

REVOLUTIONARY MARXIST ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER #2

December 13, 1975

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1. The Center

The organization of a functional administrative committee has now been completed with the following distribution of responsibilities:

- Coordinator - Milt Zaslow
- Financial Secretary - Sue Warren
- Organizational Secretary - Judi Shayne
- Literature Director - Ron Warren

The first literature bulletin has been sent to all locals and at largers, reporting on the international Inprecor sub and circulation drive, and setting forth proposals for our participation.

Registration and payment of monthly dues are as yet uneven. As of this date, the following payments have been received:

- Baltimore - November & December - for 8
- Los Angeles - November & December - for 12
- Houston - November - for 6
- Chicago - November - for 6
- Iowa City - November for 1, December for 3
- San Francisco - November - for 3

We know that the New York local is functioning, but it has not gotten around to sending in registrations - which consists of \$8.00 per member for November.

Financial report as of 12-13-75:

Receipts

From	For	Amount	Total
Socialist Union	Surplus from pre-conference	24.04	
San Francisco	Convention Assessments	70.00	
Baltimore	Nov. & Dec. dues	128.00	
Los Angeles	Nov. & Dec. dues	200.00	
Houston	Nov. dues	48.00	
Chicago	Nov. dues	48.00	
San Francisco	Nov. dues	24.00	
Iowa City	Nov. dues	8.00	
Iowa City	Dec. dues	24.00	
Houston	Inprecor bundle	9.75	
Los Angeles	Inprecor bundle	78.00	
		<u>661.79</u>	<u>661.79</u>

Expenses

Cablegrams	42.04
Telephone	14.30
San Francisco Transportation (to LA conference report)	90.00

Expenses (cont)

Postage	18.25	
November sustainer	150.00	
Payment to Inprecor	87.75	
	<u>402.34</u>	<u>402.34</u>
	On hand	259.45

2. Portugal - Angola Campaign

A report from Chicago on an excellent action initiated by our local is attached. The Chicago comrades are putting out a 1-1/4 inch solidarity button featuring a map of the Iberian peninsula with a wrench in the center (the logo of the LCI) and the slogan "Portugal must not be the Chile of Europe". Locals are urged to place orders with Chicago at \$25.00 per hundred. L. A. has ordered a hundred as a starter.

Two new comrades have been recruited in Chicago-at least in part due to the activities around the Portuguese revolution. One had been a sympathizer of the IT in New York, and the other had been a member of the IT-nf who had attended the SWP convention.

A report on Los Angeles activities is also appended. San Francisco comrades are collaborating with the IS and CP in building a solidarity demo on Dec. 19. Baltimore had previously reported successful forums and a demonstration. We await reports from other areas. Houston is planning a teach-in in January.

3. Report from Chicago

On the Chicago Teach-in/Day of Solidarity

In line with the campaigns proposed by the 4th International the Chicago Red Circle set Portugal-Spain solidarity work as a priority. There were several ways to begin this work. One would have been to join the existing "united front" organized by the Revolutionary Socialist League. In effect this would have meant sacrificing meaningful activity for the ever-popular game "denunciation and exposure". Which goes something like "sure we can work together, but first lets get a few things straight. We denounce your position on this and we expose your betrayal in that". It was our view that this was a sterile, dead end.

The concept of a teach-in fulfilled several goals. Number one it was a minimal forum that could unite forces easily. Secondly, it could disseminate much needed information on Portugal and Spain. And thirdly, it could serve as a spring board for actions.

Our first step was to make a list of groups that we could work with politically (this immediately excluded groups with a pro SP line) and that would counterbalance each other. We originally approached the following individually, the IS, the Communist Party, the Committee for the Liberation of Angola and Mozambique, the Workers World Party, the New World Resource center (an anti-imperialist, Bookstore-collective) and the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. Only the International Socialists showed no interest in the idea.

At the first planning meeting several principals were agreed upon, mostly at the CP's insistence. No speaker would make the central thrust of his talk an attack on the Portuguese CP, or more specifically no one raise the Super Powers theory and that all the speakers adopt a stance supporting the MPLA.

Although the work of building the Teach-in/Day of Solidarity, fell mainly on our shoulders, Workers World did a fair share of the leg work. In addition to a leaflet we had announcements in the mailing list of New World Resource Center, consisting of several thousand, URPE which is small but politicized, the WWP which is in contact with many foreign students. Also, we got a spot announcement on one radio station,

placed an ad in a weekly youth oriented paper and were able to make announcements after a number of meetings.

When the prospect of building the tour of the MES comrade was first raised we viewed it as cutting across our teach-in. The fact that we found out about this tour so late and that our small forces were already plunged into activity up to our necks, did not leave much time and personell to work on the de Sousa tour. However, we decided to go ahead with building meetings for him, using them to promote the teach-in. The master stroke was a press conference for Joao and the initiators of the Teach-in on the 12th of November. Despite a press release, both hand delivered and mailed, and follow up telephone calls the Chicago press boycotted the conference.

The Teach-in itself was a success from our viewpoint. It attracted around 110 people, mostly from political groups, making it the second largest event around the question of Portugal in Chicago. (The IS-PRP forum was slightly larger). Our comrade, Mark L. made the first presentation, a well thought out and non-sectarian speech. We also interviened from the floor and in the workshops. Unfortunately, our size prohibited us from reaping all the gains we might have from our work. However, we were able to bring several New Faction comrades closer to us through the example of the work on the teach-in.

