Resist Board Meeting Minutes

3-7-1993

Resist Board Meeting, Mar. 7, 1993

Resist

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Dear board member,

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

I'll be sending you updated info for the requests, plus the references, about a week before the board meeting. 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, including a report on any emergency grants made since the last board meeting.

GRANT REQUESTS

Central and Latin America and the Caribbean

1) Guatemala News & Information Bureau (Oakland, CA) - Asking for $525 for a printer for their computer, and for an electric stapler.
   Yes   No   Maybe

2) The Cuba Advocate (Boulder, CO) - Request of $500 toward printing and postage costs of this newsletter.
   Yes   No   Maybe
3) Boston CISPES (Jamaica Plain, MA) - Requesting $755 for expenses of a project to expand their efforts at alliance-building.
   Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____

4) Caribbean - Latin America Support Project (New Paltz, NY) - Request of $800 to make their monthly meetings accessible for the disabled.
   Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____

5) Latin America News (Boulder, CO) - They're asking for $800 toward distribution costs of this 1/2 hour weekly program, and toward paying their correspondents in other countries.
   Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____

Peace/Anti-militarism

6) Washington Peace Center (DC) - They're asking for $800 to support the production of a new organizational brochure.
   Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____

7) Oregon Community War Tax Resistance (Portland) - Request of $650 to fund the establishment of an Alternative Fund for war tax resisters: for a brochure, start up materials, and technical assistance to be provided to the Board of the Fund.
   Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____

Women

8) Common Ground (Baton Rouge, LA) - Request of $608 for partial funding of their outreach project to increase membership, journal sales, and contributions.
   Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____
9) Women's Alliance (Framingham, MA) - They're asking for $600 toward the purchase of a computer and printer.
   Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

10) Vermont Women's Health Center (Burlington) - Request of $800 for expenses of an educational forum which promotes dialogue about women, families and health care.
    Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ___

11) National Network of Abortion Funds (Hadley, MA) - Requesting $800 toward the non-travel expenses of their working conference.
    Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ___

Gay & Lesbian

12) Women's Safety & Freedom Project (Randolph, VT) - $800 asked toward the cost of producing a booklet detailing the legal rights of lesbians and gay men in Vermont.
    Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ___

13) Coalition for Positive Sexuality (Chicago, IL) - $800 toward production of their pamphlet, "Just Say Yes," for distribution to area high school students. Board members will review the pamphlet for the meeting.
    Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ___

Prisoners

14) Dee Farmer & Associates (Springfield, MO) - $800 requested for general support, HIV/AIDS Prisoner Support Packets, and for their newsletter, "A Day at a Time." I'll give the packet to a board member for review.
    Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ___
15) Prison Information Service, Inc. (Sioux Falls, SD) - $600 asked for the costs of distributing their "Aboriginal Handbook" to Native American prisoners and support groups. Book to be reviewed by a board member for a report to the board meeting.

Yes ____  No ____  Maybe ____

16) Robeson Defense Committee (Pembroke, NC) - Requesting $800 for supplies for their copying and fax machines.

Yes ____  No ____  Maybe ____

Community/Anti-racism

17) Kansas City Interfaith Peace Alliance (MO) - $800 requested toward the costs of their Healing Racism workshop program.

Yes ____  No ____  Maybe ____

18) National Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression (New York, NY) - Request of $800 to apply to the purchase of a laser printer and cartridge.

Yes ____  No ____  Maybe ____

19) Acre Improvement Committee (Lowell, MA) - Requesting $610 for the expenses of their Leadership Training Retreat.

Yes ____  No ____  Maybe ____

Native Americans

20) Western Shoshone Defense Project (Crescent Valley, NV) - They're asking for $800 toward production of their newsletter.

Yes ____  No ____  Maybe ____

21) Wobanaki, Inc. (Missisquoi, VT) - Requesting $800 toward production of their newsletter, and toward office expenses.

Yes ____  No ____  Maybe ____
Environmental

22) San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace (CA) - $800 requested toward the non-travel/non-legal expenses of their participation at a public hearing on the extension of licenses for the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

   Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____

23) Bay Area Nuclear (BAN) Waste Coalition (San Francisco, CA) - Request of $434 to produce outreach/fund raising materials.

   Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____

24) Nuclear Democracy Project (Bolinas, CA) - They're asking for $800 toward the production costs of their newsletter.

   Yes _____ No _____ Maybe ______

Middle East

25) Middle East Peace Coalition (Northampton, MA) - They're asking for $500 to cover the costs of community meetings with three Israeli and Palestinian health care workers.

   Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____

26) Labor Committee on the Middle East (San Francisco, CA) - $800 requested toward the non-travel expenses of coordinating a national Labor Tour for a representative of an Israeli organization, "Workers' Hotline."

   Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____

Miscellaneous

27) PINTIG Cultural Group (Chicago, IL) - $800 asked toward the expenses of a series of artistic workshops to study Philippine indigenous history and culture. (Please note that $200 of the request is for travel expenses of resource people.)

   Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____
28) Good Food Coop (New York, NY) - $800 asked for an ice machine and a produce display rack. I'll ask them for more information about their political organizing work.

Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____

BUSINESS/POLICY ITEMS

* Grants - A review of our finances and discussion about the maximum amount of our grants. Should we increase or decrease that, or leave it as is?

* Application form - Proposed changes or addition to question #10 on our form.

* Hans Koning's letter - At the last board meeting, we asked Louis Kampf to write a letter to Hans Koning responding to Hans' letter to us prior to the last board meeting. Louis received a letter from Hans. Copies of these letters are enclosed.

* Office - Staff, and other items.

* Next board meeting - This meeting will be held in New York City on April 18, 1993.

For peace and justice,

Nancy Moniz, Resist staff
H. KONING

Jan 9, '93

Dear [Resist]:

In the matter of the diminishing requests:

I would like to repeat an earlier suggestion of mine: i.e. that the maximum grant should at least be raised to $1000.- Combined with that, I suggested a procedure lessening the chance that almost everyone would ask for the maximum grant.

