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Resist Board Meeting Minutes

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### Resist Board Meeting, May 7, 1995

Resist

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A call to **RESIST** illegitimate authority

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

Board Meeting - May 7, 1995 - 11am  
Place: Bell Chevigny's apartment  
400 Riverside Drive, #6C  
New York, NY 10025 / Tel.: (212)749-2801

- Frank Brodhead
- Pam Chamberlain
- Connie Chan
- Bell Chevigny
- Noam Chomsky
- Kate Cloud
- Tess Ewing
- Norm Fruchter
- Larry Goldsmith
- Mitchell Goodman
- Kenneth Hale
- Oscar Hernandez
- Frank Joyce
- Louis Kampf
- Hans Koning
- Paul Lauter
- Nancy Moniz
- Richard Ohmann
- Wayne O'Neil
- Carlos Otero
- Grace Paley
- Roxanna Pastor
- Merble Reagon
- Henry Rosemont
- Tatiana Schreiber
- Rena Scott
- Cheryl Smith
- Meredith Smith
- Amy Swerdlow
- Ken Tangvik
- Kene Valle
- George Vickers
- Nancy Wechsler
- White

Dear Board member,

For this meeting, we have 27 requests to consider which means we'll have \$16,200 for grants (\$600 x 27). At the last Board meeting we decided not to "roll over" left-over funds from past meetings.

Please remember the Maximum grant is \$1,000 (but could be less); a Some grant is \$300; a Token grant remains at \$100; and emergency grants have been raised to \$200.

I'll send you references and updated information for these requests about two weeks prior to the board meeting.

**AGENDA**

\*\* Any last minute items of information by staff which are important.

**EMERGENCY GRANTS**

\*\* A report on any emergency grants made between the January 1995 and March 1995 Board meetings.

**GRANT REQUESTS**

**Prisoners**

1) Prison Information Service (Sioux Falls, SD) - A request of \$800 to print and distribute copies of the "Aboriginal Handbook" for Native American prisoners.

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

2) Lamp of Hope Project (Dallas, TX) - Requesting \$783 for printing and postage for their newsletter against the death penalty. Since it averages about 24 pages, I'll ask a Board member to review one for a report to the meeting.

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

3) Alabama Committee for Fairness in Criminal Justice (Montgomery) - Request of \$1,000 for printing, phone and postage costs. Review and report by a Board member for the meeting of the packet of other information sent by the group.

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

4) South Carolina CURE (Columbia) - Asking for \$1,000 toward the expenses of producing and mailing a quarterly newsletter.

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

5) Massachusetts Justice Network (Cambridge, MA) - \$800 requested for the expenses of the New England Criminal Justice Task Force's follow-up work after a conference in April.

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

6) People Against Recidivism (Philadelphia, PA) - Request of \$900 for printing a brochure and a magazine of writings by prisoners. Review and report of the magazine by a Board member for the meeting.

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

#### Community Organizing/Anti-racism

7) Contact Center (Cincinnati, OH) - Requesting \$1,000 toward the purchase of a copying machine.

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

8) Chicago Coalition Against the Violence Initiative (IL) - A request of \$830 for the expenses of a conference in June to educate and mobilize against the National Violence Initiative funded by the federal government.

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

9) Women's Alliance (Framingham, MA) - Asking for \$1,000 for the expenses of organizing local groups in Massachusetts against welfare reform and to do outreach across the U.S.

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

10) Clergy and Laity Concerned (Eugene, OR) - \$1,000 requested toward the expenses of producing two special issues of their publication, The Racemixer.

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

11) Union of Palestinian Women's Associations (Chicago, IL) - Asking for \$1,000 toward the expenses of organizing a retreat for teens and young adults.

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

#### Central and Latin America and the Caribbean

12) Colombia Support Network (Madison, WI) - They're requesting \$1,000 for the printing costs of their newsletter, and for office rent.

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

13) InterReligious Task Force on Central America (Cleveland, OH) - Asking for \$1,000 for the expenses of an outreach campaign for their Regional Workshop on Guatemala.

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

14) Peace and Justice Center (Burlington, VT) - A request of \$1,000 for the expenses of producing and mailing a bi-monthly bulletin, The Chiapas Times.

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

**Environmental**

15) Labor-Environmental Solidarity Network (Portland, OR) - Requesting \$800 for a laser printer and an upgrade for their computer.

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

16) Native Forest Network, Eastern North America (Burlington, VT) - Request of \$1,000 toward the non-travel expenses of their Annual Activist Training Week.

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

**Economic Justice**

17) Ithaca Money (NY) - Asking for \$810 to print their alternative currency.

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

18) Chelsea Community Economic Development Alliance (MA) - \$1,000 requested to purchase a copying machine to support their organizing efforts.

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

**Native Americans/Indigenous Peoples**

19) Honor Our Neighbors Origins and Rights (Milwaukee, WI) - Asking for \$1,000 for printing and mailing their newsletter.

