

There are a number of corrections and additions at the end of the notes. It would probably be helpful if people referred to them throughout the notes.

R.S.B. Internal Newsletter ^{no. 1}

August 15, 1974

THE STATE OF THE N. O.

The major task that has been ~~completed~~ completed by the N. O. so far is the orientation pamphlet that chapters should have already received. We could only afford to print 5,000 copies the first time around, so they are not for mass distribution, but are for contacts or people interested in knowing more about us, and we will be printing it again soon. Sales have been going strong in Chicago at demonstrations, chapter meetings, and in revolutionary book stores! So try to sell the pamphlets for 25¢ and get the money back to the N.O. to help cut the costs of the next printing. There are three minor errors that will be corrected:

- 1) pg. 1-- The two-line struggle about how to develop the Brigade was not over it being a "youth organization that would relate to street people", but rather a vague type of mass, community, socialist organization vs. a student organization.
- 2) pg. 2-- The slogan for the Nov. 4th demo was "Sign the 7 Point Peace Plan!" not "Nixon you liar, Sign the Cease Fire!"
- 3) pg. 7-- Los Tres, a group doing work around a political trial in L.A. was left out of the other observers and participants in the convention section.

People should send back their criticisms as soon as possible to help us with the second printing.

Another pamphlet coming out of the convention, a history of SDS in the 60's by Clark Kissinger, is almost ready for publication and will hopefully be out in Sept. for use on campuses and in expansion work-- depending on the money situation.

Articles for Fight Back! have been too slow in coming in, but we have a good outline for the paper and work should really start rolling soon. We hope to have it distributed by the last of August. In addition to FB^o there will be a 4 page supplement to the paper, which will analyze and sum up the "Throw the Bum Out"-"Organize to Fight!" campaign in an in-depth way. There will hopefully be 15,000 extra supplements printed for distribution on the campuses to help Brigades counter the bourgeois media blitz that is going on now. The supplement should be out before the paper is-- sometime next week.

When the N. O. first arrived in Chicago, the War on Cyprus broke out and we felt the need to get something out to the Brigade, but were unprepared for dealing with the situation. We are trying to correct this, and are sending out bulletins for discussion and distribution when things of national or international importance come up. Cases in point are the "Throw the Bum Out" supplement, and the Final Warning Telephone Workers' leaflets, which the N.O. decided Brigades should work on whenever possible.

A regular publication that will be coming out of the N.O. will be a monthly

internal newsletter, letting people know what's going on in other areas, summing up regional work experience, and popularizing methods of work that have been successful. The newsletter will be put together from the NIC meeting every two months, and work reports, letters, and leaflets sent in the months between.

The N.O. has also been building ties with other groups,; the first two meetings being with the VVAW-ISO and Iranian Students Association, both of whose national headquarters are in Chicago. Articles will be coming out in future FB's concerning these organizations and our relations with them. We have also met with some enthusiastic people from Hawaii who know people involved in the student movement there, and there's a good possibility that the Revolutionary Student Brigade will cross the Pacific!

The N.O. and the N.I.C.: Relationship as Politically Leading Bodies of the Brigade

The N.O. and the N.I.C. are determined to not break down into being mere communication channels, but to be able, through summing up practice across the country, to move the Brigade ahead, sharpen its work, and focus its activities to fight the imperialist system in the most effective way possible-- in short, to be politically leading bodies of the Brigade. This is a two way process, and neither the brigades at the local level, nor the N.O. and N.I.C. at the national level can be left in the dark.

It is vitally important that the N.O. not be isolated from the rest of the Brigade. Because we are physically isolated and not participating directly in mass work, this tendency must be consciously fought. To keep the N.O. in touch, the NIC, area coordinating committees, chapters, and individuals must send us leaflets, pamphlets, FB! articles, articles people feel would be important for the internal newsletter, and political reports of the work that's being done and the lessons being learned. DON'T assume this is being done by other people, but seriously take up the task of helping build the Brigade in this way. We also need criticism and feedback on publications that come out of the NO as soon as they have been discussed.

On the other hand, the NO must get out information on any leadership discussions and decisions, and the NIC reps must mobilize political discussions around the internal newsletter. Political discussion grows out of political work reports.

It would be idealistic to think that there will never be any fuck-ups, or that the NO won't make any mistakes(although they won't be the dominant aspect of our work), but the NIC should not fall into the trap of blinding defending the NO and FB!, and criticism should be taken up as the responsibility on the entire Brigade.

AREA REPORTS: POLITICAL LESSONS

Summer is not a time for the Brigade to take a vacation, and although work was generally inconsistent and there was a tendency to "slack-off" a bit, reports from various areas showed that the RSB was active in many different ways. For instance: Farmworkers support work in Boston, AIM demo in Michigan, Strike support in California & throughout most of the country, pamphlets being written, study groups, etc. Still, every summer we sum-up that more work could have been done, and valuable opportunities to spring into action were missed... next summer we'll be prepared to do good and systematic work.

