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PREP NEWSLETTER

February 19, 1965

1100 E. Washington Ann Arbor, Michigan

SOUTH AFRICA

By now, all chapters should have received a preliminary mailing on the March 19 project. (Chapters that have not received it should let me know immediately.) The mailing suggests certain exploratory approaches that should be used in choosing companies to focus on come March 19; to them, I would only add that in addition to picketing (or sitting-in at) the main offices you should also leaflet plant gates, urging the workers involved to fight "their" companies' investment in South Africa. This can be combined with speaking at Local meetings. When the International Unions are reluctant to rock Lyndon's Great Boat, the rank-and-file must be made to know the immorality of U.S. foreign policy, and to feel their power. At a time of great grass-roots ferment and disaffection from union bureaucracies, it is especially important that intra-Union debate home in on foreign policy as well as work rules. In many cases, factories will be located in the same town as management headquarters; this can be discovered with a visit to the headquarters.

Follow-up is a question that can no longer be deferred so blithely. It has been pointed out that March 19, when hundreds of students will be gathered at the Bank, is an ideal opportunity to reach consensus on next steps; for that purpose there will be a rally the evening of the 19th. Direct confrontation of the offending private outfits must be kept up; of this there can be little doubt; otherwise, why are we choosing them as targets in the first place? On the other hand, the diffusion of the March 19 activity militates against later small successes, which are probably necessary to keep the steam from dissipating. Thus one possibility for follow-up is

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to maintain pressure and publicity on Chase Manhattan--a campaign to urge large depositors to withdraw their funds, e.g. (Large depositors so far identified include the International Ladies Garment Workers Union--about \$500,000,000--and Swarthmore College.) Since such depositors are likely to be spotted around the country, not just in New York, the opportunities for farflung activity would be many.

But at the same time I think we ought to be making the point that support of apartheid is a national American phenomenon to which there must be a national solution. In other words, there must be a legislative focus--one which could be valuable as well in heightening publicity for our direct approaches to the Bank(s). The Consultative Committee on South Africa (a loose amalgam of liberal and radical groups including the American Committee on Africa, SDS, SNCC, UAW, ...) will probably be setting up a lobby shortly, aimed at legislatively discouraging private support of the South African government. Perhaps we can use the existence of proposed legislation as a lever for gathering support on the campuses, or it may be that we should place heavy emphasis on preparation of campus educational materials. A campaign against oil companies (without whose shipments the South African economy would probably collapse) would be a related possibility--Texas chapters take note. This too could be tied into a clamor for restrictive legislation.

Whatever the possibilities--and there are certainly others--we must have some tentative design for follow-up before March 19. The PREP Committee will meet March 5-6 in Ann Arbor (just before the PEP meeting) to generate an answer; unfortunately the meeting cannot take place in the East because of the geographical balance of the Committee, and given prior plans to have the PEP meeting in Ann Arbor. But all are welcome--more, eagerly invited--to come to this discussion; some travel subsidies are available. Other matters for the agenda are the future of conversion projects, the progress of plans for the April 17 Viet-Nam march, and plans for PREP after April. The PREP Committee should send thoughts on these matters as well as on follow-up beforehand, for distribution beforehand. (Carol McEldowney and Lee Webb have already complied.) I would also like to hear from chapters, particularly on the question of follow-up.

Todd Gitlin

REPORT ON BOSTON PREP WORKSHOP

In early February, a workshop was held in Boston to redefine the objectives of Boston PREP and to develop program for future action. It early became evident however, that the central concern of the participants was the direction of SDS. Conversion was dismissed as an organizing issue, not only because it fails to motivate students, but also because it fails to deal with groups considered strategic in the development of a movement for radical social change.

In looking anew at SDS, middle class community organizing on issues of conversion, peace, or international relations was dismissed because the truly strategic groups for fundamental social change are the lower class and the students. These groups are judged to be sufficiently alienated to form a basis for a broad-based left movement. Through the discussion it became clear that our concern was with the building of such a movement, rather than developing a liberal coalition for peace. A differing view was that peace in itself is of sufficient importance to demand that SDS devote resources to working with existing organizations with the hope that an effective peace movement might be formed. Adherents of this position also felt that such strategy would produce meaningful social change. Most of the members of the workshop however, felt that while many forces might cooperate in dealing with symptoms (e.g. poverty, racism, cold war) our concern with radical social change, requires that we must devote our limited resources to the organization of groups most likely to spearhead a movement toward that end.

In line with this decision the workshop is recommending to the SDS Boston area coordinating committee that 1) an effort be made to integrate peace concerns and activities into new and ongoing community organizing among poor people, 2) that research on Third World and peace related activities can be continued for use in a publications program and campus organization. It was also thought that fraternal relationships with existing peace groups should be maintained.