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

20) Indian Treaty Rights Committee (Chicago, IL) - Asking for \$1,000 for operating expenses for an Awareness and Action Campaign.

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

**Miscellaneous**

21) Dorchester Women's Committee (MA) - Requesting \$1,000 toward the purchases of a computer printer and desktop publishing software, and to pay a consultant.

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

22) Human Rights Project (Somerville, MA) - Request of \$1,000 for the costs of a consultant, phone, copying and postage.

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

23) Jerusalem Action Committee of Chicago (IL) - A request of \$1,000 to cover the expenses of office expenses to organize a press conference and for staff support costs for their project on the issue of Jewish-only settlements and the housing rights of Palestinians on the West Bank in Israel.

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

24) Lesbians & Gays Against Intervention (San Francisco, CA) - Requesting \$1,000 for an upgrade for their computer.

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

25) Chico Peace & Justice Center (CA) - A request of \$1,000 for the expenses of a conference, "Alternatives to Violence Institute," for public school educators and students.

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

26) Immigrant Workers Resource Center (Boston, MA) - Asking for \$1,000 toward the costs of their collective writing project, "In Our Own Voices."

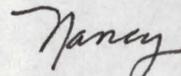
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

27) Bread & Jams (Cambridge, MA) - \$800 requested for the expenses of their "50 Minutes" show on public access television. A Board member will review a sample tape of the show for a report to the meeting.  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

#### BUSINESS/POLICY ITEMS

- \* Newsletter report.
- \* Computers and us - Report on progress
- \* Report on outreach to anti-death penalty groups and to groups working against welfare reform.
- \* Finances report.
- \* Office matters.
- \* Miscellaneous/other - The next Board meeting will be on June 18 in Cambridge, MA at Louis Kampf's house.

For peace and justice,



Nancy Moniz, Resist staff

#### Directions to Belle's apartment:

Taking the subway from the Port Authority:

Get on the Broadway 7th Ave. IRT local train, go to 110th St., then walk two blocks north on Broadway, then turn left onto 112th to 400 Riverside Drive, entrance on 112th.

Driving down from the north:

Get on the Henry Hudson Parkway, get off at 125th St., go east over to Broadway, take a right on Broadway to 111th St, make a right to Riverside, then another right to 112th. Belle's apartment house entrance is the first door.

**Resist board meeting, May 7, 1995**  
**New York City**

**Present:** Kampf, Brodhead, Rosemont (chair), Chevigny, Reagon, Swerdlow, Moniz, Lauter (note-taker), O'Neil

**Emergency Grants:** since last board meeting we gave the National People's Coalition (Chicago, IL) \$200 for producing posters to promote a demo on May 6th to protest the 'Contract on America,' and the cuts in social services it includes.

1. Prison Information Service: (Sioux Falls, SD) They requested \$800 to print and distribute copies of the "Aboriginal Handbook" for Native American prisoners. Additional response from Ken Hale suggesting that it has been distributed and used. Question about length--some 50 pages. Seems a useful publication, but also seems like a one-person operation. Convention begins tomorrow; is it too late? No, he's going to print anyway and will find ways of getting it back. Bell raised more general problem: given crackdowns, need as many volunteers working in the area as possible. Moniz: one of a kind project. Support but not enormous enthusiasm. Suggest he not have whole family on board--will make fund-raising easier. Support for \$800.

2. Lamp of Hope: (Dallas, TX) They requested \$783 for printing and postage for their newsletter against the death penalty. Questions about political program--they seem to have one, but reference doesn't say anything about it. Do they have a real political program? Not many foundations support prisoner programs. Moniz asked for more on item #10 and finances; she said she had to check with board, who are mainly prisoners on death row. Consensus on supporting for \$783.00; Paul not comfortable.

3. Alabama Committee for Fairness in Criminal Justice (Montgomery). They had requested \$1000 for printing, phone and postage costs. Can they get funding from other sources, since they work with ACLU, Amnesty International, SCLC? Everybody tight, and they don't have a big budget. We're getting more and more requests from more or less "liberal" projects. Death penalty work seems to become more and more political by nature of thing; also it's Alabama. Useful agitational point: comparative racial statistics. More political and educational than #2. Support (enthusiastic) for \$1,000.

4. S.C. Cure: (Columbia, SC) They had requested \$1000 toward the expenses of producing and mailing a quarterly newsletter. Problems: one-man operation, mainly helping prisoners, weird answers in #10, clearly split with national. On women--"spouses" should be educated. A social work operation. Newsletter looks more political. Great to be against death penalty, but what are they really for? What if one activist stepped aside for a year; would it survive? No.

5. Mass. Justice Network (Cambridge, MA) \$800 requested for the expenses of the New England Criminal Justice Task Force's follow-up work after a conference in April on Too Many Americans in Prison. Doing all the usual things to develop program. General support for project for \$800.