Several areas summed up lessons of importance to the RSB as a whole that were learned through the course of some of their recent struggles. The NIC rep from California laid out three such lessons drawn from the struggle at Berkeley around the cutting of ethnic studies and the criminology school:

(1) While the masses of students wanted to fight against both the closing of the criminology school and attacks against the ethnic studies department, and saw the need to link them together, there were forces within the movement who tried to separate the struggles along national lines. They said ethnic studies was a "Third World issue" and the crim school a "white issue". It was summed up by the Brigade that this division would weaken and hold back the struggle. (For a more detailed report, see FIGHT BACK!)

(2) The Brigade, when working within coalitions, must always put out its own analysis. This has been summed up from a number of experiences in the past when Brigades have been the minority in coalitions and were unable to reach out to students with a good analysis of the situation. Only bankrupt politics were getting out to the students-- even though Brigade members were often the most active and hard working people in the coalition!

Brigades must also enter into coalitions with a better understanding of the forces involved, what the goals of the coalition are, and around what basis the forces are united. Only with clarity on these questions, will the RSB be able to develop the correct strategy and tactics for our work in particular ~~conditions~~ coalitions.

(3) Throughout the course of building a struggle, it is important to be militant. Even in the early stages, while numbers and active support are small, Brigades should use militant actions (like picketlines, marching into offices, small sit-ins,...) as sparks in attracting attention and building support. This tone should be included in propaganda as we lay out our strategy for winning: one of "the masses in action fighting for demands will win" as opposed to "maneuvering and trying to get the enemy (administration, pigs, etc) to see the 'correctness' of our requests". Not only will this win more people to becoming active (because they see that they are the real motive force, and not just pawns in a numbers game with the administration), but will also prepare the people for the type of actions that can be taken by large numbers of people, like the seizure of buildings during the crim school struggle.

Consistently, different regions spoke of the need to develop strategy in every area of work (i.e. for campaigns, for building a struggle on campus, in building a chapter, for expansion, etc.) We must get better at politically analysing the situation and the forces involved, setting goals, and arriving at tactics to try to achieve these goals. Only if this is done in a consistent way as we embark on struggles will we be able to comprehensively sum up what is (or isn't) successful and what lessons were learned.

The Iowa City chapter has been doing a lot of successful work around the slogan "Free James Hall-- Fight National Oppression". James Hall is a Black man who is on trial, framed with the murder of a white woman. There have been demonstrations and rallies, and many people have been organized to go to court for shows of support. One real lesson that was drawn from this struggle was around the original slogan: "Fight Racism". This slogan did not identify the enemy, the US imperialist ruling class. Of course, it is important to fight racist ideology that the imperialists spread and develop through scum like Shockley. But the slogan, in this situation, of "Fight Racism" does not clearly point out who the enemy is and makes it look like the problem is between the Races. "Fight National Oppression" is much clearer: Who profits from national oppression? Only the imperialists, no one else!

3,000 people in Madison and over a thousand in Boston turned out for large celebrations/demonstrations within a day after Nixon's resignation. While these were largely spontaneous, the RSB did bring chants, leaflets, and banners. It was summed-up that it was real good that the Brigade united with the righteous celebrations of the people and generally brought some good analysis, but the Brigade should have been more organized (like bringing a sound system) and also be more on top of this type of situation in the future. It's very important for

the RSB to get out our analysis now, summing up the turmoil and resignation for the masses before the ruling class tries to patch things up.

It was also brought out by a couple of NIC reps about "regional exceptionalism" on the part of some RSB members: "Students in my region won't relate to the new name, because they're more backward" or something like that... Sure, some regions have a longer history of struggle and there is some uneven development, but it's one system of U.S. imperialism, and we have confidence that the masses of students can be won to fight to overthrow that oppressive system. Backward ideas exist among students in all regions, but we don't cater to them!

CONVENTION: Political Struggle

Basically the NIC summed up that the convention stimulated real good political discussion that has been taking place in the chapters around building the Brigade multi-national, clarifying what we're about-revolutionary-and getting a grasp of the objective conditions on campuses.

Through a discussion of building the Brigade multi-nationally we have been continuing to see the need to actively take up the struggles of Third World people against national oppression. Already in some areas, the Brigade is demonstrating their understanding that the fight against national oppression is an important and inherent part of the overall fight against imperialism. In the Bay area, California, the Brigade is boldly taking up the fight of Chinese workers at a garment factory in San Francisco, and in Iowa City the Brigade has been doing real good work around exposing the James Hall railroad (black man falsely framed for the murder of a white woman). NIC people noted that the Brigade chapters have summed up that they have often in the past ~~only~~ related to Third World people only around issues of national oppression, that although we should continue to take up these struggles we are confident that Third World students will most certainly see the necessity of working in other areas (Throw the Bum Out, etc.) in their fight with students of all nationalities waged against the whole system.

