposal dealing with Pacific Rim area. Might be useful project. What would people do with this information? People are under informed on these issues. Japan-deforestation article very interesting. It would be news to a lot of people. Do we have money in this cycle to fund this? We are glad you are doing this work, but this isn't what we usually fund. But then they did explain how they are trying to make some of this information public. Decision: When you have a project that both disseminates this information and organizes people, please come back to us.

36. Out of Control (SF, CA) \$550 out of \$600 requested for photocopying and postage for their newsletter, "Out of Time." Reference was very positive. This carried a lot of weight with us.

● 37. MC Video Productions (Madison, WI) NO GRANT. They had requested \$600 for printing and mailing costs of a flyer, handbook and video dubs; for video cassettes; and for an IRS filing fee. Hard to get a reference. People hadn't heard of them. Tess and NM saw video. Poorly done technically, just a guy giving a rambling speech. "Still Sane" is a woman reading from her book, and other stuff. Some stuff is moving. Scary statistics. Very poorly done. This is an important issue. The now defunct Radical Therapist magazine used to deal with some of this. We don't have the brochure or hand book. NO: We think this is an important issue to address, but we don't fund literature without seeing copy or outline, and we think the technical quality of the video will hinder its organizing use.

38. Ridge & Valley Researchers (Morgantown, WV) \$550 out of \$600 requested to print posters and flyers documenting land ownership and taxation patterns in the county, and to organize three community workshops. NM knows of group that is interested in funding research projects. She sent them this information. Did they send High School handbook? (NO) Looks like they are doing interesting things. They have gotten grants. Wish we knew more about them. Not sure since we don't know much. Do we have the money to take a chance? Should we give them some? Ken liked the group. Thinks we should give them a grant. He convinced us.

Refuse and Resist:

Tess asked that this be put on agenda. Two related issues around Refuse and Resist. R&R people still wanted to meet with us when they were in town. We put ourselves in an untenable position by telling them not to come back to us for grant. Minutes said not to encourage them to come back, not "don't come back." We should have said, come back after you have fulfilled such and such. We can't just tell them not to come back to us and then also not meet with them. We should go out of our way to be non-sectarian.

● We weren't prepared to meet with them in May, but we should maybe write them again? But if it is finally all going away, maybe we should just drop it. But if it comes back to life, we owe them something.

NM: Clark K. called while he was in town. He felt someone from board had it in for them. He wanted to meet with us. This is after Wechsler told R&R staffperson that we

ould not meet with them that week in Boston, and that if there was any changes in our position we would get back to them. Wechsler went over our criticisms and explained why we had turned them down.

LK: Whole thing could have been handled better. Part of responsibility is mine, I'm sure. People feel angry at the name thing. Paul and I know Clark from mid-60's. Here Louis expresses some personal opinions. There is no point in meeting with Clark. Maybe meet with woman who wrote proposal.

Discussion: Should we send them another letter? We uphold our decision to not fund your latest proposal due to this, this, and this reason. You have sent in a lot of proposals in the past that have also not been funded, because they have not lived up to this criteria. Don't come back until you have dealt with these issues. BUT: Their dishonesty is also an issue in our not funding them. What would purpose of meeting with them be? They only sent us list of groups they worked with after this whole thing blew up. Projects weren't going anywhere.

Decision: Tess would draft another letter (with Wechsler's help) and then go over it with board. Then we would see if we want to send it.

Second issue: question of signatures on letters. Kim Moody from Labor Notes will know that Tess really wrote the letter. But it wasn't signed by Tess. Letters with controversial content, board member should be involved and possible board member should sign it. All letters should have signatures. Decision in past was as follows: NO letters are just signed "Board of Resist." YES letters NM signs "For the board of Resist."

NM: Going over letters with board, getting their input, takes a lot of time and creates a lot of tension. It delays getting the letters out. What if groups call wanting to know grant decision? You can say they will get written response in a few days.

Wechsler: I tell them the decision, synopsise concerns, and tell them they will get a letter in the mail next week, and if they have any questions, they should call.

You can tell group to call board members. Wechsler thought NM should sign all letters. Maybe some letters should be signed by a board member, also. (We agreed to this approach.) Tess: The name is a courtesy. If a group calls complaining, NM should say she signs the letters as the staff person, but the board makes the decisions. (She doesn't have to tell them she's on the board!) She can tell them she will try to get a board member to call them back.

Old letters (pre-Nancy Moniz) said nothing. We've gotten more pro-active with our letters.

That's it until the June board meeting.