I would also once more like to suggest a simplification of the application; I do not like the PC catechism we put applicants through. If some group wants to work for a cause we think worth while, and we are satisfied that they are seriously committed, I strongly object to questioning them on matters not relevant to their purpose. */

This apart from the practical consideration that "paper is patient" (as we say in Holland) and that such procedures mean very little indeed.

Greetings &
Happy New Year!

Hans Koning

*/ I brought this up when an anti-war group were asked about their attitude in the matter of Boston's rental policies vs gays. If one fights the Pentagon, one has enough on one's plate. I also dislike the holier-than-thou image we create with this.
Jan. 26, 93

Dear Hans:

I write on behalf of the Resist board concerning your letter of Jan. 9, 93.

1. Raising the amount of the grant. The board voted last year to raise the maximum grant to $800. At the March '93 meeting the matter will come up for its annual review. Your letter will be part of the discussion.

2. The application form. Yes, it's a bit complicated. No one is entirely happy with it, but we have not been able to develop a viable alternative. After all, we do need to ask organizations about their politics. No doubt, a few groups finesse (or even lie about) our questions, but the vast majority are very honest and thoughtful about their responses. The questions lead to Resist learning a great deal about a group's political perspective. The board is never dogmatic about the responses: we don't expect groups to be "correct" about everything. But there are political principles which our donors expect us to stand by. For example, we can not give a grant to an organization doing reasonable work in relation to El Salvador, if it is also militantly anti-choice.

Thanks for your concern. Hope you are well.

Best,

Louis Kampf
Dear Louis,

I am unhappy about your letter. I am unhappy that you thanked me "for my concern" as if I were some liberal well-wisher making some half-assed comment. Resist belongs as much and as long to me as to you. Well, not really, because you do endlessly more for it. But if I had been taken up on my offer to have an occasional meeting in New Haven as a halfway house... If anyone ever had thought of me as someone who has after all written and published some twenty books and who has access to the NYT Op-Ed and the Washington Post Op-Ed and to CBS and to C-Span and had asked my help or advice for instance for the 25 year celeb, I'd have done much more myself...

(This used to be, I admit it, a sore point for me. Many years ago the suggestion was made to try and write an Op-Ed for the NYT about Solzenitsyn and American dissenters. I was at the meeting and people looked at each other and said, "Well, who could write that? Who?" I didn't say anything of course, and the net result was, guess, Grace Paley would be asked. I don't know if she tried, but anyway, I wrote such a piece and the NYTimes carried it. Later I decided to never suggest (or remotely push) myself for anything as, who needs it. I am not less devoted to Resist and its goals).

Well, that's the past. The future: about the monies. Yes, of course I know you voted to raise it to $800.- I read the bloody stuff they sent me, even if I have to do it at 3 a.m. But $800 is not enough, as you must know, as I know from speaking to folks in the field, as the drop in requests must presumably show. I also, in a letter a year ago, suggested the poss. of a tier-system -- no one was interested. It would mean that the less they ask, the greater the chance, the easier the hurdles and the competition -- this is to prevent(almost) everyone to always ask the maximum.

Two: if a group is seriously and importantly working for peace and for social justice in El Salvador, I would not ever dare ask them how they feel about abortion. What arrogance!!! Do we never learn?
While the Conservatives and the extreme right wingers and largely the liberals accept any bedfellow willing to jump into their unsavory beds, the Left still and always is so full of bloody principles that it kills our purposes, frustrates our efforts, makes every leftwing peleton, about to execute an evil, form a circle (as the old joke has it).

Don't we all know after forty years that there are basic principles which are always compatible and that people who are socialists or whatever they want to call themselves can be trusted if what they decide to do is what we all consider just and progressive and social(ist)? Your example: I have never heard of any serious supporter of the people in El Salvador or Nicaragua who also "militantly" (your word) supported anti-abortionists. I cannot conceive of such a person or group. That is NOT the issue.

The issue is that we do not ask those people how they "feel" about it if they are not doing anything in that field. Castro and the Cuban guerrillas were for historical and other reasons anti- or surely not pro-homosexuality. All earlier revolutions in this century were. Are we therefore rejecting all revolution so-far?

Well, I don't want to go on and lose the chance that you may read this at your March meeting. I hope you will. Know, if it makes a difference, that Noam agrees with me on this as you may know yourself.

I wish I could be there. Please know that I know from the most direct experience that there are many issues which I and my friends in the bloody past and even now consider de-luxe white-bourgeois-elitist issues and we don't give a good goddamn about them. Just pass the ammunition folks -- the money, that is.

La lucha continua.

cheers

Hans Koning
Resist Board Meeting
March 7, 1993
Larry Goldsmith’s apartment
Jamaica Plain, MA

Present: Tatiana, Wayne, Pam, Louis, Tess (chair), Nancy M., Cheryl, Larry, Nancy W. (Minutes).

Grants: We gave out a total of $14,165 to 20 groups. This figure includes one "yes contingency" grant (#5), and is $1340 above what we had originally allocated for this meeting.

No emergency grants were given out since the last board meeting.

1. Guatemala News and Information Bureau (Oakland, CA) $525 (as requested) for a printer and for their computer, and for an electric stapler. Tess reported that she likes the newsletter.

2. The Cuba Advocate (Boulder, CO) NO GRANT. They had requested $500 toward printing and postage costs of the newsletter. Discussion: It seems like just two people. In question #10 they don’t distinguish between the Cuban revolution and their own organization. They are asking for money for general operating expenses. They are uncritical of Cuba, see answer that says "racial and sexual discrimination is nearly eliminated." We agree that Cuba has a right to exist, but don’t think this is a constructive approach to getting people to turn around on this issue.