The NIC noted that although a small minority on some campuses still feel that the new name will isolate struggle from the masses of students, there is in general a great sense of unity over it. The convention sparked real good discussion around clarifying what we're about, that to be ~~anti-imperialist~~ meant to be revolutionary, and that with this understanding we promote struggle in a revolutionary and not reformist way. The NIC also noted a very minor tendency, however, for students to feel that because we are revolutionary-that we are at a higher level- that we must always have the need for revolution in our demands. This the NIC summed up as wrong. That although the Brigade itself should always point out the need for revolution, this struggle, itself, does not always have to call for the end of the system, (Farah strike support). That we take up all struggles in a militant, revolutionary way, relying on the people, building mass struggle and continually showing through the course of struggle who is the real enemy and that nothing is given or permanently won under monopoly capitalism.

Finally, there has been good discussion around objective conditions on campuses. The Brigade is really understanding the need to get out among the students, really finding out where they are at and beginning to get a grasp of how we are going to go about rebuilding the student movement. There have been both advances and setbacks over the last couple of years. We have summed up the struggle of the '60's with the outcome of having a better understanding of the enemy, and the necessity of building the Brigade as a multi-national organization. There is better mass consciousness to the system being "bankrupt" and students are ~~more~~

more open than ever before to the idea of revolution. The Brigade has made significant advances in waging struggle, organizing demonstrations and becoming a nation-wide organization.

At the same time, there is also cynicism on campuses. The NIC summed up- felt however that there was a tendency to overemphasize the factors of demoralization. And while they are certainly there and we can't wish them away, we shouldn't dwell on them either. The NIC summed up that we've got to grasp the objective conditions in their entirety-meaning-build upon the advance of the last ten years- to isolate the weaknesses.

The convention further sparked discussion as to the participation of a communist organization in a mass student organization. Although most people feel that the RU played an important leadership role at the convention, some students had question over the idea of line. The NIC summed up on the basis of chapter discussions that it was not so much whether or not a group had a line, but what that line was. The RU would have liked to have brought their proposals concerning the Third World caucus and the name change to the body of students earlier, but were unable to do so. They brought forward these ideas out of wanting to advance the movement and had to really struggle to win over the body of the convention. But the RU did not hoodwink anyone into an acceptance of its linear ideas introduced at the convention, but rather, struggled with people politically over it. The NIC summed up that it is the people who decide whether or not a line is correct or not, and whether they will accept it.

CONVENTION: Mechanics

We also discussed the convention in practical terms, how we viewed the mechanics of the three days in Iowa City. This discussion focused around the workshops, area reports and the chairing of the convention.

Around the workshops it seemed that people were somewhat confused over the division between educational and practical. That students seemed to have wanted more of a concentration on the latter. We realized that two years ago at the first quarterly, students really go into educational workshops because they did not have that much practice behind them. Now, after two years of work, students have a great deal of interest in sharing that practice and the lessons learned. Basically, it was summed up that although students really got into the workshops and would have liked to have had more time to be able to participate in more, it was important that these workshops be better organized. We discussed the importance of each workshop having a strategy in the hopes of accomplishing the maximum.

The NIC noted that some people reported on there being only one area of work that was discussed on the floor which was the National Campaign, Throw the Bum Out (and repression). The NIC noted that we could not discuss every area of work but that the solution would be to have good accurate Brigade sum ups on the different workshops (cutbacks, strike support, farmworkers, etc.) on the convention floor.

It had been suggested previous to the convention that there just be one chair. But as no one really looked forward to the task of chairing the convention for three straight days, several people were chosen on the basis of "let's all chair a portion". As a result there were some good chairs and some not so good. The NIC summed up that it was important for the future that chairs be chosen on the basis of ability, and that most likely we will have two able chairs in the future at the next convention.

In general, we felt that Iowa City was an excellent place to have held the Brigade's national convention. For one, there is a general lack of certain political groups in the area. Also, due to the lack of big-city distractions, there was a great conduciveness for people to take the activities of the convention and the political discussion wherever they went (dinner, gym, bar). We commend Iowa City in doing an excellent job in serving the people."

The Guardian Article and the NO Reply

Over-all, the Guardian article on the national convention was seen as an attempt to hold back an important part of the people's movement, the revolutionary student movement, by misrepresenting the Brigade as a whole, distorting the struggle that took place, and not even politically putting forward the important advances that were made and lessons that were learned at the convention.

One of the major aspects of the article was that it attempted to paint the Brigade as an "ultra-left" organization. The Guardian reporter seemed to go on a mad dash over the weekend searching out this criticism, which is all quoted in the article by visiting forces, and leaves the reader with the sense that the Brigade as a whole does absolutely no self-criticism. The article also subtly puts forward that the struggle around the national campaign was divided along national lines, while subsequently completely failing to sum up the tremendous advances that were made in understanding what taking up the fight against national oppression and building a multi-national Brigade entailed.

The response from the NO to the Guardian ~~xxxxxx~~ should be included at the end of the newsletter, and it was summed up by the NIC as being basically good, but that the NYC rep should take responsibility for adding a paragraph concerning ultra-leftism. The Guardian article and response could be used for discussions by Brigades around such issues as building a multi-national organization, etc. The Guardian said they thought they would print the response in the next issue. However, if this is not done, it will be printed in the Oct. issue of FB!

