3-6-1994

Resist Board Meeting, Mar. 6, 1994

Resist

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Dear Nancy,

RE request # 6 for the March 6 meeting; in my books, CISPES is absolutely sui generis in the local perceptions and to say, as GV does, that he would "rather give a grant to the joint delegation of the US Citizens Mission" (who, I assume, have not asked for one) makes no sense to me.

CISPES is having hard times which is precisely, I would feel, why we don't want them to think Resist is abandoning them.

love + meeting

[Signature]

Clara K
One Summer Street, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143
617/623-5110

Board Meeting – March 6, 1994 – 11am
Renae Scott’s house
116 Chestnut Street
Cambridge, MA 02139 Tel. (617) 492-1085

Dear Board member,

This would be the first meeting that we could use our new grant amounts: Maximum grant is $1,000 (but could be less); Some grant is $300; Token grants remains at $100; and emergency grants have been raised to $200.

For this Board meeting we have $14,400 for grants ($600 x 24 proposals). We can also use the $3,595 left over from previous board meetings for a grant total of $17,995 to give out, if we choose to.

I’ll send you updated info for the requests about a week before the board meeting, as well as any references I have at the time.

AGENDA

** Any last minute items of information by staff which are important. A report on any emergency grants given since the last board meeting.

GRANT REQUESTS

Labor

1) North American Worker to Worker Network (Rocky Mount, NC) – Asking for $800 toward the purchase of a computer.

   Yes X No ____ Maybe ____

2) Women’s Institute for Leadership Development (Jamaica Plain, MA) – $900 request toward the expenses of organizing, training and empowering immigrant women and non-native speakers to become leaders/activists in the labor movement.

   Yes X No ____ Maybe ____
3) Silicon Valley Job Retention and Conversion Project (San Jose, CA) - Requesting $800 for the expenses of an event in the Spring.
   Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

Central and Latin America and the Caribbean

4) Colombia Support Network (Madison, WI) - Asking for $800 for the expenses of a project to increase their outreach and to consolidate their membership.
   Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___
   (If not in conflict with No guidelines)

5) National Debate for Peace in El Salvador (Washington, DC) - Request of $1,000 toward the non-travel expenses of organizing a photo exhibition to demonstrate the necessity of implementing the Peace Accords in El Salvador.
   Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

6) NY CISPES (NY) - $725 requested toward the expenses of their project of recruiting local activists to go on delegations to El Salvador and for follow-up expenses.
   Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

7) Center for Information/Documentation & Research on Haiti (Hyde Park, MA) - $800 request for the rental of a PA system for their monthly Popular Debates in the Haitian community. (We turned down a request in December from this group for their newsletter. This is a new request.)
   Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

   This item, I blame irrelevant to the H. crisis
8) New England Central America Network (Jamaica Plain, MA) - $1,000 requested toward the non-travel expenses of a Spring tour of two women organizers (one from the U.S. and one from Nicaragua) which focuses on domestic links between the countries.
   Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

9) Guatemala Committee/CASA (Cambridge, MA) - $800 request toward the expenses of educating people in Boston and New England about the participation of N.E. National Guard and Army Reserve troops in joint military exercises in Guatemala.
   Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual

10) Worcester Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Film Festival (MA) - $700 requested to rent films, to pay a projectionist, and for advertising.
    Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

11) Empty Closet Enterprises (Chicago, IL) - Asking for $800 toward costs of producing their "Hot Wire" publication of lesbian music and culture. I’ll ask a board member to review the magazine.
    Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

12) Austin Lesbian Avengers (TX) - Requesting a grant of $800 toward the expenses of a Lesbian Pride Ride through the Deep South to culminate with Stonewall 25 in New York City in June.
    Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___
13) Encuentro/Encounters - Women Across Borders (Jamaica Plain, MA) - A request of $800 toward the non-travel expenses of organizing local events with two Central American feminists on tour of the U.S.
Yes __ No ____ Maybe ____

14) The Women's Alliance (Framingham, MA) - Asking for $800 toward the expenses of organizing area meetings to educate the public on the impending reform of welfare in the state.
Yes ____ No _____ Maybe ____
Can't judge

Community Empowerment/Anti-racism

15) Multicultural Resource Center (Ithaca, NY) - $750 requested toward the expenses (staff salary, stipends, publicity, printing and postage) of their project for young people to produce skits on racism for schools in the area.
Yes ____ No _____ Maybe ____
(depending on references)

16) Face to Face: The Center for Multicultural Dialogue (Bethlehem, PA) - Asking for $795 to fund staff time to organize 50 organizations into a new Allentown Human Relations Coalition.
Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

Environmental

17) People for Community Recovery (Chicago, IL) - $1,000 requested for production of their bi-annual newsletter, for a special edition of that newsletter, and toward the purchase of a laser printer.
Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

If you were satisfied with the 1992 follow-up
18) Artists for Survival (Waltham, MA) - A request of $500 to purchase blank posters for their "Save Life on Earth" project for children. I'll bring samples of past posters to the Board meeting.