3. Boston CISPES (Jamaica Plain, MA) $755 (as requested) for expenses of a project to expand their efforts at alliance-building. Discussion: people were positive. Question re: how are things with CASA and CISPES since the split? People said things seem okay. CASA gave CISPES a good reference.

4. Caribbean-Latin America Support Project (New Paltz, NY) $800 to make their monthly meetings accessible for the disabled. Discussion: good newsletter, good organization. They haven’t applied to other foundations. We should encourage them to apply for other grants.

5. Latin America News (Boulder, CO) $800 CONTINGENT on Tess’s listening to the radio show and letting us know if she thinks there are any serious problems. Discussion: We had a long discussion of this one. Tatiana had listened to the tape. She said it was okay, good technical quality. Stories about many different parts of Latin America, including Cuba. News you wouldn’t have heard elsewhere. Problem with their failing to get several points of view. El Salvador piece just quoted two FMLN people. Peru piece talked about Shining Path bombing, then interviewed a reporter about the role of women in the Shining Path. The point was that working class and middle class women were aligning and working together within Shining Path, and how that is positive that women are joining together "for the revolution”. Very uncritical, straight interviewing. In general, reporting not very analytical, expressing only one point of view.

Question raised as to how many radio stations use this. Questions raised about Peru segment. Do they plan to have more analytical pieces? What are their politics? Application seems sketchy. This is the third time they have come to us. How much progress have they made in three years? Will this group use money well, and get
information out? They’ve been through staff changes and are struggling to survive. But let’s take a chance and fund them. We should send them a packet on the Shining Path (Wechsler will xerox stuff). We should also mention that the FMLN is only one point of view, and that there are a number of opposition groups. Decision: Yes to a grant, contingent on Tess listening to tape. (Tatiana would like to listen to it again, and Wechsler would like to hear Peru segment.)

6. Washington Peace Center (DC) $800 to support the production of a new organizational brochure. Discussion: Good organization, we’ve funded in past. Question raised re: their budget. Do they need our money?

7. Oregon Community War Tax Resistance (Portland) They had requested $650 to fund the establishment of an Alternative Fund for war tax resisters: for a brochure, start up materials, and technical assistance to be provided to the Board of the Fund. THEY WITHDREW THEIR APPLICATION BEFORE THE BOARD MEETING. Question raised as to whether or not we can or would fund such a thing. We will do a bit of checking before next meeting.

8. Common Ground (Baton Rouge, LA) NO GRANT. They had requested $608 for partial funding of their outreach project to increase membership, journal sales, and contributions. Cheryl looked over magazine. It seems to come out once a year and concentrate on different subjects each year. Focus is "grassroots women." They present stories of women in their own words. They take a lot of care with what they are doing. How does this fit in with organizing and our goals? They do one shot things-- no follow up. Question re: strategy of moving from place to place. No concrete example of local organizing. Budget is bizarre. No income statement. In letter say it is nice work, but not an organizing project.

9. Women’s Alliance (Framingham, MA) $600 (as requested) toward the purchase of a computer and printer. Very little discussion.

10. Vermont Women’s Health Center (Burlington, VT) $800 for expenses of an educational forum which promotes dialogue about women, families and health care. Discussion: forum looks interesting. Budget is big, but most of it is for health related items.

11. National Network of Abortion Funds (Hadley, MA) $800 toward the non-travel expenses of their working conference. Wechsler knows the person who wrote the grant. Long time reproductive rights activist. Was involved with R2N2, and also has done work with battered women and lesbian/gay liberation. Was in NAM and Solidarity with Wechsler and Marlene Fried. Good person with good politics. Seems like some of the same people from R2N2 (with other people) are trying to pull together a new reproductive rights coalition/network.

12. Women’s Safety and Freedom Project (Randolph, VT) This grant was POSTPONED. They were asking for $800 toward the cost of producing a booklet detailing the legal rights of lesbians and gay men in Vermont. Discussion: We didn’t get the booklet. Is this too tied to one case? Let’s look at the booklet and ask how it’s going to be used. Is a booklet explaining legal rights something we would fund? What kind of distribution are they going to do? We don’t want Resist money to go to sensitivity training of police. Also, if it is just getting out the word about the law, that’s the state’s job. Decision: postpone to get booklet and ask how it’s going to be used. Call Leah Wittenberg for an additional reference.
13. Coalition for Positive Sexuality (Chicago, IL) $800 toward production of their pamphlet, "Just Say Yes," for distribution to area high school students. Pam says yes. Chicago schools are in real chaos right now, so why not take the opportunity to get as many of these out as possible. A few things could be more accurate, but the kids will read it. How about article for the newsletter? Call Pam for more information on booklet.

14. Dee Farmer and Associates (Springfield, MO) $800 for general support, HIV/AIDS Prisoner Support Packets, and for their newsletter, "A Day at a Time." Tatiana read packet. Basically a lot of good information for people in prison to have access to. There is a need for this. The packet that Mike Riegle and Prison Book did is out of date and it has been hard to get it updated.

15. Prison Information Service, Inc. (Sioux Falls, SD) $600 (as requested) for the costs of distributing their "Aboriginal Handbook" to Native American prisoners and support groups. Larry and Ken looked it over and liked the handbook. Both agreed it should be funded. They had some problems with it, but it is already printed and money is for distribution. It could use a better bibliography. Call Ken for specifics. It talks about Indian culture as if it is one thing---but they are really just talking about the Sioux culture in S.D.--which is where they are. Good in terms of legal strategy and how to assert your rights. Question raised about the fact that this seems like a one person thing. Ken said that even though the person is white, it seemed clear he had worked with Native American prisoners to put this out.

16. Robeson Defense Committee (Pembroke, NC) $800 for supplies for their copying and fax machines. We all wanted to know what happened to the other guy who was arrested. It doesn’t say anywhere if he was released from jail or not. Reference was positive. The newsletter is more general and does not focus on Eddie Hatcher only.