The Guardian is a definite force in the movement, and has played a progressive role in the past, but it has had a history of problems in its coverage of the Brigade-- so areas, Brigades, and individuals should take it upon themselves to get in information by letter or telephone to Ben Bedell on the Guardian staff around student actions in your area. DON'T ASSUME THAT IT'S BEING DONE BY SOME ONE ELSE!! It won't hurt them to get 2 reports on something anyway. The Guardian has told us that they would change our politics ("in order to protect us from being the laughing stock of the left"), so people should be vigilant about seeing that events are covered accurately, taking up struggle with the Guardian when they're not.

VVAH/USO DEMONSTRATIONS IN WASHINGTON D.C. JULY 1-4

The NIC rep from N.Y. gave a full report on the July 1-4 demos and the struggles that went on. In general, the RSB played a very good role.

At first, Brigade members (mainly from NY) acted somewhat arrogantly. During the first day's mass regional meetings, RSB people came on very strong arguing in favor of a position, basically repeating the same points over and over like beating people over the head with them-- not winning people over. After receiving criticism from several people in VVAH/USO, the RSB from NY caucused and summed up the need to win people over politically-- going out among people constantly (not just in mass meetings) and discussing things and listening to them. It was realized that we must be conscious that it was a demo called by VVAH/USO and not the Brigade. So RSB members moved off this

discussion, and for the following three days really struggled well and gained a lot of respect within the demonstrations and laid the basis for excellent relations with VVAW/USO.

One NIC rep raised a question of whether the RSB should try to build VVAW/USO chapters on our campuses. The meeting summed up that, while we strive to unite around issues with VVAW/USO and build a close working relationship, we aren't organizers for that organization. We are building a mass anti-imperialist student organization, and many vets are students, and as students we try to get them to join the RSB. And the RSB should see itself working around veterans issues on campus, such as cuts in vets benefits (though not as consistently as the VVAW/USO) as part of its fight against imperialism. Many times it will be possible to link up with VVAW/USO around these issues, and we should actively try to do this, but wait for that to happen before we act on issues.

FIGHTBACK

The discussion around Fightback centered around the main task of the paper which is circulate anti-imperialist news among the masses of students and inform them of the developing struggle against the enemy. We see it as an important tool in our expansion work as well as a good organ of the Brigade that will bring important lessons to our work and stimulate political discussion.

In selling the paper, we discussed the need for boldness. The key to selling it well is to really understand the purpose of the paper and why it is important to get it out to students. The NIC summed up that we should see selling the paper as an important part of our political work

In the future we felt that it was really important that the Brigade really get out among the students and investigate what students want to read about. This should be seen as an important and necessary task. We also discussed the possibilities of including cultural expression in the coming issues (excerpts from plays, poems, stories, etc.).

There was a political discussion concerning the name of the newspaper. The NIC felt the Fightback is essentially a defensive name, not really accurately describing a revolutionary organization that takes the offensive against the system. Even if we don't change the name, the NIC saw it as an important discussion, and felt all chapters should discuss the political aspects of our newspaper's. It was felt that we shouldn't change the name, now, unless something exceptionally good was suggested!

FINANCES AND FUNDRAISING: POLITICAL TASKS

Each regional representative was asked to bring \$150 to the NIC meeting. While most areas raised that amount or more, California more than doubled it with \$305! This is because they really grasped the political importance of raising funds. Without a consistent supply of money, the national office can't operate, and this means no national publications (like the pamphlet and the newspaper), no center, and no real use of our strength as a national organization. California really jumped into action following the convention, and realizing that fundraising would be a special priority, planned out a number of different events and boldly took up this task. A couple of areas (Boston and Upstate NY in particular) raised very little, giving excuses like "we're still paying the costs of travel to Iowa City" or "everyone's broke". These areas were criticized, and we are confident that they will move to correct this political error. All areas and chapters should have full discussions about the political importance of raising funds, come up with ideas, and act on them immediately.

SOME IDEAS FOR FUNDRAISING:

Bake sales; Child care (Calif. is setting up a permanent location, manning it with two RSD members on Fri & Sat nites, & charging 75¢/ child!); Raffles-- get 'sympathetic' shopkeepers to donate records, liquor, books, etc; Dances with lit tables, speakers, entrance fee; Ask teachers for 'reviewers copies' of books they receive and sell them to a used book store; Disco party- advertized as Rock, Soul, Latin with a D.J.; Silk-screened T-Shirts (N.O. will coordinate sales nationally!); movies; speakers; Fairs or community carnivals around a political theme (we could have used TTBO a month ago!); pass the hat at every function and meeting; furniture sales; house-painting (raises a lot of money); FB sales...