Yes ☒ No ☐ Maybe ☐

Miscellaneous

19) Missouri Progressive Vote (Bridgeton) - They're asking for $500 for printing and postage for a brochure about the votes of Missouri legislators on key issues, for the expenses of telephone and fax to media, and for travel.

Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe ☒ need local reaction for judgment

20) Peace Education Center (East Lansing, MI) - A request of $800 toward the production and mailing costs of their newsletter.

Yes ☒ No ☐ Maybe ☐

21) Green Mountain Veterans for Peace (Brattleboro, VT) - Request of $600 for a slide projector and lens.

Yes ☒ No ☐ Maybe ☐

22) Michigan Fair Budget Coalition (Detroit) - $800 requested toward the expenses of their Alternative Budget Project. I'll ask a Board member to review a copy of their 1993 Budget proposal.

Yes ☐ No ☒ Maybe ☒ depending on review
23) Uncompromising Books (Taos, NM) - Asking for $800 toward the expenses of promoting a book, "The American Indian in the White Man's Prison." We have a choice of funding one of the following: a brochure; review copies or free copies of the book; or a summary of expert testimony. I've asked them to send a copy of the book for review by a Board member.

Yes [x] No [ ] Maybe [ ]

Unless board member review finds reasons not to

24) University Conversion Project (Cambridge, MA) - $800 request to fund a media campaign as part of their project, Right Wing on Campus Alert.

Yes [x] No [ ] Maybe [ ]

BUSINESS/POLICY ITEMS

* Board Search Sub-committee report
* Newsletter
* Office - staff, finances and miscellaneous items.

* The next Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 24th (or Grace Paley's preference of May 1st.) This could be a New York City meeting (I will poll non-Boston Board members), or we could have this meeting in the Boston area and have the next (possible date June 5th) in New York instead. Any preference? In any case, we'll need members to volunteer to host each meeting.

For peace and justice,

Nancy Moniz, Resist staff

And sisterhood + brotherhood -

Love to you all -

Hans Koning
RESIST BOARD MEETING
MARCH 6, 1994
RENAE SCOTT’S HOUSE, Cambridge, MA

PRESENT: Cheryl Smith, Tatiana Schreiber, Nancy Moniz, Renae Scott, Ken Hale, Louis Kampf, Nancy Wechsler (minutes), Tess Ewing, and Hans Koning by proxy.

Board Search Committee Report: Nancy Moniz talked with Bev Tillery at the Office Technology Project. Bev felt she was over-committed at this time, but we should try back in six months or a year. She is interested in Resist.

Pam was supposed to call Marcellus, but had not done so as of the meeting. Renae was in the process of trying to figure out if any of the women she works with might be Resist board possibilities. She mentioned a few names-- Sondra Lattimer (from Dimmick) and Ann Maxwell (JP Neighborhood Development Corporation) were two. Someone suggested talking to Jorge Casas from Red Sun Press. Tatiana will call him. Nancy Moniz will talk to Lupe. Jackie Lebow’s name was also brought up. Wechsler brought up Gordon Gottlieb’s name again, even though he has accepted being on the Radical America board, and would therefore be unlikely to agree to be on the Resist board now. Discussion as to whether we should ask another white person. Wechsler argued that having another gay man on the board would be positive and that we really needed someone with personnel skills. (Renae Scott was checking into someone who also had personnel skills.) People finally agreed that Wechsler could ask Gordon if he was interested and under what circumstances; and if he was we would interview him.

April issue should be about Mexico and Middle East.
May/June issue should be about Religious Right and Women’s health issues.

Tatiana mentioned that she was considering taking a leave without pay or leaving Resist in the Fall or January. She had brought this up at the previous board/staff lunch, which urged her to let the board know what she was thinking. She will get a clearer idea of what she wants three months before it happens. If Tatiana took a leave without pay, we’d have to get a guest editor for that time period.

We also had a brief discussion as to whether or not it was worth doing the political part of the year-end wrap up. People should look at their March newsletters and give the staff feed back as to whether or not they think it is worth doing.

Center for Fair Employment: We had postponed this grant. We did get a letter from a law firm that says the Center has closed down for now due to financial and staff concerns. Grant is indefinitely postponed.