17. Kansas City Interfaith Peace Alliance (MO) NO GRANT. They had requested $800 toward the costs of their Healing Racism workshop program. Discussion: All the big churches in Kansas City are on their board. Proposal seems to stress personal psychology rather than political issues. They are running it first for their own members. Racism in Kansas City is profound and deep and this won’t help it much. Decision: No, based on quality of content and effect we think it will have. Need to make connections to other ism’s. Need to talk about power. Suggest they try to get funding from Churches, or people taking part in workshop.

18. National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (NY, NY) $800 toward the purchase of a laser printer and cartridge.

19. Acre Improvement Committee (Lowell, MA) $610 (as requested) for the expenses of their Leadership Training Retreat. What’s their relationship to CBA? Are they the housing subcommittee? They say they began as an outgrowth of CBA. They need to come up with some kind of financial statement, especially if they are going to continue applying for grants.

20. Western Shoshone Defense Project (Crescent Valley, NV) $800 toward production of their newsletter. Larry read Ken Hale’s reference. He recommends funding, this is important and they still have a chance. They are making good connections. Maybe newsletter article?

21. Wobanaki, Inc. (Missisquoi, "VT") $800 toward production of their newsletter, and toward office expenses. Grace is very supportive of them. They need help. Ken wondered
what more we could do for them? We already gave them a grant for office stuff. We should say yes, but suggest we won't be able to give for general operating expenses, and that when they come back again they should come back for a specific organizing project.

22. San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace (CA) NO GRANT. They had requested $800 toward the non-travel/non-legal expenses of their participation at a public hearing on the extension of licenses for the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. No reference. No one NM called had heard of them. Sounds like important work. Answers on question #10-- "outside their scope." But they say their first goal is to support the interdependence of things. Wish they would develop positions on #10. They got a few large grants. With our limited budget we thought they could get support elsewhere. Also mention we couldn't get a reference.

23. Bay Area Nuclear (BAN) Waste Coalition (SF, CA) $275 (SOME) out of $434 requested to produce outreach/fund raising materials. Question raised re: single issue focus. It is an important issue. In a straw vote we were divided: 5 voted to give yes or some; 3 voted no; one abstained. We compromised on a SOME. We should ask them to please use a union printer.

24. Nuclear Democracy Project (Bolinas, CA) NO GRANT. They had asked for $800 toward the production costs of their newsletter. Question raised re: number of people involved. Is it just two people? Larry Goldsmith didn't like the newsletter, not much to it. Good they are making nuclear issue broader. They want grant for the newsletter. Financial information not complete. Decision: NO. We need more information on what will be in the new 8 page newsletter. The last one is too old for us to judge, and the new one is supposedly different. Come back to us with more complete financial information and either a sample of the new newsletter or a filled in outline of what will be in it.

25. Middle East Peace Coalition (Northampton, MA) $500 (as requested) to cover the costs of community meetings with three Israeli and Palestinian health care workers. Louis said it was started by New Jewish Agenda. He thought it seemed like a good project.

26. Labor Committee on the Middle East (SF, CA) $800 requested toward the non-travel expenses of coordinating a national Labor Tour for a representative of an Israeli organization, "Workers' Hotline." Louis talked about what people thought of contact person. He mentioned that an article in their newsletter about AFSC was vicious. But he thought this project was a good one and worth supporting. We should say in the letter that the money is for this project only, and that if the tour is cancelled they need to let us know, as we wouldn't automatically fund some other project.

27. PINTIG Cultural Group (Chicago, IL) $700 (out of $800 requested) toward the expenses of a series of artistic workshops to study Philippine indigenous history and culture. Some of the money seemed to be for travel, so we didn't give them a full grant.

28. Good Food Coop (NYC, NY) NO GRANT. They had requested $800 for an ice machine and a produce display rack. This is not the type of group or work we fund, not an organizing project.

Business/policy items

We decided to fully fund this round of grants, meaning we gave out $1340 more than our pool for this meeting.
Grant Ceiling/Finances Discussion

This was a long discussion. We handed out our 1992 audited financial statements (long and short form), which were just completed days before the board meeting. Cheryl made some comments from the 1992 income statements and balance sheets that Wechsler had sent her before the meeting. [Copies enclosed for board members with these minutes.]

Cash on hand as of March 6th:

unrestricted:

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restricted:

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Total all funds: $356,557.69

Last year at our March board meeting we had $378,853. Down approximately $22,295 from last year the same time. If you look at 1992 annual reports you will see that in 1992 we spent approximately $34,000 more than we took in. (Primarily due to anniversary expenses, personnel increases from anniversary and Wechsler’s parental leave, more grants given out, increase in costs in newsletter.)

Nancy Moniz presented some information from a survey she did of grants from the six meetings in 1992 that the grant ceiling was up to $800. She calculated that we gave out $14,905 more than if the maximum had been $600. If all of 1992 had had a grant ceiling of $800 it would have been more like $20,000. If we go from $800 to $1000 it might mean $40,000 more than if was $600.

Proposals were discussed about raising the grant ceiling to $1000, including a tiered system proposed by Hans. Suggestion made to raise it to $1000, but not give out $1000 all the time. Questions raised about whether or not we would be able to give fewer groups more money—would we be any better at saying no to groups than we are right now? Would we be able to give some groups more, some groups less? It was suggested that $800 was not a meaningless amount to the groups we fund. Question was raised about why we should have so much money in the bank? It was pointed out that we are beginning to spend this money, that we spent more than we took in in 1992, and that was with the grant ceiling being $800 for only part of the year. It is to our benefit, in raising funds, to appear financially sound. We don’t want to give out so much money this year that we have to retrench next year or three years from now. We want to be around and giving out grants seven years from now. The question is how many years do we want it to take to give out the money we have accumulated? Wechsler proposed waiting another year before considering raising the ceiling to $1000. We should see how we do in 1993. How much grant money do we give out
with a full year of having the ceiling at $800? How much income do we bring in? How much
do we spend beyond what we took in?