6. People Against Recidivism (Philadelphia, PA). They requested \$900 for printing a brochure and a magazine of writings by prisoners. Full of self-help, but not entirely apolitical. Slightly feminist perspective. Getting men to talk about parenting. References very negative. People who had been in that prison never heard of people doing these things. Frank's student at Villanova who teaches literacy there didn't know about it. Basically social-work goals and activities; good things to do, but not what we support. In writing to her mention that there wasn't much evidence from references about the reality of her work or whether significant numbers have gone through program. We might or might not fund, but still useful to have it out there. Not clear if it's open to general prison population or simply small group which has gotten itself together to the exclusion of others? No.

7. Contact Center (Cincinnati, OH). They requested \$1000 toward the purchase of a copying machine. Anyone who abolishes parking meters can't be all bad. Obviously our kind of group. Had surplus in 1994, but left over from grant. Yes--keep up good work: \$1,000.

8. Chicago Coalition Against the Violence Initiative (IL). They requested \$830 for the expenses of a conference in June to educate and mobilize against the National Violence Initiative funded by the federal government. Int. Committee Against Racism was and is PL front. References did not note any activity. Very academic in orientation and not really activist. And most of academics who have done best work against Genome not involved. No

9. Women's Alliance: (Framingham, MA) They asked for \$1000 for the expenses of organizing local groups in Massachusetts against welfare reform and to do outreach across the U.S. They seem to overstate their role as leaders in Massachusetts welfare rights work. Have funded them in past: very political and also offer good services. Nominal members and also active volunteers. Yes for \$1,000 operating expenses.

10. CALC Eugene (Eugene, OR): \$1000 requested toward the expenses of producing two special issues of their publication, The Racemixer. Exceptionally good work in themselves, but also act as umbrella for others' work. Budget is somewhat above our maximum, but only a little. Oregon is a battlefield. Newsletter good. Yes, for \$1,000.

11. Union of Palestinian Women's Association (Chicago, IL): They asked for \$1000 toward the expenses of organizing a retreat for teens and young adults. Louis says one of 2 or 3 groups doing anything really useful. Esp. important because they're organizing kids. Have funded several times. Secular, good politics. Were having meeting directly after Okla bombing to examine how kids felt re assumptions that perpetrators were middle eastern. Yes, for \$1,000.

12. Colombia Support Network (Madison, WI): They requested \$1000 for the printing costs of their newsletter, and for office rent. Jean Jackson knows their work and thinks it's very good. Work seems good and useful. Yes for \$1,000.

13. InterReligious Task Force on C.A. (Cleveland, OH): They asked for \$1000 for the expenses of an outreach campaign for their Regional Workshop on Guatemala. problem with all-white, Anglo board, though have funded before, and membership diverse. Positive recommendation from Steve Kagan, who is very dependable. Also very timely. Yes for \$1,000.

14. Peace and Justice Center, (Burlington, VT): They requested \$1000 for the expenses of producing and mailing a bi-monthly bulletin, The Chiapas Times. Very good newsletter. Glad working on Mexico, but doesn't seem priority to put out bulletin of material from Internet. First gp pulling it off internet for people who aren't hooked in. Good solid long-range organizing on Mexico doesn't depend on what happened three days ago. Also in emergencies, distributing such material by print is much too slow. Maybe we would be interested in other work they are doing, but this doesn't seem to be up our alley. Maybe we're supporting too much publishing relative to organizing. We respect group, but not clear whether this effort is tied to any on-going organizing project. No.

15. Labor-Environmental Solidarity Network (Portland, OR): They requested \$800 for a laser printer and an upgrade for their computer. Positive references; desirable to do, even if it doesn't work. Important given senators from Oregon and their role re environmentalism. Good luck--they'll need it. Yes for \$800.

16. Native Forest Network, Eastern North America (Burlington, VT). They Requested \$1000 toward the non-travel expenses of their Annual Activist Training Week. Publication on Womyn infantile, backward--hate to put paint on my face, esp. made of dead animals. Revolution around the corner! Journal of Revolutionary Ecology: masturbate to smash the state. Extracting surplus value from nature. Heavily into animal rights. Marginal politically. Second time came to us was for Native Forest Network--did work with native people, etc., and did fund. Expect to bring in IWW timber workers from California to educate local timber workers. Need more than wobblies to relate to labor today. Ludicrous, but then you're dealing with Vermont, where people are doing some odd and some good organizing. People with idealism; good training session. Good references from native American board member. Sounds like confused group--overlap with group which puts out Alarm; also overlap with Native Network. Recommendation from someone on board maybe not best recommendation. Paul speciesist. While we think training proposal is good, they seem to us badly misinformed about wobblies (see Dubovsky's book), and therefore about other elements of work with working people, in fact they do not seem well connected to working people, Alarm counterproductive. Some.= \$300