EXPANSION

Three regional tours are being planned by the Brigade for early fall through areas of the country where we are presently spread a little thin. They are:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Area | Toured By |
| 1) the South | East and South |
| 2) western Midwest
(Missouri, Kansas, Nebr., Col.) | Midwest |
| 3) Southwest | California |

The tours will be important for really consolidating ourselves as a national organization, and will do follow up work on the contacts we have made in these regions, while building new ties on several campuses. The NY-NJ rep, and expansion tour veteran from last year, will be writing up a more comprehensive and detailed guidelines for the tours-- how to set them up, what to take, what contacts can do for you, ideas for what to do on campuses, costs, etc.

Mechanics

TIME: We're aiming for late Sept. or early Oct., while freshmen are still fresh and before the cold sets in.

PEOPLE: It would be good to have 2 or more cars going through each region, so Brigades should begin now to start politically deciding who would be a good representative of the Brigade-- able to sum up who we are, and what we're about, and dedicated to building the revolutionary student movement. NIC reps should send in volunteers and draftees names by Sept. 5th.

FINANCES: The NO can't provide any funds, so areas should begin fundraising immediately with some of the new ideas pooled at the NIC meeting, but this is not meant to close the door on those people who will personally take on financing their trip.

Expansion is not a one-sided task, and we must also consistently take it up in our own areas. The OH-Mich area recently moved forward with intra-area expansion by setting up work teams in existing Brigades who evaluated where expansion needed to be done, and then began systematic, weekly work on those campuses. Through past experience they had found that new Brigades had disintegrated when no consistent follow-up work was done in their new chapter, and that the best way to both develop a chapter and keep it growing was to build unity by actively involving people in struggle, whether it was taking up a sharp struggle on their campus such as cutbacks, or helping to build for a larger demonstration such as the July 4th VVAW/ISO demo. Iowa also found this to be true when the possibility for new Brigades developed from a broad range of forces involved in coalition work for an Aug. 10th bum demo.

THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN OF "THROW THE BUM OUT--ORGANIZE TO FIGHT"

The national campaign of "Throw the Bum Out--Organize to Fight" is coming to a close. Nixon is obviously gone and the ruling class is temporarily united around Gerald Ford, with the intension of "proving" that the system is better than ever, working fine, etc. The people are literally under a propoganda blitz from the monopoly capitalists.

The NIC summed up that it was most essential for the Brigade to actively go out among the students and sum up what this whole struggle was about. In the immediate sense this means "victory rallies" wherever possible (and where they've been held so far, they've been very successful as many people are rightfully happy that Nixon is gone). Of course, the essential tone of these rallies is that the struggle continues against the ruling class, and we must continue to take advantage of their turmoil. The NIC also talked of the importance of mass leafletting, political theater, etc. that directly sum up the Nixon affair. In future months, we should continue to draw connections and lessons from Watergate and the split in the ruling class. For instance, in the Bay area where active work around Ruchell Magee is beginning, Brigades should point out the class nature of justice between Ruchell and the Watergate defendants.

The NIC talked of important points to sum up around Nixon:

- 1) "Kick 'Em While They're Down"-- how the imperialists are in crises and turmoil, and that's the basis of the Watergate scene. This is especially important in combatting the ruling class propoganda that the system has just proven it works better than ever, and that the "greedy and evil man" is now gone-- the real cause of the people's problems.
- 2) The class nature of justice. What the impeachment hearings were all about-- trying to chain the anger of the people to the liberal. Exposing Rodino, Kennedy, etc.-- these dudes will get run down in FB! Also comparing the "sentences" of the Watergate prisoners with the situation of the masses of prisoners and political prisoners. There was a feature article of Magruder and others in jail around 2 months ago in Time or Newsweek showing their "jail" with horseback riding and golf courses.

The NIC also summed up that ~~the reason~~ that the reason the "Watergate issue" developed and took so long was because of the internal struggle in the ruling class, and that their unity right now is only temporary, and that future splits could quickly develop. But we must remember that "Throw the Bum Out" was a specific tactic we used in which the ruling class was openly exposed in a struggle among themselves, and that we could take advantage of this situation by throwing them into a greater turmoil and exposing the whole ruling class. Raising the slogan "Dump Ford", as the Guardian recently did, would be wrong. We're not about throwing one president after another out the door. We're about attacking the whole ruling class.

PRESENT SITUATION: No National Campaign

A national campaign for the Brigade is a sharp struggle that can be waged in a nation-wide effort, uniting a large number of people against the monopoly capitalist system, and moving the revolutionary movement forward by exposing imperialism as the exploitative system it is to more and more people. The national campaign is not a gimmick or something that is taken up mechanically for every school term, and at this time the NIC doesn't see any one issue that is sharp enough to build a national campaign around. But we all know that imperialism ~~creates~~ always creates numbers of crises, and any number of campaigns could develop in the future-- such as SE Asia, the Middle East, or a nation-wide strike or political trial. A national campaign or action can be called by the NO at any time as conditions change, the NIC summed up.