Decision: After a long and well informed discussion, with input from many people, we
decided to maintain the ceiling at $800 until the end of 1993 and review it when we have
adequate figures--either the December books, or the full audited figures.

"Formula: " We had a discussion about the current "formula" we use to determine how much
money we have to give out at each board meeting. (The formula was $475 times the number
of groups applying for funds. This reflected our previous funding of approximately 60% of
groups.) Since there have been several meetings where this formula has not been enough to
fully fund the groups we wanted to fund we discussed whether or not to raise it or
continue to make exceptions at the end of each board meeting. We decided to raise the
formula to $500 per group, giving us a larger pool for each meeting. If we still do not
have enough money to fully fund all the groups we want to fund, we can still decide at the
end of the meeting whether we want to over-ride the formula and give out additional funds.

Newsletter: We spent more money on the newsletter in 1992 than in 1991. The reasons for
this are that we sent out more newsletters, and that more newsletters were ten pages, as
opposed to eight pages. 10 pages gives us room for more photos and longer articles, but
it is more expensive to print. Tatiana will bring some figures to the next board meeting
and we will discuss this then. In the meantime people should think about how much it is
worth to have a ten page newsletter, versus an eight page newsletter.

Salzman Grant: The money we gave out in 1992 to the 1851 Awareness Project is being
returned to us. Project never happened. NRC folded because core group moved. NM asked
them if they had another project, but they didn't, and they are sending the check back.
What should we do about the fact that this was a Salzman grant from our endowment, and
that we mentioned it in our newsletter and annual report? Tatiana will write something in
the newsletter. We will possibly give out 2 Salzman grants in 1993. We will be giving
the money out to another group shortly, and hope that by the end of the year we will be
able to give out a second grant. Nancy W. will let George Salzman know.

Discussion of application form changes: No one thinks the application form is perfect,
and we tried to see what we could do to take people's concerns into account. We discussed
Hans' proposal and did make changes to soften question #10.

Changes proposed by Tatiana, and accepted by board:

Prior to question 9, we add: "Your answers to the following set of questions will enable
us to get a better sense of the focus and perspective of your group."

Question 10 is expanded slightly, to read as follows: "So that we can better understand
the perspective of your group, please provide specific information concerning the
programs, coalition work, and position of your group in relationship to the rights and
concerns of each of the following:"

We also agreed to make the following changes: "f. Older People"; "g. Youth"

On page three of the application form we will remove the words "General Information" and
on page five we will remove the words "Political Information."
Report from board/staff lunch re: Anniversary raises:

Staff gets a cost of living raise every January and an anniversary raise May 1. This year the staff was divided as to whether we should get a raise or freeze our salaries at current rate for this year. We are looking into other possible benefits instead of a raise, including paid/unpaid leaves of absences (sabbaticals) and pensions. We will discuss at next Boston meeting.

New York Board Meeting: So far Nancy M. says that only Paul and Merble have said they can definitely make the NYC board meeting. What should we do? People in Boston agreed that in order to have a board meeting in NYC we needed at least 4 people from NY or south to be able to come. Nancy will check back with non-Boston board members when she gets back from vacation to determine if there are enough people to have the meeting in NY. Otherwise the meeting will be in Boston, and we will try for a June NYC meeting. We will continue to encourage non-Boston board members to come to Boston for board meetings. Travel reimbursement is available for attending meetings.

Enclosures: For those not at the board meeting, we’ve enclosed copies of our audited financial reports for 1992, short and long form. For all board members we’ve enclosed xerox copies of our 1992 end of year balance sheet and income statements, which have similar information as audited reports, but in a different form.

That’s it.
H. KONING

Jan 9, '93

Dear Resist:

In the matter of the diminishing requests:
I would like to repeat an earlier suggestion of mine: i.e. that the maximum grant should at least be raised to $1000.- Combined with that, I suggested a procedure lessening the chance that almost everyone would ask for the maximum grant.

I would also once more like to suggest a simplification of the application; I do not like the PC catechism we put applicants through. If some group wants to work for a cause we think worth while, and we are satisfied that they are seriously committed, I strongly object to questioning them on matters not relevant to their purpose.*/

This apart from the practical consideration that "paper is patient" (as we say in Holland) and that such procedures mean very little indeed.

Greetings &
Happy New Year!

Hans Koning

*/ I brought this up when an anti-war group were asked about their attitude in the matter of Boston's rental policies vs gays. If one fights the Pentagon, one has enough on one's plate. I also dislike the holier-than-thou image we create with this.
Dear Hans:

I write on behalf of the Resist board concerning your letter of Jan. 9, 93.

1. Raising the amount of the grant. The board voted last year to raise the maximum grant to $800. At the March 93 meeting the matter will come up for its annual review. Your letter will be part of the discussion.

2. The application form. Yes, it's a bit complicated. No one is entirely happy with it, but we have not been able to develop a viable alternative. After all, we do need to ask organizations about their politics. No doubt a few groups finesse (or even lie about) our questions, but the vast majority are very honest and thoughtful about their responses. The questions lead to Resist learning a great deal about a group's political perspective. The board is never dogmatic about the responses; we don't expect groups to be "correct" about everything. But there are political principles which our donors expect us to stand by. For example, we can not give a grant to an organization doing reasonable work in relation to El Salvador, if it is also militantly anti-choice.

Thanks for your concern. Hope you are well.

Best,

Louis Kampf
Dear Louis,

I am unhappy about your letter. I am unhappy that you thank me "for my concern" as if I were some liberal well-wisher making some half-assed comment. Resist belongs as much and as long to me as to you. Well, not really, because you do endlessly more for it. But if I had been taken up on my offer to have an occasional meeting in New Haven as a halfway house... If anyone ever had thought of me as someone who has after all written and published some twenty books and who has access to the NYT Op-Ed and the Washington Post Op-Ed and to CBS and to C-Span and had asked my help or advice for instance for the 25 year celeb, I'd have done much more myself...