17. Ithaca money (NY): They asked for \$810 to print their alternative money. Cross between Fourier and Crying of Lot-49. We gave them start-up money; impressed by economic education they were doing. But now they're making money; why should we? Why can't they fund themselves? Have been resource for others around the country to do similar work. Perhaps we'd be open to proposal to help them help others. Suggest they do article for Newsletter. Bad planning not to have put money aside for more printing. If they have to keep on asking for grants to keep this going, why do it, since they claim they're doing something viable to substitute for regular economy. They need to capitalize. Frank thought wrong-headed and self-indulgent, and not very good idea even 150 years ago. First time cut, second time. . . . No real relation to fundamental class conflicts. But is consciousness-raising. No solution to economic injustice, and might ask where they see it going and why they can't put money aside. But does seem useful countercultural c.r. In process of people becoming involved, will help them think of economic issues differently. Really raising money for salary to replace Vista salary. Are also helping some folks. 4 yes, 3 no, 2 abstain. Say first grant was for seed money; this probably last we can do. Yes: \$810.

18. Chelsea Community Economic Development Alliance (MA). \$1000 requested to purchase a copying machine to support their organizing efforts. Questioned amount they're asking for; could get excellent machine for less. Excellent group. Suggest they look into getting a new one for that amount of money--cf. #19. A little weird for them to talk of viable local economy--in city of junkyards and refugees anxious to move out. Yes, with good luck and suggestions about copier: \$1,000.

19. Honor Our Neighbors Origins and Rights (Milwaukee, WI): Asked for \$1000 for printing and mailing their newsletter. Very good group, though has fairly high income. We have previously funded; positive recommendations. Yes for \$1,000.

20. Indian Treaty Rights Committee (Chicago, IL). Asked for \$1000 for operating expenses for an Awareness and Action Campaign. Reference from person trusted. They haven't been active recently; have new board which should activate them. Suggest that they wait until new board produces evidence of activity and that request be more specific about what they will use money for, then come back to us so we can consider. No.

21. Dorchester Women's Committee (MA): Requested \$1000 toward the purchases of a computer printer and desktop publishing software, and to pay a consultant. have just opened storefront in what used to be military recruiting center; very active and vibrant place. Starting pledge support system. Dorchester large and diverse, working class. Have often funded them. Responded to criticism from last year. Yes for \$1,000.

22. Human Rights Project (Somerville, MA): Requested \$1000 for the costs of a consultant, phone, copying and postage. Nice thing to do, interesting, but can't see likelihood of concrete results, esp. dealing in world milieu. Is UN going to pressure Clinton and Gingrich? Good pubic relations, but not kind of thing we support. Wonder why they need all money for consultant--feeling that that's not good way to go. Disempowers community. Not clear if it's really staff worker or real consultant. But whatever, seems to be project outside our purview. Would be good thing to put together list of grass-roots groups. Probably better to wait for next round, after initial list is compiled. Raising issue of human rights in connection with food and shelter has resonance with people at local level, but problem here is not clear what "consultant" will do. Still, aiming at national effort to push UN to push US on economic human rights--can't see how that will do anything at local level. Good to put economic human rights on agenda, but. . . No for now; perhaps they can come back.

23. Jerusalem Action Committee of Chicago (IL). They requested \$1000 to cover office expenses to organize a press conference and for staff support costs for their project on the issue of Jewish-only settlements and the housing rights of Palestinians on the West Bank of Israel. Louis thinks best project in country, esp. since Jerusalem central political issue. Materials good, keep in contact with other groups. Brings to fore what Israelis have done to split up families. Yes for \$1,000.

24. Lesbians and Gays Against Intervention (SF, CA): Requested \$1000 for an upgrade for their computer. have funded before, good references, logical use of money. Yes for \$1,000.

25. Chico Peace and Justice Center (CA): Requested \$1000 for the expenses of a conference, "Alternatives to Violence Institute," for public school educators and students. A good thing to do, conflict resolution, but there are other resources for this kind of work. Suggest they come back with other peace and justice work they're involved in. What is videotaping to be used for? Would support for organizing, but that's not clear. Good group; like their work, but come back when something more in our range. Doubts about video of conference being useful. No.

26. Immigrant Workers Resource Center (Boston, MA). Requested \$1000 toward the costs of their collective writing project, "In Our Own Voices." Very big budget, grants from big foundations. Interesting project, but getting huge grants. Not in our league. No.

27. Bread & Jams (Cambridge, MA). Requested \$800 for the expenses of their "50 Minutes" show on public access television. Pam saw video--Answer Channel on TV. Two people talking, anchor and homeless woman. Rambling story. Call-in show--six callers in hour. Difficult and painful to watch, but nothing re organizing. Pam thought it was "dreadful"--amateurish, dull, a parody of what it should be. Language distinguishes between people who run program and people served by it--i.e., us and them. Sound very young and inexperienced; good intentions, but problems re ideology and execution. Also not a priority with us. No.