AFRICAN LIBERATION

Just because the Brigade is starting the fall without a national campaign does not mean that it won't be unified in its work at certain times and around certain issues. And the NIC strongly urges that all Brigades kick off their fall work by taking up African Liberation with a celebration of Guinea Bissau's independence on Sept. 24th. The bourgeois press is putting on an anti-colonialist front by pushing the idea that Portugal is just a 19th century colonialist who is finally giving up and entering the 20th Century. Brigades should bring out and expose neo-colonialism and the US and other imperialists' role in Africa.

Celebrations would vary from campus to campus keeping in mind both the conditions on campuses and the world-wide developments of imperialism. But the NIC felt that in most cases Brigades had moved beyond the educational forum stage to being able to involve people in mass struggle, possibly exposing their university's stock portfolio, or a recruiter's company's exploitation, or linking up with other struggles such as the Rhodesian chrome boycott. Brigades should try to involve people in as much struggle as possible.

Without a national campaign there could be a tendency among chapters to jump from one area of work to another, with no consistent effort in any area. This tendency should vigilantly be struggled against. Local Brigades, Area Coordinating Committees, and NIC reps should all begin political discussions analysing what would be the best areas of work for their chapters. In this spirit the NIC summed up some major areas of work that Brigades might be looking to in the fall.

OTHER AREAS OF WORK

STRIKE SUPPORT: The US is in the middle of the biggest strike wave in decades! The NIC felt that the RSB has an important part to play in supporting striking workers. This is an excellent time to organize forums-- on the strike wave in general or a specific strike. When strikes break out in local areas, the chapters should see this as a good thing to bring students to the picketlines, while being careful not to "over-run" the workers. At the same time, we should use the opportunity to bring strikers on to campus for forums and other events. While materially aiding the struggle of the workers, this also helps break down the barriers that the ruling class is always trying to erect to divide us. It should always be pointed out that when workers go on strike, they are battling our common enemy, imperialism. Chapters should investigate the situation on their campuses, support the different struggles that campus workers engage in, and try to build ties with them. For instance, Columbia U maintenance workers will probably strike in September, and the RSB is already preparing to organize active student support.

As far as any nation-wide strike support, the NO will investigate and coordinate RSB action. By the time you read this, we should already be involved in the fight against the sell-out telephone contract.

And it appears that there will be a nationwide coal-miners strike this fall. After the miners' wildcat against the energy freeze in W.Va. and the struggle against importation of coal from S. Africa, the imperialists have made it clear that they want to stop the miners and are going to mount a concerted effort to break any strike. Already they've begun to stockpile coal to last out the winter. Local areas should investigate the situation (Does the univ. own stock in coal companies or utilities? Is stockpiling going on in your area? etc) and prepare for action. Students should be prepared in advance by leaflets, campaigns can be waged against Univ. support for the mine owners and against stockpiling, and targets should be found for picketing and other action. This can be an important lesson for students as they materially aid one of the most militant and politically aware sections of the working class as it battles the capitalists. All Nic reps should be investigating factors and prepare a report for the next NIC mtg.

In general, farmworkers support work by the Brigade has been slow this summer. But several areas, especially Boston, have done excellent work. The NIC summed up that for future work we will probably have to operate separately from the official boycott committees-- but this depends on local conditions. Within these committees there has been almost no political struggle, their literature is based on moralistic "blood-in-the-grapes" analysis (at times even making grapes the enemy, rather than the growers and the ruling class), picket lines are totally pacifist and hold back the militance of the farmworkers' struggle

While we may have to do our work independently of the official leadership, we must not make the error of attacking the union drive. The union drive is at the heart of the farmworkers' struggle, and that is what our actions are supporting. Unionizing this previously unorganized sector of the American working class into the UFI will be a powerful blow against the imperialist. But we must also remember that the leadership of the UFI has taken some bad stands-- like supporting the Rodino-Kennedy deportation bill and their total reliance on pacifism.

In no way did the NIC propose that farmworker support work be a national campaign, rather, chapters should decide whether or not to do work based on local conditions.

REPRESSION The NIC discussion concerning police repression focussed on 3 main areas: Attica Brothers, Ruchell Magee, and the Chicano Moratorium in conjunction with the Rodino-Kennedy Bill.

There is a demonstration planned Sept. 14 in Buffalo to help build for the coming Attica trials. This demo is being called by the Attica Legal Defense Comm. (Angela Davis and others will be speaking) and although the NO will keep the Brigade abreast of the activities it was basically summed up that upstate NY and Ohio would relate to this demo.

Ruchell Magee has become a prime area of work in the Bay area, Calif. There is a coming demonstration planned to further expose this obvious ruling class railroad attempt and to confront the Calif. law prohibiting demonstrations in front of a courthouse (instigated during the Angela Davis trials) There will be an article in the next issue of FB! explaining the case and identifying the issues. The NIC further discussed raising the whole question of Ruchell Magee in our work, to begin linking up this struggle with other work done around political prisoners as well as to point out "justice" under monopoly capitalism--discrepancies between Watergate criminals' sentences and Ruchell's...