Financials: as of 3/4/94

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Finding Funding Booklet: Board/staff lunch made decision to reprint third edition of this
helpful little pamphlet.

BONUS/Personnel committee: Board/staff lunch committee recommended a $350 bonus, prorated
for all regular staff. This was approved. Discussion of problem of lack of active
personnel committee that initiates this, instead of staff having to initiate and argue for
it. We also discussed what the expectations were on staff to attend board meetings,
especially New York meetings-- given the expense. How optional are board meetings? Can
one staffer go to the NY meetings? We realized we needed to discuss this in more detail.

NEXT BOARD MEETINGS: May 1st meeting is in New York City. June 5th Meeting is in Boston.

GRANTS: For this board meeting we had $14,400 plus $3,595 left over from previous
meetings, giving us a total of $17,995 to give out. Out of that we gave out $12,075.00.
That leaves $5,920 additional money for future board meetings. All groups that were
funded received what they had requested, except for group #18, which was given a SOME.

1. North American Worker to Worker Network (Rocky Mount, NC) YES to a grant of $800 toward
the purchase of a computer.

2. Women’s Institute for Leadership Development (JP, MA) YES to a grant of $900 toward the
expenses of organizing, training and empowering immigrant women and non-native speakers to
become leaders/activists in the labor movement. Question was raised as to size of budget.
This is just a projected budget and not likely to be reached. We should urge them to put
more real numbers in their proposals.

3. Silicon Valley Job Retention and Conversion Project (San Jose, CA) NO GRANT. They had
requested $800 for the expenses of an event in the Spring. Discussion: They didn’t answer
question #10. Question was raised as to what exactly the event was. Nancy Moniz read a
letter they sent in late, but it is still not clear what they are doing. She had asked
them for budget information, but had not gotten it. People felt they lacked a political
perspective.

4. Colombia Support Network (Madison, WI) YES to a grant of $800 for the expenses of a
project to increase their outreach and to consolidate their membership. Discussion: Human
Rights situation isn’t as bad as they say, but it is bad in some places. They are related
to group in DC that does important work. Question raised as to what they meant by a
banana tax?

5. National Debate for Peace in El Salvador (Washington, DC) YES to a request of $1000
toward the non-travel expenses of organizing a photo exhibition to demonstrate the
necessity of implementing the Peace Accords in El Salvador. This is a Salvadoran group,
doing work here. Trying to sway US Congress, not grassroots. Question raised re: project
budget. Low salary for staff person. Other expenses seem high. Didn’t respond to
Reproductive Rights question. (Many groups in this round did not respond to this
question.)

6. NY CISPEES (NY) YES to a grant of $725 toward the expenses of their project of
recruiting local activists to go on delegations to El Salvador and for follow-up expenses.

7. Center for Information/Documentation & Research on Haiti (Hyde Park, MA) NO GRANT.
They had requested $800 for the rental of a PA system for their monthly Popular Debates in
the Haitian community. (We had turned down a request from them at our December meeting
for funding for their newsletter.) Nancy Moniz asked them how many people were going.
Turnout seems good. They didn’t send finance statement for 1993. Question raised as to
why it should cost $800 to rent a PA system? Couldn't they buy one for that? Why don't
they buy one. No response to Reproductive Rights question. We should ask them to look
into what it would cost to buy a system, and come back to us. Letter: NO. Research cost
of buying sound system and come back to us with a proposal for buying. And we would like
to know if you have a position on Reproductive Rights. We need more information on
finances. NM can call Patsy Boudoin for possible reference on group.

8. New England Central America Network (JP, MA) YES to a grant of $1000 toward the non-
travel expenses of a Spring tour of two women organizers (one from the US and one from
Nicaragua) which focuses on domestic links between the countries. We've funded them
before. Good group.

9. Guatemala Committee/CASA (Cambridge, MA) YES to a grant of $800 toward the expenses of
educating people in Boston and New England about the participation of N.E. National Guard
and Army Reserve troops in joint military exercises in Guatemala. Local groups doing good
work.

10. Worcester Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Film Festival (MA) NO GRANT. They had requested
$700 to rent films, to pay a projectionist, and for advertising. No organizing work
connected to festival.

11. Empty Closet Enterprises (Chicago, IL) NO GRANT. They had requested $800 toward the
cost of producing their "Hot Wire" publication of lesbian music and culture. Tatiana
reviewed magazine. Thinks it's great. Problem though that political activist part is
small compared to cultural parts. Art and politics mixed together. Question raised as to
how this was tied to organizing? References were positive. Good resource, but not what
we fund.