Total: \$16,293, which is \$93 over our goal, but we voted to approve it.

## Business items

1. Newsletter: remind people to respond to Stephanie's letter asking for contributions.

--Next Newsletter on lesbian/ gay/ bi issues. Important to have more than white people in issue.

--PL suggested that we do an issue re Oklahoma City, violence, 60's/ 90's connections or lack thereof. Important for an organization which has supported resistance to illegitimate authority, esp. governmental, to make the distinctions clear. Paul will try to get some names to Stephanie.

2. Have new computer, with fax modem, laser printer, etc.; will be hooking into net. If anyone has ideas about making the best use of the internet, let Nancy Moniz know.

3. Outreach to anti-death penalty groups, and others working to oppose welfare "reform." Mailing sent out to about 20 anti-death penalty groups. Some 6-8 groups have responded one way or another. Survival News provided list of groups re welfare, and Nancy M. sent out info to them, too.

4. Finances:

Cambridge Trust Co.:	\$ 41,087.92
Calvert Bond Fund:	\$ 34,900.97
Calvert MGP:	\$104,693.62
Operating Fund (mm):	<u>\$ 58,696.92</u>
Total unrestricted:	\$239,379.43

Loan Fund:	\$ 6,337.81
Resist Endowment:	\$ 34,518.04
Cohen Endowment:	<u>\$ 10,854.87</u>
Total restricted funds:	\$ 51,710.72

Total all funds:	\$291,090.15
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Question about success of fund-raising mailings. Came in slightly below last year's total, primarily because bond market went down. Generally not worrisome.

5. Bell probably taking health leave from Purchase; plans to do at least some journalistic writing. Might be going back to Mississippi re Algebra Project, work on environment, case against racist mayor in Delta. Interested in suggestions and contacts people might have regarding other examples of organizing, esp. against racism, in south and north. If people have other info about Algebra Project or similar projects, let her know. Also ways in which organizing against Prop 187-type legislation is being organized. Also about women prisoners.

6. Paul related some observations about Russia and Hank about China--no great encouragement, esp. from China.

7. Executive Session:

Louis reported that Nancy Wechsler has resigned and that her resignation has been accepted with many thanks. Louis and Wayne also reported on discussions in the Personnel Committee and the on-going process of mediation.

May 7, 1995

**References for the Resist Board meeting on May 7, 1995:**

1) Prison Information Service - For this group's last request I called Elizabeth Alexander of ACLU National Prison Project who said she knew 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 felt that this Handbook is very good and that the group seems to have good connections around the US for distribution of the book. Ken Hale and Larry Goldsmith reviewed the book and generally liked it. Both agreed that it should be funded. They did note some problems with it though. "it could use a better bibliography... It talks about Indian culture as if it is one thing, but they are really just talking about the Sioux culture in SD, 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.) - Minutes of 3/7/93 Board meeting. Ken sent a letter to them with the suggestions.

I talked with **Elizabeth Alexander** again for this request and agreed with her previous comments. She feels that the book is "undoubtedly useful for prisoners."

2) Lamp of Hope Project - Please see the letter of reference from one of my best Texas contacts, **Jude Filler of the TAHN**, with this proposal.

3) AL Committee for Fairness - **Stanley Wiseman of Amnesty International/Alabama** knows of the group. He knows them through his organization which is also working against the death penalty in the state. This group is working on that, doing public education, grass roots organizing and lobbying. (Stanley said that Alabama has a unique situation in that they have jury override, which means that sentencing is decided by the jury but the judge can override that decision. He said that, in every case, judges have overrode juries to impose the death penalty.) This group's meetings are attended by people from across the state. They're also working on passage in Alabama of the Racial Justice Act, which didn't pass in the U.S. Congress. Stanley feels that this group, though fairly new, does very good work and recommends funding them.

4) SC CURE - People at Rural Southern Voice for Peace recommended that I call **Michael King of the Carolina Peace Resource Center** who said that he'd heard of them but didn't know much. He'd been contacted by one of the people in the group and planned to meet with them. He said he'd get back to me with more information on the group. Michael King couldn't find out anymore than he'd previously told me. He suggested that I call **Bruce Pearson of the SC Coalition Against the Death Penalty**. Bruce had heard of this group but didn't know how much organizing they were doing. He said that "it's a small group; one dedicated person is the prime mover... works with prisoners mostly by phone or mail (they were disinclined to visit the prison, as was I, by the authorities... put out a newsletter, I don't know how frequently... to the best of my knowledge they haven't worked with death penalty prisoners, they're opposed to the death penalty but the group's focus is more to help the prisoners in prison."