In light of this concept of SDS it was necessary to reconsider the orientation of Boston PREP. Strategy for the development of a radical movement in Massachusetts suggests that Boston PREP should integrate its activities into a program which emphasizes all aspects of social change rather than a specific issue, is past concern. Therefore recommendations for a program with this direction in mind were made:

I. In the community focus would be on integration of activities with the local ERAP project.

A. A subcommittee was established to meet with the Dudley Street Action Center and the Boston Community Union to discuss possible cooperation with them. "Cooperation" means that PREP, either through work with existing community organizing centers or through research in new areas, and, perhaps, the establishment of an additional action center should (1) determine the feasibility of organizing unemployed defense workers, and, if practicable, initiate such an effort; and (2) determine the attitudes of the poor toward

the cold war, with the aim of introducing peace-related issues into poverty organizing. Depending on the outcome of the discussions, recommendations might be made that PREP assign staff and student volunteers to action-oriented research, to develop educational programs for current organizing staff, and/or to man an action center.

B. An essential part of the discussion of this program was consideration of whether a project in Lynn was consistent with a strategy for the development of a movement for radical social change in Massachusetts. We accepted the view that Boston Area SDS should concentrate on metropolitan Boston, including eventually community organization in the poor neighborhoods of inner-belt cities. Springfield and Worcester were suggested as areas where campus organization should be pursued with the hope that students in and around those cities would develop similar community organizing projects when feasible. The idea of a project in Lynn was dropped.

II. On the campus, programs would center on developing a radical approach to foreign relations and their domestic implications.

A. Viet Nam. A subcommittee was established to handle publicity, recruitment, and logistics for Boston Area participation in the March on Washington; to ask and assist the Boston-at-large chapter in developing a biweekly seminar series on Viet Nam; and to assist and encourage campus chapters to begin seminar programs.

B. South Africa. A subcommittee was established to develop a program for the area which would be integrated into the national effort and to establish contacts with other student organizations and with community and civil rights groups to solicit their support. The workshop dealt with the questions of a prolonged demonstration and/or boycott by resolving that the dramatic effect of a city-wide demonstration on one day was most desirable. The workshop also concurred with present national SDS emphasis on publicizing the economic involvement of U.S. firms in South Africa rather than attacking everything South African.

III. Regional activities should concentrate on publications and inter-organizational relations.

A. Publications. A subcommittee was established to develop a recommendation to the Boston Area Coordinating Committee to publish a periodical aimed at students and radical and liberal-middle-class groups or individuals. The publication would deal with the questions of social priorities and the arms budget, as well as international affairs, and, if feasible, should be integrated with New World, the present Boston Area discussion bulletin.

B. Inter-organizational relations. In the discussion of the fate of Conversion Report, it was suggested that PREP discuss with Mass. PAX and AFSC the possibility of either of these organization's assuming the responsibility for the publication, since CR was no longer to be an integral part of SDS program. The workshop expressed a strong inclination for a closer relationship with MASS PAX.

The Boston PREP workshop therefore is recommending that SDS activity here, rather than organizing around several national projects locally based, should center on an integrated activity for social change in this

area. Thus the region would be able to adjust programming to the specific issues and social structure in Massachusetts and New England resulting in maximum utilization of Boston area resources.

The workshop was held at Harvard on February 6th and 7th with some thirty-five participants. SDS groups represented included Harvard, Tufts, M.I.T., Boston College, Simmons, Jackson, Brandeis, and Boston State College, and also present were members of Mass. PAX, YCS, and SPU.

*My successful
action in
1964
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VIET NAM

February 13, 1965

There was a march on downtown Cleveland at Public Square today on the U.S. fighting and bombing in Viet-Nam. Mrs. Lillian Craig (a welfare mother), a professor from Oberlin College, and I spoke at the rally of the march.

I say why should the U.S. fight other countries' wars when they would not fight U.S. wars. Viet-Nam or any other country did not fight our civil war for us.

We think that as Cleveland mothers that we should speak up and let everyone know that it is not our place to send our sons to give their lives for nothing which is all that it adds up to.

There were other groups at the march also. There were about 100 people there. Some were from Oberlin College, and there were some of the people from SDS. Others were just people like me. And I think if more people would let themselves be known on this war in Viet-Nam and what we all think about it, we would all be better off in just taking care of our country. And we would have our sons at home where they belong. Then we can fight a bigger war which is the war on poverty.

So let's pull the Yanks out of Viet-Nam.

Iva Pearce
Cleveland

Iva Pearce is working with the Cleveland Community Project.

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