12. Austin Lesbian Avengers (TX) YES to a grant of $800 toward the expenses of a Lesbian
Pride Ride through the Deep South to culminate with Stonewall 25 in NYC in June.

13. Encuentro/Encounters -- Women Across Borders (JP, MA) YES to a grant of $800 toward
the non-travel expenses of organizing local events with two Central American feminists on
tour of the US. Didn't answer question #10. Sent fax to NM on Friday with additional
information. Good people doing this.

14. The Women's Alliance (Framingham, MA) YES to a grant of $800 toward the expenses of
organizing area meetings to educate the public on the impending reform of welfare in the
state. We've funded them before. No position on Reproductive Rights, people hold
different positions in the group.

15. Multicultural Resource Center (Ithaca, NY) YES to a grant of $750 toward the expenses
(staff salary, stipends, publicity, printing and postage) of their project for young
people to produce skits on racism for schools in the area. Question as to whether they
can get some more mainstream money. No position on Reproductive Rights. Big commitment
of kids time and energy. Seems like good thing.

16. Face to Face: The Center for Multicultural Dialogue (Bethlehem, PA) NO GRANT. They
had asked for $795 to fund staff time to organize 50 organizations into a new Allentown
Human Relations Coalition. Group funded by the Rotary Club-- don't need our money. No
organizing. Not the kind of thing we usually fund. Should be able to get funding
elsewhere.

17. People for Community Recovery (Chicago, IL) YES to a grant of $1000 for production of
their bi-annual newsletter, for a special edition of that newsletter, and toward the
purchase of a laser printer. Nancy Moniz reported that a lot of information came in late. NM had asked for a breakdown of money from foundations. She read it off at the meeting. Tatiana had them write a newsletter article for us.

18. Artists for Survival (Waltham, MA) SOME ($300) toward their $500 request to purchase blank posters for their "Save Life on Earth" project for children. This is a one person show. People liked the posters.

19. Missouri Progressive Vote (Bridgeton) NO GRANT. They asked for $500 for printing and postage for a brochure about the votes of Missouri legislators on key issues, for the expenses of telephone and fax to media, and for travel. Discussion: This work is outside of 501c3 guidelines. How can they say they have a fiscal sponsor? This is too mainstream, but it is Missouri. Tell them that we are glad you're doing this work, but it is not what we fund. It is too focussed on electoral arena and lobbying-- not enough grassroots organizing.

20. Peace Education Center (East Lansing, MI) YES to a grant of $800 toward the production and mailing costs of their newsletter. Discussion: How can they be a center, if they've lost their home? Didn't say anything about Reproductive Rights. This led to a discussion of how or if to rephrase question #10- separate out program work and having a position on something. Nothing decided about that. We decided to fund the group.

21. Green Mountain Veterans for Peace (Brattleboro, VT) NO grant. They had requested $600 for a slide projector and lens. Discussion: Is this really an organizing tool? Plenty out there about horrors of Bosnia. What is point of this? Sometimes when an individual comes back from a trip it hits home harder. What does he want done? His position is anti-war, but not more than that. We should suggest he get in touch with the War Resister's League and get their brochure. It contains contacts of people doing peace work on and in the former Yugoslavia. Question raised about who would get slide projector afterwards? Does this organization really still exist as an organization? Board meets every 3-4 months, and they have an event every year with Bread and Puppet theater. We don't have a script, no outreach plans (no position on Bosnia). How will he organize people? Ask how will you organize people? How will you put people in solidarity with peace people in former Yugoslavia? He really just needs a carousel to put his slides in. Most libraries and schools have projectors. Someone mentioned that his statement is like a script. His purpose seems to be to educate kids that you don't solve problems by war.

22. Michigan Fair Budget Coalition (Detroit) NO grant. They had requested $500 toward the expenses of their Alternative Budget Project. They changed their grant proposal from $800 to $500, because of other grants they had recently received. Cheryl looked over budget. HARD to work with. Just said how much they want to increase line items in existing budget, doesn't include what actual line item amounts are. Very technical document. Aimed at lobbying legislators. Strong support from Religious community. Doesn't have specific grassroots organizing use. More appropriate for lobbying efforts. Supportive letter, but not what we fund.