5) Mass. Justice Network - **Fran Roznowski of Prison Book Program** said the regional conference being planned is a very worthwhile project. It is sorely needed given state three-strikes legislation, death penalty bills and other stepped-up attacks on criminal justice issues. At least two people from Prison Book plan to attend. She thinks it's great that planning is being done by diverse group of organizations working on these issues. Politics are solid.

6) People Against Recidivism - **Fran Roznowski of Prison Book** had never heard of the group. She recommended **Linda Thurston, formerly of our local AFSC, then of Philly AFSC**, and now working against the death penalty with NY Amnesty International. (You might know Linda--she's worked on criminal justice issues for years.) Linda said she thought the group had fallen apart but wasn't sure. She recommended **William Goldsby of another prison group in Philly called**

**Reconstruction.** William has been working in the Graterford Prison for years and with community projects on prison issues in Philadelphia. He knows James Taylor Muhammed (founder of PAR). William says he knows of no one in the prison who has ever gone through the program PAR says it offers. He says he is in contact with almost everyone in Philly working on related issues and that PAR does not seem to be active in the community as far as he can tell.

7) Contact Center - The last time they applied I talked with Laurie Thomas of Justice Watch. She said that they've seen this group "out in the neighborhood working for a long time... appreciate them greatly... working on issues including displacement and General Assistance cuts... fighting a lot of gentrification in the neighborhood which is a sharp crisis here... doing a welfare rights coalition... forefront of organizing... issues they deal with also effect people coming out of prison... group is multi-ethnic, -racial and -cultural: African Americans, Appalachians, women, men etc., all neighborhood people." Laurie highly recommended this group.

For this request I talked with her again. She agreed with past comments and said that this "is a very good group, very present in the neighborhood... doing good organizing around General Assistance and AFDC still. I couldn't recommend them highly enough... the leadership are neighborhood people. They also share their resources (fax machine and van) with other groups." Recommended.

8) Chicago Coalition Against the Violence Initiative - I called Jennifer Bing-Canar at AFSC/Chicago who hadn't heard of this. She recommended I talk with Lorna Stone at AFSC's Anti-racism Task Force. Lorna hadn't heard of them either but she said that this sounds more academic than grass roots. She hadn't seen any activity on this and felt she should have if it's really active.

This group finally sent a list of references. I called **Finley Campbell of UUSC's Racial Justice Task Force**, one of their references. He said that he feels that, especially in the light of the current nomination process for Surgeon General of the US and health issues involved, that this group's issue is extremely important, "several reasons that this project needs to be done: the current national fear of violence creates overreaction to whole groups of people that smacks of biological determinism; grass roots participation is very important, it's important that not only intellectuals be involved; and the racism involved in the issue... The panel of the conference are experts in the field, the hoped for participants in the conference would be grass roots organizers... This would be a teach-in... mostly academics in the planning so far, the only grass roots group involved is my own, UUSC."

9) Women's Alliance - In 1993 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.

Last 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.

For this request I talked with **Wanda Wong** again who said the group "does really good work... work with women on the outskirts of Boston... work hard, especially on welfare rights... I feel they represent what Resist would fund."

10) CALC/Eugene, OR - This group has been funded by Resist in the past. I've always gotten excellent references. Diverse programs, very good politics. In 1991 I talked with Linda Reymers of McKenzie River Gathering Fund who said that this group is, besides working on many projects, an "incubator of projects" for South Africa, Central America, Witness for Peace, etc. A lot of the independent groups in the area got started at CALC because the group has resources to use. This is a unique and excellent group. The best." Linda, in 1993, affirmed her comments and said that the diversity and quality of their work is well known in the area, a number of their projects are very successful, a great group. She again recommended funding.

For this request, **Linda Reymers of McKRG** said that they're "still doing excellent work... invaluable community resource... working on Prop 187-type preliminary work in anticipation of an Oregon state ballot initiative... spark new groups and coalitions... Highly recommended."

11) Union of Palestinian Women's Assoc. - In the past, I had talked with Jennifer Bing-Canar of AFSC-Chicago who always gave excellent references for this group. In 1991 I called Lucy Smith at the Crossroads Fund who said that they thought so highly of this group that they gave them the largest grant the Fund has ever made. The group "works under difficult political circumstances and do great work... excited about their work... have compelling ways to make connections... political analysis crystal clear... persuasive about why people in the US have to be interested in the rights of Palestinians... We give them a glowing reference."

For last year's I called Jennifer again. She said that this was "the one thriving Middle East group in Chicago... very active, AFSC just worked with them on a conference... have a few key organizers with excellent analysis... I feel they could really take off nationally. I continue to give them outstanding reviews."