May 8, 1991 MORE REFERENCES FOR THE MAY 16th BOARD MEETING:

- 2) Boston Jobs with Peace - Still checking this.
- 3) Women Against Violence - I asked Hank Rosemont to check on this.
- 8) Women Against War - I talked with Rose Hayslett of the C.A. Solidarity Committee in Iowa City. CASC has worked with them in coalition. She thinks that they are very reliable; they pulled together a lot of people and are sustaining the numbers and work even in this period. They're long time activists in different groups; some of the women in various groups in the area decided to form the group to deal with broader issues as women. Rose said that there had been talk for several years about the need to start the kind of Center this group is planning. She feels that the city would benefit from having a Center because there is no one place/clearinghouse information/resources and coordination. Iowa City is a university town but most of the people central to different groups are community people. Feeling is that a Center would be most helpful for continuity both for local people as well as university students. She recommends funding.
- 32) Mujer a Mujer - I called Graciela Sanchez of the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center in San Antonio. She knows of the local people of this group and has also met some of the women from the Mexico office. She said that, in the last month, she's gotten calls from groups around the US interested in information about the Mujer newsletter - to reprint articles, etc. Some callers really excited that this group will be at the Labor Notes Conference. She also knows of the group networking with Texas women of the Levi Strauss strike committee. Her sense is that the group makes very positive connections around the US.
- 35) DC SCAR - We've always gotten very good references for this group in the past. I previously in 1990 had talked with John Willoughby in DC. He was quite impressed with reports about this group. They pre-date the Howard U. demos and now are working on other campuses in the area. Very unique group. Black-led but now more integrated. Good politics. Important in pushing for inclusion of people of color in the nation-wide student movement at national conferences and in other networks. He recommended them then. Hank Rosemont will be checking on their recent work.
- 37) MC Video - Another tough one to get a reference for. Wisconsin Community Fund didn't know of them.
- 38) Ridge & Valley Researchers - I talked with Jessie Bond of the Appalachian Fund who hadn't heard of them. I then called the Highlander Center. Unfortunately the person who might know, John Gaventa, won't be available until after May 5th. I think that I also asked Hank to check.
- 5/8/91 - I talked with John Gaventa of the Highlander Center. He knows of them "but not real well." He only met them at the Center once but was impressed with their regional perspective. He said that the group didn't seem plugged into the broader Appalachian network but this is not too unusual since Morgantown is in the northern part of the area and is historically isolated. He did give them the names of groups with which to network.

May 15, 1991

MORE REFERENCES FOR THE MAY 16th BOARD MEETING:

2) Boston Jobs with Peace - I talked with Lee Ferris and with Ron Shufler of Mobe about this. Mobe is part of the Coalition. Said that the kickoff event went well, some people of color attended, more people came than was expected. Lee feels favorable about the possibilities of this project. Ron went to a couple of the planning meetings. Mel King spoke at the first public meeting. I then called Tony Palumba who said that this was a "more sophisticated Guns and Butter approach.... project started before war but has been re-activated recently." He worked with them on the hearing. His feeling is that they've done good outreach to include people of color and low income people. He doesn't know if this will work but feels it is a genuine effort to build a coalition connecting domestic needs and international policy. He feels the peoples represented in the brochure are a good sampling. Good effort.

3) Women Against Violence - I asked Hank Rosemont to check on this. No info from him. I then called Candace Powlick of the Richmond Peace Center. She didn't know if this was the one, but she knows that there is a really exciting group being put together on these issues in that part of the state with real good roots in the communities and with a radical political perspective. She'd heard that it offers good alternatives for action.

8) Women Against War - I talked with Rose Hayslett of the C.A. Solidarity Committee in Iowa City. CASC has worked with them in coalition. She thinks that they are very reliable; they pulled together a lot of people and are sustaining the numbers and work even in this period. They're long time activists in different groups; some of the women in various groups in the area decided to form the group to deal with broader issues as women. Rose said that there had been talk for several years about the need to start the kind of Center this group is planning. She feels that the city would benefit from having a Center because there is no one place/clearinghouse information/resources and coordination. Iowa City is a university town but most of the people central to different groups are community people. Feeling is that a Center would be most helpful for continuity both for local people as well as university students. She recommends funding.

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37) MC Video - Another tough one to get a reference for. Wisconsin Community Fund didn't know of them. I then called the following: Peggy Elatt of WI Coalition Against Sexual Assault who hadn't heard of the group or videos; Crystal Anders of the WI Women's Network, ditto; Bonnie Urfer of Nukewatch in Madison, again ditto.

38) Ridge & Valley Researchers - I talked with Jessie Bond of the Appalachian Fund who hadn't heard of them. I then called the Highlander Center. Unfortunately the person who might know, John Gaventa, won't be available until after May 5th. I think that I also asked Hank to check.

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