23. Uncompromising Books (Taos, NM) POSTPONED. They asked for $800 toward the expenses of promoting a book, "The American Indian in the White Man's Prison." We had a choice of funding one of the following: a brochure; review copies or free copies of the book; or a summary of expert testimony. Discussion: Can they get support elsewhere, such as the ACLU? Someone needs to look at the book. Ken will take a look at it. Discussion as to say YES, NO or postpone. Give them the benefit of the doubt if book is good. Group just started to do this project. How will group get money and resources to get this book into libraries? That takes a lot of outreach work.
24. University Conversion Project (Cambridge, MA) YES to a grant of $800 to fund a media campaign as part of their project, Right Wing on Campus Alert. Discussion: We have funded them before. No one else is doing this. They held a one day student conference the day before the board meeting. They do try fundraising among faculty members.

Other business: Tess gave a brief report clarifying some of the issues involved in people from the Rainbow Coalition (but not the coalition itself) supporting Ken Reeves for a second term as mayor.

REMINDER: NEXT BOARD MEETING IS MAY 1ST IN NYC, AND THEN JUNE 5TH IN BOSTON.
References for the Resist Board meeting on March 6, 1994:

1) North American Worker to Worker Network - Ashaki Binta of the Black Workers for Justice knows of the group, "relatively new to the area... been doing support work with BWJ around poultry plants which have a lot of Latino workers... some of this group's staff are Latinos... also doing support work for undocumented workers in our area... works in conjunction with another group which does the service type end of the work... good progressive politics... doing really important work, cross border work... Good group for Resist to support."

2) WILD - For their last request I talked with Tess Ewing who said that she's not totally objective, having been involved with the group for several years. She did say that this is "wonderful, fantastic organization... do fantastic job every year with their state-wide women's institute. Last year had a component in Spanish and will again this year... everybody who goes has a great and educational time... builds leadership... stretched for money, a lot of the unions can't fund this and the Institute can't give scholarships... It makes sense they're doing a fund raising effort.... They do a real push to have diverse leadership.... Maybe half and half African-American and white on program committee... Most of the women of color are involved with the diversity component of the Institute... Diverse teachers for classes." Tess recommended funding.

I talked with Tess again for this request. She said that she's excited about this project, but has a conflict of interest since she's on their board. She suggested that I talk with the Immigrant Women's Resource Center. I called them and talked with Farah Rabanbakhsh, their director. Farah said that some of their Latina Women's Council went to WILD's summer institute last year and came back "really empowered... learned a lot... created a lot of solidarity among the group. The Center is now collaborating with WILD to develop leadership among women immigrants... great work... very good with women of color and immigrant women in developing leadership... excellent staff... highly recommended."

3) Silicon Valley Job Retention & Conversion Project - I called Mandy Haas of the San Jose SCCOSH Injured Workers Project. She said she knew of this "wonderful people... some of the people had worked at a local military contractor... layoffs and not conversion... This is a real project, concrete objective, but also could be used as a model for work in other areas... focusing on one work-site (FMC) to push it to convert into making electric buses... group has done events, discussion groups with laid-off workers to get their input... grass roots work with the work-force, coalition work with organizations on events... leadership of the unions involved have progressive politics." Recommended.

4) Colombia Support Network - I called Eileen of the Wisc. Coordinating Committee on Nicaragua who said that they know the group, some of the main organizers had been involved with WCCN in the past. She said that the group "has a lot of potential... at the moment, they're doing a lot of things, getting good press coverage, involving a lot of volunteers, active in getting people in the progressive community to go on delegations to Colombia... good media when they come back... well organized group... worked with church and other groups... good at networking... good progressive politics... came to WCCN for advise when they started." Recommended.

5) National Debate for Peace in El Salvador - I had some questions about this since it is an organization based in El Salvador with an office in DC. Does it fall within our guidelines? I called George Vickers and he said that it is a tricky question. He also has questions about this as a Resist-type project. He said it
really is a Salvadoran organization, the group is tied to the FMLN. He said they do useful work in DC, part of the overall spectrum of Salvadoran and other groups in DC. George said that it’s closer to the Salvadoran CP in politics but not part of nor an appendage of the CP. They’ve sponsored talks in DC, had the lone survivor of the El Mozote massacre as a speaker. They’re working on the Peace Accords, not just the elections. They have a certain visibility in DC. George feels that they’re doing more than other Salvadoran organizations in DC, and that this particular project would be a good thing right now.

6) NY CISPES - George Vickers said that this group has been active in the past but they’ve had some contraction recently, like other groups. He wasn’t for this particular project since there is already organizing going on by some 15 organizations (which include SHARE and Voices on the Border), a joint effort called the US Citizens Observer Mission, which makes more sense to him than this separate delegation by CISPES. George said that he would rather give funds to the joint delegation than this one.