(This used to be, I admit it, a sore point for me. Many years ago the suggestion was made to try and write an Op-Ed for the NYT about Solzenitsyn and American dissenters. I was at the meeting and people looked at each other and said, "Well, who could write that? Who?" I didn't say anything of course, and the net result was, guess, Grace Paley would be asked. I don't know if she tried, but anyway, I wrote such a piece and the NYT carried it. Later I decided to never suggest (or remotely push) myself for anything as, who needs it. I am not less devoted to Resist and its goals).

Well, that's the past. The future: about the monies. Yes, of course I know you voted to raise it to $800. - I read the bloody stuff they sent me, even if I have to do it at 3 a.m. But $800 is not enough, as you must know, as I know from speaking to folks in the field, as the drop in requests must presumably show. I also, in a letter a year ago, suggested the poss. of a tier-system -- no one was interested. It would mean that the less they ask, the greater the chance, the easier the hurdles and the competition -- this is to prevent(almost) everyone to always ask the maximum.

Two: if a group is seriously and importantly working for peace and for social justice in El Salvador, I would not ever dare ask them how they feel about abortion. What arrogance!!! Do we never learn?

-2-
While the Conservatives and the extreme right wingers and largely the liberals accept any bedfellow willing to jump into their unsavory beds, the Left still and always is so full of bloody principles that it kills our purposes, frustrates our efforts, makes every leftwing peleton, about to execute an evil, form a circle (as the old joke has it).

Don't we all know after forty years that there are basic principles which are always compatible and that people who are socialists or whatever they want to call themselves can be trusted if what they decide to do is what we all consider just and progressive and social(ist)? Your example: I have never heard of any serious supporter of the people in El Salvador or Nicaragua who also "militantly" (your word) supported anti-abortionists. I cannot conceive of such a person or group. That is NOT the issue. The issue is that we do not ASK those people how they "feel" about it if they are not doing anything in that field. Castro and the Cuban guerrillas were for historical and other reasons anti- or surely not pro-homosexuality. All earlier revolutions in this century were. Are we therefore rejecting all revolution so-far?

Well, I don't want to go on and lose the chance that you may read this at your March meeting. I hope you will. Know, if it makes a difference, that Noam agrees with me on this as you may know yourself.

I wish I could be there. Please know that I know from the most direct experience that there are many issues which I and my friends in the bloody past and even now consider de-luxe white-bourgeois-elitist issues and we don't give a good goddamn about them. Just pass the ammunition folks -- the money, that is.

La lucha continua.

cheers

Hans Koning
References for the March 7, 1993 Resist board meeting:

1) Guatemala News & Information Bureau - Linda Lucero of the Vanguard Foundation said that this group is very important for resources and work well with groups on other issues as well. It’s a small group which has good connections in the solidarity and refugee communities, good politics on a wide range of issues. Recommended.

2) Cuba Advocate - Laura Golden of the Chinook Fund said that she had seen the newsletter but Chinook hadn’t received a request for funding it. They did receive a proposal from these two people as part of the Colorado Information Project. It was turned down because Chinook’s board felt that they had access to other funding since professionals were involved. Laura said that they didn’t seem to have any critical things to say about Cuba. I can’t seem to find anyone else who knows of this.

3) Boston CISPES - I talked with Oscar Chacon of Centro Presente who said that they have "a good impression of this group and have collaborated with them on different events, around changing US policy about Salvadoran refugees... supportive of their work... Centro Present has good relations both with CASA and CISPES which continues to do good work." He knows of CISPES work-a-thon projects. Oscar said that he has respect for their group.

4) CLASP - For their last request, I called Fred Louis of the Veterans for Peace in their area. He said that VfP works closely with this group. An alliance has been formed of some 20 groups in the area (including VfP, CLASP, NAACP, NOW, Arab Anti-Discrimination Group, etc.) and are putting on a multi-issue conference in April. Fred said that CLASP is a great resource in the area, especially through their newsletter which is the "only viable, ongoing one in the whole valley area.... CLASP does a service by putting out not only information about Central America but also other groups and issues and their events." He said that their request is an excellent project to fund. I talked with him for this request and he agreed with his last opinion - a very important group for the area.

5) Latin American News - For their 1988 request, I talked with Chinook Fund in Denver. Chinook had funded them. They were local CISPES people and had done well with the material used. It is the only broadcast source of information in area. A militant group for 5 years on Central America. For their last grant, I called Chinook again. They affirmed the above and also said that this does programming on the most progressive station in Colorado. They have good politics. Chinook’s only question to them is one that is generic to all groups in Boulder: a question on diversity. A lot of Boulder groups are all Anglo, but he knows they do have one or two people of color in the group. Chinook had a favorable opinion of the group in general. I checked with Chinook again this year. Laura Golden said that the program continues to be very good and they have expanded their distribution of the programs across the US and Canada. "Real committed people, good politics, on top of things... trying to make a priority of paying their foreign correspondents... We have a favorable impression of them." The group did send an audio tape. I’ll ask Yana to review and report on it.

6) Washington Peace Center - We’ve always gotten good references for this group. They work on quite a few issues, work well in coalitions, have progressive politics, a good newsletter, initiate projects, are a diverse group. For past requests Hank R. checked on this group with two of his contacts. They said that the Center
continued to do good things and were very favorable about the group. Highly recommended.

For the group's last request I again checked with Hank Rosemont who said that he talked with three of his contacts who all gave "good marks" for the group. The Center is moving out of strictly peace issues and into local ones as well, such as the Save Our Cities Campaign. They still work as a clearing house for peace issues. Very good group and recommended for funding.