For this request Jennifer agreed with her last reference and added that this group "is a vital center for Middle East activity... doing a lot more work with youth... exciting, had a youth meeting recently. There are now some Palestinian and Arab youth gangs in the part of the city where there are also strong Mexican and African American youth gangs, it's gotten extremely violent... This center hosted a meeting of gang-bangers.. amazing stuff happened with youths talking to each other about their lives.. This group really made a big effort to do outreach and inclusion." Jennifer recommends funding this project.

12) Colombia Support Network - For their 1994 request 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.

For this request I talked with **Steve Starkey of the Wisconsin Community Fund**. He said that this is "a good group, fairly new, still growing... My impression is basically positive... have seen they've done events and are active... have good connections with people in Colombia." Recommended.

13) Cleveland InterReligious Task Force on Central America - For their 1993 request I called Harold Barton of Cleveland CALC who said that this group "does fantastic work... CALC works with them, uses their resources... thorough, good politics, work well with other groups... work with a wide range of C.A. groups... make good connections with other issues... CALC is working on the NAFTA issue also." He recommended funding them and we did.

In 1994 I called Steve Cagan of the Cleveland CASC who thought highly of their work. His group worked in coalition with them, 12 to 15 years of association with them. He said they'd made a "major contribution especially in reaching out to smaller grass roots constituencies as well as the church sector... a lot of good work still going on." Highly recommended.

I called **Steve Cagan** again for this request. He said that the Central American movement is pretty much his group and this one. "This group works more with church oriented folks. Their main thing is they have a very good ability to reach out and talk with all kinds of people... survived a long time because they represent a strong constituency... real solid group." Recommended again.

14) Burlington Peace & Justice Center - I talked with **Leah Wittenberg**, a very good contact in Vermont, who said the Center "is very well thought of... a long time organization... one of the places you don't know how you'd function without it... really a good umbrella for a lot of multi-cultural things... pretty high visibility, they have a storefront center on main street, worked hard to be visible... great community resource... have a number of projects geared toward multi-cultural groups... always good on gay and lesbian diversity and issues... make connections with the working class

community in Burlington... diversity one of their high priorities." Leah highly recommended the center.

15) Labor-Environmental Solidarity Network - **Linda Reymers of McKenzie River Gathering Fund** said that "we've funded this in the past... Their work is very important because of the timber industry in the NW; the workers are ripe for being organized by the Rights. This network is trying to bridge between the environmental movement and the workers. They also work with other groups like Jobs with Justice." Linda recommends funding them.

16) Native Forest Network/ENA - In 1994 Will Miller of the Green Mountain Fund said that the Fund had made a grant to the group. "They had previously been Biodiversity Front/Earth First, had done some interesting in your face actions, but found they were isolated by the Earth First reputation. They did some constructive self-criticism, changed their name and emphasis, reached out more... a real coalition... have hosted events in the area... have a much better pro-worker stand than most... reach out to labor and environmental groups... anti-capitalist critique... CD actions... working closely with the Wobanaki, more so than other environmental groups. Their newsletter has covered the Wobanaki and the Hydro-Quebec issue better than any other Vermont publication." Recommended. I also talked with Dee Brightstar of the Abenaki Nation who said that she was invited to be on this group's board as a representative of Wobanaki, Inc. She said the Network has "done phenomenal work for and with native people... real participation and consultation with native peoples." She and the Abenaki worked on the Network's last conference. Recommended.

I called **Dee Brightstar** again for this request. She said that she in fact is on their Board as a representative of her Nation. She said that "it's unique to see a group of people devote themselves to this cause, sometimes risk their lives. I admire them and am proud to be associated with them... They keep Native Americans informed and work closely with us... very respectful, call us to make sure everything's proper." Dee recommends funding this.

17) Ithaca Money - For their 1993 request I talked with Ann Peters of CUSLAR in Ithaca. She said this had been active for a couple of years and was "sort of a one person crusade which had had quite a wide impact of action in the community... a lot of people use this exchange system... hard to say how well it's working for people... He works steadily with this, not a fly-by-night operation... The IRS is interested in it as far as the taxes angle... attempts to make people really think of the value of labor not in terms of dollars... potential underpinning to project is an alternative in a very meaningful way."

For this request I called **Dan Fireside of CUSLAR**. He said that they've "expanded a lot in the past year, more than a 1 person deal now, extremely successful in the last couple of years... have gotten a lot of national and international attention/media... offer resources for requests from groups around the country... have regular meetings, publish a newspaper... a lot of businesses and people signed up to participate in the program... have a defined political agenda to educate around economic issues... newspaper highlights local organizing efforts... a progressive community organization." Recommended.

18) Chelsea Economic Development Alliance - I talked with **Wanda Wong of the Boston Women's Fund** about this group. She said that they'd just funded them, feeling that this is in the beginning phase and worthy of funding. Wanda said that BWF feels that eventually this will be able to raise large foundation grants but not yet. She said that the board liked this group a lot, it being very grass roots and coming from the community. Many Latinas involved in leadership. Chelsea is a low income city with lots of problems which this group is addressing. Recommended.