I asked Mike Prokasch of Boston CISPES why there will be a separate CISPES delegation to El Salvador for the elections. He said that the other larger Mission delegation is an official observer delegation composed of people from large groups, mainly religious sector based. The CISPES delegation, other than 20 people of the minimum 150 expected to participate, is not. The FMLN requested that people go down to accompany FMLN and popular movement candidates, "to show their faces publicly", and also to work on the computer network polling results (remember TecChange - they’re working on this also.) Since the CISPES delegation is not neutral (as the other will be), they couldn’t join with the Mission, though relations are cordial. Mike also said that some of the groups involved in the Mission are still leery about the radical politics of CISPES.

7) SEDRA - For their first request, I talked with Earl LaFontaine of the Haiti Communication Project who said that he knew the people. They had sponsored an event with local people and several from Miami to talk about the situation in Haiti. He said this was a very active group, left analysis, grass roots. Most of their literature is in Creole, some in English. An excellent group doing very good work. Earl recommended funding them.

For their request in December, 1993, I called HCP again. Both of my contacts there had left, so I talked with Basle, a Board member. He said that this is a good group, doing good work, but also felt that "in the Haitian community, they’re considered ultra-radical... did not support elections in Haiti, feeling that elections couldn’t solve problems of the people." I then talked with Arielle Adrien who said that her group "has worked with SEDRA on events... They have a monthly newsletter and meetings on political issues." As far as the question of the elections, Arielle said that the group "had a position that the elections were done on such short notice, they couldn’t take the country far... the consequences they predicted are happening now... group is radical in the sense that they feel that change will come from the people and not from the electoral process... not against Aristide... In the past, the Center was very useful for availability of resources for people, but, because of finances, they don’t have a place now... still operating as a group." Arielle recommended funding them "especially now, since people are realizing that change takes preparation." At the board meeting, Yana mentioned that Arielle might not be objective because she’s involved in this herself. We turned down that request for their newsletter.

For this request, I talked with Franklin Dalembert of the Somerville Haitian Coalition. He said that this is "a very progressive organization, around about 5 years... work on issues of democracy for Haiti... I worked with some of them on
Haiti Focus... made a video on Haiti with them... very well known in the Haitian community... keep community informed... have events in Dorchester because there are a lot of Haitian people living there... very good politics..." He reads there newsletter and, although it’s geared toward academics, he’s noticed people at there events buying it. Recommended.

8) NECAN - Mike Prokasch said that "they’re moving to Springfield, MA and joining forces with ARISE... one more step of committing to domestic links work (which they’ve been focusing on for a while... NECAN wasn’t doing much direct organizing in work in Boston and can do New England work anywhere so the move is logical... a healthy move.... now only have one fund raiser and one program staff person... mainly been doing tours lately, some human rights responses, some regional coordination around Guatemala/National Guard exercises.... acting as a clearinghouse and resource on Central America for local and states groups... less work since there used to be, less staff and more local projects happening... This particular request fits in with their current work." Recommended.

9) Guatemala Committee/CASA -They’ve come to us in the past and always received excellent references. I talked this time to Mike Prokasch who said that this "is the only surviving country committee active at CASA now (all the others really not doing much)... continues to be highly motivated, still do a lot of human rights work, maquila, tours... core group of 10 committed activists with lots of volunteers... making a big attempt to work with CISPES to do joint projects... They learned about the NE Guard in Guatemala from groups in Maine in January... really worried this had connections with the rebellion in Chiapas, Mexico, but since found out the military exercises had been planned for some time.... group is impressive." Mike recommended funding.

10) Worcester Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Film Festival - Getting a reference for this was a longish trail. Stephanie Poggi referred me to the partner of someone who works at Respond who referred me to Maryanne Winters of the Rape Crisis Center in Worcester. She had heard of the film festival last year, didn’t go herself, but heard it "was a great event... well organized." She knows of the people involved in organizing the event. They’re "active ... done work in the community... active with the Gay & Lesbian Coalition here and with anti-violence work... one works with gay and lesbian youth to mobilize them... solid people... good politics.... understand the issues and know how to talk about them... would do good organizing for this event, use the money well and put on a good event." Maryanne recommends them.

11) Empty Closets Enterprises - Lucy Smith of the Crossroads Fund said that this is "a great magazine... feminist based, good arts and music source... didn’t fall within CRFund guidelines because it’s a national magazine... don’t know how political the work is, that is, how the magazine is used other than for consciousness raising... good for performers... wonderful resource."