The RODINO-KENNEDY BILL, currently before congress, will make it easier for the gov't. immigration dept. to deport so-called "illegal aliens" and other non-US citizens. The pigs plan to use this to get rid of "trouble-makers"-- union organizers and political activists in the Chicano & Asian communities in the West and Haitian & Dominican communities (which are very active against imperialism) in the East. Also threatened by this bill will be students from Africa, Iran, Asia, and the Philippines. So we must fight this as an act of national oppression. It is also a key opportunity to expose the liberal impeachers who are sponsoring this oppressive attack on the people.

The California RSB will be organizing for and participating in the CHICANO MORATORIUM planned for Aug 31st in Los Angeles. Demands for the demo are: 1) Defeat the Rodino-Kennedy immigration bill 2) Drugs out of Chicano communities; 3) Support the UFI & 4) Independence for Puerto Rico. Chapters should investigate whether anything is planned around this in their areas. Something might be planned in NY & Chicago--the NO is investigating what's going on in these cities & will get it to the areas.

November 16th will be the 2nd anniversary of the brutal shotgun murders of two Black students at Southern University. The state pigs were called in to break a student strike demanding better wages for workers on campus and a school that would serve the needs of the community. We can use this occasion to expose even further the national oppression that the ruling class uses to support its decaying system of imperialism and the repression it wields against all people, especially Black and Third World people.

FREE PUERTO RICO! OCT. 27TH DEMO

The Brigades in NYC and Chicago are doing organizing for the Oct. 27th demonstration in Madison Square Garden to free Puerto Rico from U.S. imperialist domination. The demo was called by the Puerto Rican Socialist Party and is being planned by the Puerto Rican Solidarity Day Committee, a very broad coalition. Problems have already developed in NYC around the bureaucratic way work is being done by the coalition, and the a-political tasks that were to be assigned to the Brigade. After contacting their main office it was decided that we would do our own leaflet for mass distribution on the East coast to build for the rally. There is also a possibility for some local action by Brigades on the day of the demo. This issue of FB! will carry a short announcement about what's coming up, and the Oct. issue will have a more in-depth analysis of the situation in Puerto Rico and the importance of supporting their liberation struggle.

CUTBACKS IN ETHNIC STUDIES

Ethnic Studies Programs on most campuses were won through struggle, and will be kept through struggle. Cutbacks have not been coming down evenly throughout the country, but due to the present economic crisis, 3rd World programs are increasingly falling under the imperialist axe. Major struggles have already been waged by chapters in Madison and Berkeley (see work reports), taking up the fight to defend the right of 3rd World students to ethnic centers and a 3rd World program of study, and Brigades should be on the look-out for cutbacks happening on their campuses. A minor tendency was noted by the CA NIC rep out of the Berkeley mass struggle that on some campuses the 3rd World departments had been totally co-opted by the university, and that 3rd World students didn't really relate to them, but that it was important for Brigades to take it up in a way that was really fighting for a department that would serve their needs.

BLACK STUDENT HISTORY PUBLICATION

Seeing the need at the convention for a sum-up of the Black student movement's history through the 50's and 60's, a woman at Antioch College in OH has started to do research on it for a series of articles in FB!, which could possibly be printed up later as a pamphlet. Brigades should discuss and sum-up the political importance of such a publication, and politically decide on other people who would be able to help with the research and writing. We are calling on Brigades to get in contact with other forces, organizations, or individuals in their area who could have information on the movement, and send in resources, reports, or articles to the NO so it can be a coordinated effort and we can help in getting out information to the people doing the actual writing. We need people's input as soon as possible to be able to get this series rolling for up-coming FBIs.

THE FIRST COUPLE OF WEEKS OF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR: High level of Activity!

The NIC summed up that the key to starting off the school year is a great deal of well-planned highly visible activity. The first chapter meeting should be widely publicized and should mainly be an introduction to the RSB, our politics, and begin to draw people into some activity. (It's a good idea to have a short film or slide show about some current struggle) Chapters should prepare local supplements to the RSB pamphlet and have other literature on hand.

A good idea to introduce students to the RSB as well as to "college education under imperialism" is a guided tour of the campus, pointing out the sites of

previous student activity (such as buildings that were occupied, the ruins of ROTC buildings, etc) as well as describing in detail what goes on in other buildings (i.e. war research, boring irrelevant classes, etc). This has been very popular on campuses in the past and helps to counter the administrations propaganda. It can also help to sum up the student movement of the 60's in a good way and build the RSB of the 70'd.

Also of importance is systematic and massive sales of FB! and distribution of the upcoming TTBO-OTF analysis and sum-up. A FB! subscription drive should be undertaken. In general, the first couple weeks of school should be an extremely active period for all Brigade members.

Preceding the RSB's founding convention, the Iowa City chapter spent months of hard work in preparation. For three days, 450 people were housed, food was available, people were picked up at the airport, etc, and the convention ran smoothly. Throughout this period, the Iowa City chapter took up this task enthusiastically-- without complaint-- in a true serve-the-people spirit. Their selfless determination and clear devotion to the revolution helped make the convention a great success. The entire Brigade joins in thanking the Iowa City chapter and commending them for a job well done!