19) HONOR - For their 1992 request Steve Starkey of the Wisconsin Community Fund said that WCF had funded this group three times. "A really good group, very active, has been involved in networking with other Indian treaty rights groups around the state... WCF is giving them a special award, the Funding Exchange Quincentennial Award... an extremely responsible group, good brochures... a diverse group, people of color, white and Native American." Highly recommended.

I called Steve again in 1993; he agreed with his past recommendation and added that the group was active nationally. WCF gave them another grant in the Spring. He thinks "they're great... have grown a lot, doing more, have 2 or 3 staff persons now.. number one rated group in WCF's cycle... don't only look good on paper but are really a dynamite group." Highly recommended again.

Steve again for this request: same as in the past, "I continue to be impressed with them... strong at networking with other issues groups like Fight the Right issue, very strong group." Recommended.

20) Indian Treaty Rights Committee - I talked with **Jennifer Bing-Canar of AFSC/Chicago** about this. Jennifer said that the group needs funding, "finances not good, they're sharing space now... they pick and choose issues like UN stuff and Genome project... were active in the past on fishing treaty rights... They're more attuned to urban Indians, more difficult for them to connect with rural people... I have a feeling that not many are involved in this group, not too active lately. (Alice Cottingham of Crossroads said about the same as this.)"

21) Dorchester Women's Committee - We've gotten high recommendation for this group in the past. They especially work well with women of color groups such as Comite Mujeres Puertoriquenas, the Association of Haitian Women and the Palestinian Women's Committee, all of whom gave top rating to this group's work. In 1993 I talked with Eleanor Roffman of the Palestine Solidarity Committee. She said she's worked with DWC in different capacities over the years and now works with them through the local Grassroots Network and PSC. She thinks that their work has expanded greatly over the last several years; they've integrated international connections with their community work. Eleanor has had "very positive experiences with them... they continue to do very good work with a clear analysis... one of my favorite groups... any time I've worked with them they've followed through... multi-racial.... a great group."

**Wanda Wong of BWF** gave the current recommendation. She said this is a very good group which is "doing well and holding to their mission... are growing... work a wide variety of local, national and international issues." Highly recommended.

22) Human Rights Project - **Donna Finn of the Dorchester Women's Committee** thinks the project is very worthy of support. The Committee has been invited to several meetings and regularly receives mailings from the Project; Committee members wish they had time to get involved. She knows that the project held two demonstrations on economic justice issues in New York; they are making good local connections, doing outreach and doing national work as well. Good information being distributed on rights to decent standard of living. She thinks the strategy of addressing US economic policies as a violation under the UN declaration of human rights is a good one.

23) Jerusalem Action Committee of Chicago - Please see the letter of reference in your packet. Camille is one of my better contacts in Chicago. Also Jennifer Bing-Canar is involved in this group.

24) LAGAI - I had talked with Rebecca Gordon about them in the past. Basically she said that this in a "wonderful group... one of the first gay groups to get involved in Central America work in the Bay area... non-sectarian.... committed to opposing racism in US as well as anti-intervention.... newsletter is very interesting.... also done AIDS work and lesbian rights stuff... good at making connections with many issues.... have a sister Latina group (Amaranto) working on issues in Latina community.... decision on part of both groups."

I talked with Rene Valle in 1991. He said he knows of the group, has heard they do good work, hard working, committed.

I called **Jan Adams in San Francisco** this time. Jan said that she knows them well. "... around quite a while... play a good role in the community as a left presence... their work in coalitions is important... do a pretty decent publication, now a newspaper... active though not large group, but they are extraordinarily dedicated." Recommended.

25) Chico Peace & Justice Center - **Margaret Landes of the local FOR** said that this is "a coordinating center for various activities, Central America,

peace, etc... various groups work out of this... sponsor speakers series and have had a Saturday afternoon vigil for the past 35 years. It started at a Titan missile site outside of town, when that closed down it was moved to the center of town, highlights different issues and does leafletting... They had a series of discussions to define new directions and the institute is one of the topics for action that emerged... good on diversity, very supportive of women's rights and gay & lesbian rights. There have been attacks on Planned Parenthood and the Feminist Women's Center here in Chico. The center supports those groups... also have had Pastors for Peace caravans to Cuba and Central America." Margaret recommends funding.\_

26) Immigrant Workers Resource Center - **Tommie Harris of the Haymarket Fund** said they'd given this group a grant, "... really doing good work, we liked how they brought immigrant workers into the process by offering ESL courses and then got them involved in political organizing work." Recommended.

27) Bread & Jams - **Tommie Harris** again: "We gave them a grant in 1991 for organizing work... working with the homeless in Cambridge... seemed like a good project and they were doing not only service/advocacy but also organizing... Homeless people were involved in planning, etc."

*Nancy Moniz + Steph*

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