12) Austin Lesbian Avengers - I called Bob Brister of the Austin Peace & Justice Coalition. He said that this is a good group which has been around a little while and has just joined the Coalition. He feels that they work well with other groups, are cooperative and enthusiastic with good politics. Their main project right now is the Pride Ride, which he feels "is a really good project, a sound idea... will stop in towns to meet with and have events with small groups there... important for building an activist network through the South which is really needed. I’m impressed with them." A positive reference.
13) **Encuentro/Encounter** - Again, **Mike Prokasch** - "... the women on tour sound incredible, especially the Salvadoran woman... able to inspire people... Central American women are moving away fast from party structures toward independent thinking. They want to know what women in the feminist movement are doing here in order to learn and develop... want to have workshops here on focused feminist issues. They'll get a lot out of the tour, as well as will the feminist movement here... focus is on Latinas and women of color here... only planning one public event and some university events for honoraria since focused exchanges are planned to carry out the goals of meeting with feminist issues groups... This Boston tour isn't in conflict with the NECAN tour planned for the same time period." Mike was enthusiastic about this.

14) **Women's Alliance** - I talked with **Tommie Harris of Haymarket** about their last request. 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 expected that they're working on that too.

This time I talked with **Wanda Wong of the Boston Women's Fund** which has funded this group several times. She said that they "do really good work... well respected, committed... very important in their area... have good connections there... good project request." She thinks highly of the Alliance.

15) **Multicultural Resource Center** - I called **Dan Firestone of CUSLAR in Ithaca.** He did know of this center. He said that they've recently hired new staff and have developed a lot of new ideas on how to work with the community. There's "new life in the group with the new staff.... work on a community level on multicultural issues... located in a downtown multicultural center and focus on the community not the university, which is good... progressive politics... good project request to Resist."

16) **Face to Face** - I talked with **Nancy Tate of Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern in Bethlehem, PA.** She said that the main thing this center does is conflict resolution training, including in schools and with the police department. LEPOCO is supportive of the center but doesn't work with them nor is it part of this coalition. The two groups have different approaches: LEPOCO tries to bring about change structurally by groups of people, whereas her impression is that this group works on personal change in people, for example in students to be more tolerant of each other rather than to organize to demonstrate around issues. Some staff are progressive in politics, some of membership more liberal. Nancy said that like most groups the center seems to be struggling financially, doing really good things, fulfilling real needs in the community, but she also said that she feels they should pressure government to set up an official human rights bureau, not to organize this independent coalition.

17) **People for Community Recovery** - For this group's last request I called **Lucy Smith of the Crossroads Fund** which had funded the group in the past. Lucy said that "it's a constant struggle for them... doing environmental organizing in a low-income project... wonderful group... good politics... very visible in the media... Group has developed leadership and input from the community... work with other low-income community groups... wonderful in mobilizing folks... A newsletter would be helpful for them to do outreach... They make connections with other issues, network with the issues, resources and groups in other areas of the city." Highly
I talked with Lucy again for this proposal. She agreed with her last reference and added that this group now "works with many, many groups in the area... I've heard that the response from the community is very good... the group and the community are now talking about organizing around other issues beside the environmental ones." Again, highly recommended.

18) Artists for Survival - For the last request I talked with Nora Lester of Cambridge Ramallah Sister City who knew of this group. She thought their posters are good. "The artists build a very particular niche (not education and not broad) but it is unique for the people they reach, particularly children.... important work... nobody else is doing this stuff... reaches a community that solidarity people don't reach... work with synagogues... They are very organized, competent people, well connected, committed to the long run. They work well with other groups... good group." When the Sister City project went to the West Bank, this group gave them "tons of buttons and posters for the kids..great gesture. There are lots of people helping in this but Mitch (Kamen) runs this... I hope you fund them." We did not fund their request, which was basically the same as the current one.

This time I talked to one of their references, Gordon Fellman of the New Jewish Agenda. He thinks "They're terrific... don great work over the years... the poster work and also buttons based on posters... previously focused on nuclear disarmament issues, then on the Middle East... just a few people involved in the project with the help of several other artists... I trust them as political people... this project is good." He didn't know if any part of the group's work deals with organizing.

19) Missouri Progressive Vote - For their last request I called Maggie Fisher of the St. Louis Interfaith Committee on Central America who said that she had "the greatest respect for their contact person (who had been the head organizer for ACORN)... great organizers, good political analysis.... good groups in the coalition... good union participation.... not redundant with other organizations in the state... in Missouri, real conservatism, closed minded state... The governor hates women, hates the poor, slashes budgets for the poor... a few good state legislators, but we need more... trying to get more women in.... really need anything to open up the process... very discouraging state to be in.... I'm all for this group."