NEEDED:

The NY-NJ Brigade is putting together a pamphlet on Open Admissions. They need the following things:

- 1) Any information, literature, pamphlets, etc on the San Francisco State Strike;
- 2) Any studies people have done or literature available about how schools are tools of imperialism
- 3) Information on ruling class strategy for the schools: information on master plans, foundation reports, state studies, financial aid reports, etc...

If anyone has any of the above material, please send it to
Richie Chevat, 160 Claremont Ave, N.Y.C. 10027 (Apt 4-h)

or
R.S.B., 3739 N. Wayne St.(2nd Floor), Chicago, Ill 60613

CORRECTION AND ADDITIONS

P. 3 paragraph 1

Not only did the division of "white issue" and "Third World" issue weaken and divide the struggle. It's also an inaccurate analysis. As we summed up at the convention the fight against national oppression is the fight of all the people of all nationalities. We are all involved in the fight against one ruling class and the struggle against that enemy, whether it be fighting cutbacks or national oppression, it is the fight of us all.

p. 3 paragraph 2

Add... The Brigade has a good political analysis of struggle and the present situation of U.S. imperialism. We shouldn't keep it to ourselves but boldly put it forward to the students.

around convention- NIC people should see that all school calendars are sent into the HQ- so we can get a better grasp of when to have the convention as well as the number of Fight Backs to print.

p. 7 let's clarify

The Brigade sees VVAII-ISO as an important organization involved in the revolutionary struggle. We should work with them around certain issues when our working together will advance the overall struggle. The RSB should not see itself as VVAII builder. We should take up and support the struggle of vets on the campuses-but we won't do this as consistently as VVAII-ISO.

p.10-the paragraph at the bottom of African Lib.

In pointing out the dangers of the Brigade jumping from one issue to another blindly. Brigades should sum up areas of work constantly-keeping in mind the sharp issues on the campuses as well as the world-wide developments of imperialism. This section is the IIC summing up some different areas of work- in no way is this a program for the Brigade for the next ~~XXXXXX~~ semester. This is simply summing up some of the sharp issues facing us. There are certainly other areas of work that Brigades will take up.

Though there is no national campaign at the present moment there are areas of work-national projects the Brigade can and should work on. The Sept. 24 anniv. of Guinea Bissau, Southern U. commemoration, possible national strike support, etc.

p.11-

The 3rd demand for the "Chicano Moratorium" is; support for the Farmworkers and--- not the United Farmworkers Union.

In looking over the notes-the N.O. would like to add the following areas of work.

The Middle East is one of the most explosive areas in the world. The "no war-no peace" situation has existed there for twenty-five years, having been interrupted at least four times over that period with war. There are many controversial and important issues involved there. To name a few- the Zionist bandit state of Israel, the Palestinian people robbed of their land, and the strategic importance of Middle East oil to the imperialists.

There will no doubt be future struggles, wars, etc. breaking out in this area of the world. Last year the Brigade in some areas of the country did some very good work around the Middle East- on some campuses it was the first time a consistent anti-imperialist analysis came out around this issue. But there is still a great deal of confusion among students around the issue and far too many people support the state of Israel and equate anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism. The Brigade should see it as important to develop the people consciousness about the Middle East situation with forums etc. There are some good popular movies the Brigade can show without having to do a great deal of work; "Revolution Until Victory" and "Dhofar". Brigades should periodically sum up the situation in the Middle East- achieving unity in the Brigade- so that if something does break out chapters don't have to spend 4 weeks figuring out a position.

The National Office would also like to emphasize the importance of November 16th, the 2nd anniversary of the killings at Southern U. Over the summer we have seen the Brigade begin to actively throw itself into the fight against national oppression as part of the overall fight against imperialism. Rallies around Southern U. could:

- 1) commemorate the valiant struggle of the Southern U. students in 72
- 2) sum up and advance in struggle ~~XXXXXX~~ the fight against national oppression and imperialism.

Of course these rallies could also link up and advance other struggles that are going on in each campus or local area. Brigades should actively investigate and sum up (IIC people let us know what's happening) the potential for building struggles around this day- uniting the building for this with other groups.

It would be a very important advance for the anti-imperialist movement having students across the nation commemorating a past valiant struggle and linking it up with the peoples present struggle against repression, national oppression as part of the fight against the ruling class

SUBSCRIBE TO FIGHTBACK!

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

CHAPTER _____

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBSCRIBE TO FIGHTBACK! (3\$/YR.)

I WOULD LIKE TO BE A FIGHTBACK SUSTAINER

5\$/MO

10\$/MO

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I WILL GIVE ___/MO TO THE RSB NO , SO IT CAN CONTINUE FUNCTIONING

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Chicago, Ill. 60613

DARE TO STRUGGLE-
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