7) OR Community for War Tax Resistance - I first called Linda Reymers of McKenzie River Gathering in Eugene who hadn't heard of this. She suggested that I call Michael Sonnleitner of the Peace House in Portland. He did know of them. They have been meeting on a monthly basis for a couple of years. Part of each meeting is educational. Last Tax Day they organized a protest and worked with other groups on it. It's a small group, from 10 to 20 people come to meetings. Some of the people are associated with other groups such as OR FOR. National FOR didn't want to be publicly supportive of this because of their tax-exempt status; same with other large organizations. This group doesn't get a lot of outside financial support for that reason. Michael thought that the Fund is a good idea because there isn't one in place in their area; people have to go to Colorado or national organizations. He said that he supports funding their request.

8) Common Ground - Barbara Major of the People's Institute for Survival & Beyond n New Orleans said that she's "known them for a long time... very supportive of them... PISB has worked with them on various things... really good, do a lot of publishing... focus on the voices of women... unique in that they've published the voices of people who don't have access to the written word... recently have really rooted themselves in a diverse community and are taking direction from that community, Latina, African American and white... are doing organizing around Baton Rouge to establish a women's center with input from the grass roots... also have worked on other issues, such as environmental ones." Highly recommended.

9) Women's Alliance - I talked with Tommie Harris of Haymarket about this group. She said that Haymarket given them several grants, the most recent in December for leadership training. The HPF board "has always been very impressed with the group. They work with tenants and low-income women, lot of work on welfare cuts last year, work well with other groups, a very diverse group, good politics and analysis." Tommie said that, since there's a lot of things going on now concerning housing and cuts, she expects that they're working on that too.

10) Vermont Women's Health Center - Grace Paley will check on this for us. I also talked with Marlene Fried about this group. She said that this is a "very political center which was targeted by Operation Rescue... The center organized a lot of community support.... have participated in the annual reproductive rights conference... People think highly of them in the women's community in Vermont. This project is important and they don't really have much extra money to do this. There aren't many political women's health centers left and this is a good one." Recommended.

11) National Network of Abortion Funds - I called Judy Norsigian of the Boston Women's Healthbook Collective. She said she hasn't worked with this personally and doesn't know a whole lot other than the funds have done good work on a local level and that it sounds like a worthy idea to have a conference of the funds across the country. Judy gave me other contacts to call. Barbara Radford of the National Abortion Federation said that she knew of the conference and thought that it was a
really good thing for the funds to get together to coordinate efforts. She said that there are very good people involved. NAF mission is different that the Funds in that NAF represents abortion provider members around the US through resources, education, lobbying, group malpractice and has a hotline. NAF does refer women calling the hotline to the various Funds around the country. NAF hopes to coordinate more in the future with the Network and this conference would be helpful with that.

12) Women’s Safety & Freedom Project - Grace P. said that these are very good people. She’s known some of the women involved for a long time. The contact person is a good lawyer. Grace says that she trusts them and this project is a good thing to do. They know everybody for connections for organizing. The Haymarket/VT board supported them for a total grant. Grace said that there is a bit of controversy about this project: some women feel that booklet should be for all women, some feel it should only be for lesbians. Grace said the dialogue is OK, and she plans to talk this over with the group.

13) Coalition for Positive Sexuality - Jenifer Bing-Canar of AFSC/Chicago said she recently heard them interviewed on the radio and had also seen their booklet, "so creative... gotten a lot of flack from the mainstream... Their approach is novel, whole approach is to target those high school on the south side where AIDS and teenage pregnancy rates are high... They interact with the youth by going on campus to distribute the booklets... Uproar from some parents and school authorities about their passing out the booklets on high school property. Some feminists objected to some of the language.... The group is extremely in touch with gay & lesbian concerns... targeting primarily black high schools." Jenifer said that she wasn’t sure about their long-term goals other than these booklets and didn’t know if and how they are connecting with the greater community, such as clinics, etc. She said that she’d ask around about that.

14) Dee Farmer & Assoc. - Jackie Walker of ACLU National Prison Project said that the newsletter originally was published for a federal prisoner at Leavenworth who was moved and couldn’t continue with it. Dee F. wanted to continue the NL. The NL is very good, she feels, with lots of useful information. Jackie also reviewed the info packet and thought that was good also. She said that Dee F. does have good connections as well as a distribution network. Jackie recommends funding this.

15) Prison Information Service - Elizabeth Alexander of ACLU National Prison Project said she knows of the group and the handbook. She said the contact person is a prisoners’ rights advocate in the South Dakota prison system and is very good on legal issues. She thinks highly of this group. She feels that this Handbook is very good and that the group seems to have good connections around the US for distribution of the book.

16) Robeson Defense Committee - I talked with Christina Davis-McCoy of North Carolinians Against Racist & Religious Violence about this group. She said that they "came into being as a direct response to the takeover of the Robesonian and the issues involved in that.... I think their work is definitely important and worthy of support.... They publish a newsletter which serves as a connector between people in prison and outside... also do good support work for Eddie Hatcher... are concerned about conditions in prison for all prisoners... bring awareness to the public... work needs to continue, cutting edge work." She recommends funding them.

17) Kansas City Interfaith Peace Alliance - Ira Harritt of AFSC/KC said that his
group participates and works in the Alliance. It provides networking and a newsletter to connect the various groups in the area. He said that it is "a good organization, a responsible and valuable member of the community." He knows of the workshops which he said "seem to be an effective effort to deal with the issue of racism."

18) National Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression - I talked with several board members about this. Grace Paley said that they're good people who have "put their lives on the line." She didn't know if they do local work. Paul Lauter said he'd check around but thinks they do public relations and public events around particular issues. George Vickers said that he knows of at least two instances of Fellowship of Reconciliation groups working closely with this group on a state-wide basis", in Kentucky and in DC. (FOR has a representative on their executive board.) They were originally tied to the CP but not any longer. They split from the Party and are more allied with the Committees of Correspondence now. George said that they are, in fact, in a hostile relationship to the Party now. They have a number of projects in the South, do anti-racism and political prisoners work, have heavy participation from African Americans and continue to be very active.