I called Maggie again for this proposal. She said that they have a better governor now, but the state remains conservative. She agreed with her last reference and added that this coalition worked to get 2 or 3 progressive women elected to the legislature and do some other electoral campaigns. They had a "fine conference before Christmas, co-sponsored by a lot of the progressive groups in town, including good labor representation... a good event, brought together minority people, unions and progressive groups... don't know what they've been doing since." Maggie said that she feels that reports on voting records of legislators is very helpful for organizers and for citizens in general. She remains positive about this organization.

20) Peace Education Center - Jane Slaughter of Labor Notes referred me to one of her contacts in Lansing, John Revette, a labor activist. He said that he knows of the group "been around a long time, during that time has worked real hard at bringing lesser known as well as more prominent issues to the community... had good success with the general community and the university population... activists... have a very good newsletter, well written and researched... had good media coverage... attracted a wide range of people... put a lot of energy into Middle East
issues... (Michigan State has not had intra-student conflict like U/MA yet but did have, a couple of years ago, a takeover of the admin building by African American students protesting university policies)... the Center is a very good group, I’m impressed with them."

21) Green Mountains Veterans for Peace - Grace Paley said that she’d check on this group but couldn’t find out much. I talked with Will Miller of the Green Mountain Fund. Will is also on the Board of Vets for Peace. He said that this project is more or less Ledger’s (working with some people from trip to Bosnia.) The project was approved by the Board of VfP, as well as applications for grants to foundations. Will said that a lot of the members of VfP work on independent projects because of the distances in Vermont between Burlington and Brattleboro, etc. He thought that this project’s a good one. He also said that VfP doesn’t have an official position on Bosnia, doesn’t have consensus but does have a humanitarian aid component. Will said that some members have questions about the blockade of arms to one side but do have general opposition to intervention/war.

22) Michigan Fair Budget Action Coalition - When this group applied last June for basically the same request, Jane Slaughter of Labor Notes suggested I talk with Mary Hollands who said "good people. I know their director and that she/they are working real hard on the issue... don’t know recent specifics but my impression is that they are getting the right people together... formed after the governor made some horrible cuts in the budget... (the group) has a handle on the issues... good people, important issue." We turned down their request at that time, feeling they could raise funds elsewhere. This time I talked with Sr. Joanette of the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights. She said that this is "an excellent group... really rooted in the needs of people, especially poor people, in all of Michigan... a lot of faith-based groups involved... many of the groups are involved in grass roots work." She did not know if the coalition does projects other than this budget one.

23) Uncompromising Books - Ed Nakawatasi of AFSC/National Office said that he’d received a mailing from this group about the book. He didn’t know anything about the group but said that the book "seems a decent shot... an issue that not much has been written about... important area." He suggested that I call Isidro Galli who knows a lot about the issue of Native American prisoners. Isidro Galli hadn’t heard of this but did know several of the people mentioned, good people.

24) Univ. Conversion Project - For their last request Louis K. checked with Prof. Vera Kistiakowsky at MIT on this. She said that this is a one man organization. He gives it a lot of thought and care. Their information seems accurate, go to Department of Defense documents rather than secondary sources. (Also work with IPIS (left info /think tank (?) started by Pam Solar, now Paul Walker is involved in that.) The Project has established a mailing list. It’s basically an information gathering service which, she thinks, doesn’t do a lot of direct work with groups. Vera said that she can’t tell how politically useful this project is but it might be.

I also had talked with Debbie Dover of Dollars & Sense. She said that she knows "They’re doing really good organizing on campus.... organizing around the involvement of universities with research for the military.... They seem to be doing inter-campus networking nationally. Rich Cowen is traveling a lot, going to conferences, etc.... group works on bare bones budget... main focus is providing information and helping in organizing... good left critique, looks at power in society, class and race... They seem to have good research skills." She recommends
funding.

Louis Kampf recently talked with the contact person. Louis said that it strikes him that they're doing the right kind of work. They were having an event to introduce their newest project. Louis said the contact person is "a solid guy, works hard, non-sectarian, only outfit around doing this stuff... I do still have questions about how much this (material) is used." Louis recommended that I call Arcan Fung who said that "the material I've received from them looks pretty strong... organize on a national level... my impression is that they have good contacts at universities around the country... sponsoring a conference in New York City... very active." He said that the group has the contact person and a circle of active volunteers with a larger circle of people who will help now and then with specific projects. Arcan said that he would give a "strong recommendation" for this.

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For peace and justice,

Nancy

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Resist staff