19) Acre Improvement Committee - Vera Gadly, director of the Cambodian American Mutual Assistance Association in Lowell said that this group is doing good grass roots work and is definitely an organizing group. They’re trying to work with the city to take over housing projects in their area. They did take over a big apartment complex and worked with the feds to improve it. They are also trying to get the city to turn over a building in order to turn it into a youth center. They are an ethnically diverse committee and board whose purpose is to empower neighborhood people. The area is in bad shape, bad housing conditions, absentee landlords, abandoned buildings, arson, low income, ethnically diverse area. Vera thinks this is a very good group. Recommended.

20) Western Shoshone Defense Project - Heidi Carter for the American Peace Test in Nevada said that this is one of the issues that APT supports. They've done support work on the Dan sisters struggle, such as with the press. She said that APT likes the group which has done a lot of important work, but they do have a problem with a lack of structure since it’s a small group without staff. They don’t have enough people involved, "It’s in the middle of nowhere... They will soon be doing a big gathering and we feel that they might be able to get more people involved... If the government comes in (in the Spring), there won’t be anything left to fight for... It’s a matter of time... intense... (These are) hard working people working against great odds." APT recommends them.

21) Wobanaki - For their last request, I talked with Will Miller of the Green Mountain and Haymarket Funds. He said both funds have made grants to the organization. This is "the only active and effective group working on the issue of Native American rights in Vermont... they’re struggling to re-gain official tribal status from the state and over broken tribal and treaty rights... The headquarters is the center of operations." Will recommended giving them a grant.

This time I talked with Ken Hale about his impressions. He said that everyone he’d talked with were very positive about this group. They have been struggling for 300 years against tremendous odds and continue to struggle to keep their culture and language and to keep both in the consciousness of their people. They also struggle for their land rights. Ken first heard about this some 10 years ago. He feels that, on the above grounds, he would support their request.
22) Mothers for Peace - I called Vanguard Foundation, Greenpeace/SF, San Jose Peace Center, Peninsula Peace & Justice Center and the Liberty Hill Foundation. No one had heard of this group.

23) BAN - Paul George of the Peninsula Peace & Justice Center knew of this and feels they are "a real effective coalition... individuals and groups working on the issue... an uphill battle... single issue focus but their approach, which is criticized by the opposition, tends to address the entire nuclear cycle (weapons, plants and dumps... They are broad based... Dealing with the governor and the California legislature, so strategically stick to this single issue." Recommended.

24) Nuclear Democracy Project - I talked with David Rappaport of Greenpeace/SF who said that he's known these folks for a while. They're dedicated activists working for many years on nuclear issues, especially a nuclear-free Pacific. More recently they've been fighting (with other groups) a nuclear waste dump in the desert in California. He thinks they're "terrific people" but doesn't know how many people are in the group. Another staff person from Greenpeace in DC said that Greenpeace has funded their project and that they do good work to monitor the Pacific. They've produced reports for Greenpeace and have a good relationship with them. He said that the group does networking with groups in the US and abroad.

25) Middle East Peace Coalition - Margaret Cerrulo recommended that I talk with Michael Klare of Hampshire College. He said that he knows of the group. They've had several events on the Middle East, "not splashy or dramatic but good.... good politics... worthwhile... good people." I had also talked with Frances Crowe about the group. She said AFSC/Western Mass. had done events with them. She felt that this is a sound group.

26) Labor Committee on the Middle East - The last time this group came to us in 1990, Bill Hoffman of SF Pal.Sol.Cmtee. said that he had worked with in past on a tour and knew them pretty well - they'd done a lot of good things. The bulk of their membership is rank & file union members. Their strategy is educating rank & file. They had good relations with progressive trade union leadership, had a newsletter which went out to a lot of unionists and the group made connex with other issues. At that time, Bill recommended funding the group.

I called Bill again for this request. Things have changed! Bill said that for him this was "a tough one because I have some serious political differences with (the contact person) Jeff Blankfort, his political position in particular. (He's kind of like Lennie Brenner, but not as crazy.) When he deals with the issue, his position is that the Jewish (his word) lobby controls US policy... He's built alliances with Pete McClosky and right wing grouping... The group's Bulletin continues to go out... The group's main work is the Bulletin and J.B. is the editor.... hard to say where the rest of the membership is at... He recently attacked the Palestine Solidarity Committee as selling out to the Democratic Party... The project for which they're asking a grant is a good one and the Workers' Hotline is a good organization." Bill also said that there is "a strong division in the pro-Palestinian movement on why the US supports Israel" - the influence of the Israeli lobby being one of the points of contention.

27) PINTIG - For their last request, I had talked with Jenifer Bing-Canar of AFSC who had "been very impressed with the Philippine work (in Chicago) and the Philippine solidarity community's ability to branch out to general solidarity work in Chicago." This group does "wonderful cultural performances for themselves and
for many left events." Jenifer said that she’d learned a lot about the Philippines from them. She was impressed with their mailings, performances, politics, gender equity, and involvement of youth. They also do solidarity work on other issues. She was very supportive of them. I called Jenifer for this request. She said that she agreed with her past comments about the group. She also said that, since the whole Philippines movement is currently struggling in Chicago, there were not as many events as in the past. She said that although the group is doing fewer public events, she’s still impressed with them, very professional and well organized. Jenifer recommends funding the group.

28) Good Food Coop - I called Joyce Chen of the Lower East Side Joint Planning Council. She said that she knew of this, a small coop started by community people, the only health food store in the area, good for the neighborhood. She also said that it is not political per se, though several of the group are involved in political, community issues such as housing. The store does have literature available about political issues and events.

For peace and justice,

Nancy Moniz
Resist staff