Of all the speakers the Abraham Lincoln Brigade was the only mistake. His rap was riddled with attacks on the "Trotskyist influenced Poum", he also praised the Catholic Church in Spain, a remark bringing loud laughs.

Concretely, we gained several things from the teach-in: 1. We established ourselves as a visible left force in Chicago 2. We proved that we can be trusted to work with in coalitions 3. We acquired the mailing list from the action as a basis for building a solidarity committee 4. We consolidated our own ranks as well as a periphery. The process of working with others and building an action was an education and 5. Not least important we engaged in an action defending the Portuguese and Spanish revolutions.

In fulfilling our international duty we sent letters and copies of the leaflet to comrades in Portugal, France and Great Britain. Along with the leaflets we requested solidarity greetings from the LCI, LCR-ETA VI, the IMG's support committee, etc. Probably due to the lateness of the request we received no replies.

s/ Nick La Corcia

4. Report from Baltimore

1. In September the BMG initiated a Baltimore Portugal-Angola Solidarity committee. On November 6 the committee arranged two forums at which the MES member being toured by the Portugal information Center spoke. He spoke first to some 80 people at a local campus. Later he spoke to about 60 people at a downtown meeting attended by most groups on the left (except the Maoists). For different reasons, the BMG built this meeting almost by itself. In general it can be regarded as a success and should facilitate future work.

We are now exploring possible future events: a film on Spain (Dreams and Nightmares); film or speaker on Angola (we have yet to come up with either one); demonstration on Angola. With respect to the demo, we are hindered by a lack of expressed interest by local Black organizations and the lack of an appropriate site. In any case, we hope to have something planned for January.

2. Four comrades and various contacts have been active in an anti-tuition hike coalition at the Baltimore branch campus of the University of Maryland. This is the most interesting movement on that campus since May 1970. The coalition organized a demonstration of over 300 at a recent Board of Regents meeting. The demo was enthusiastic and received good media coverage. Plans are now being made for a possible march on the state capitol. The success of the movement will depend first of all on its spreading to the main campus at College Park, where unfortunately we have only one comrade. In the coalition our relations with the YSA have been cordial. The

RSB keeps threatening to split, but so far their almost total lack of influence has kept them from doing so.

3. We are planning an open class series on the Spanish Civil War. The series will begin in January or February. We think such a series will fit in well with our plans for solidarity work. (Any suggestions on bibliography would be welcome). We may decide to offer it through a newly established "political academy", The Baltimore School.

We have been reading Monopoly Capitalism and will try to do other work on the nature of American capitalism.

4. One comrade has been very active in a long strike at a local nursing home. The BMG has been attending picket lines once or twice a week and providing moral support.

5. We have been participating in a coalition to stop S1 (controlled by NAM). The coalition had an informational meeting of 150 people. There have been some bizarre sectarian problems there. We have been able to call the attention of the teachers union to the bill, but it has not yet taken a position.

6. We are planning a forum on the US economic situation for January. We hope to generate a document from this forum.

7. We continue to work in CLUW. CLUW does not seem too healthy. It is dominated by OL which wants to make it an appendage of the Fight Back committee. They seem to have attracted some independents. We are also working in a local jobs coalition where we are faced with the question of what position to take on the Hawkins bill and Operation Life Line.

5. Report from Los Angeles

The Los Angeles group voted to dissolve Socialist Union and reorganize as a branch of RMOC, with a tighter organization and higher requirements for membership. Comrades who are not ready at this time to accept this commitment, but who agree generally with our politics and perspectives, and are deemed reliable, will occupy the status of sympathizers. These comrades will receive newsletters, discussion bulletins, and will be invited to participate in our work, contribute financially, but will not participate in the business meetings of the branch. Twelve comrades have registered in RMOC.

The level of activity and morale has improved. Our recently doubled bundle of Inprecors (to 60) is pretty well sold out regularly. We participate in or intervene in almost every public activity in the left, including SWP forums. We participated in a demonstration against deportations that was held in the Chicano community. Our contingent carried a large banner which read: "Stop deportations! For International Workers Solidarity!", signed "Revolutionary Marxist Organizing Committee", and the emblem of the 4th International. 18 Inprecors were sold, and hundreds of leaflets distributed announcing a forum on the Portuguese revolution.

We were instrumental in having the "Haymarket", a newly organized non-denominational movement center sponsor this forum. We suggested that those organizations supporting the views of various political tendencies in Portugal be invited to speak.

The IS participated as critical supporters of the PRP, SWP as supporters (also critical) of the PRT, The SP with uncritical support of the PSP and comrade Milt Z. representing the position of the LCI and the 4th International, for RMOC. The CP claimed that it lacked the "manpower" to provide a speaker, but a sympathizer who had recently been in Portugal volunteered to speak for the PCP. In spite of strenuous efforts, no one could be found who would defend the position of the Portuguese Maoists.

In spite of an unofficial boycott by the Maoists and a competitive YSA social affair (deliberate we think) it was a successful event, especially from our point of view. More than a 100 people attended, and it gave us an excellent opportunity to make our debut to the left in Los Angeles. We clearly distinguished ourselves from all others, including the SWP and rec far and away the most enthusiastic response of the evening. Seventeen Inprecors were sold.

The SP speaker very much on the defensive, quoted extensively from the SWP's evaluation of the role of the PSP as evidence of its true socialist character. The significance of this was lost on no one.

Classes on political economy and the permanent revolution continue, and a social gathering for Dec 13th is planned.

We are now working on a Portugal-Angola Solidarity Committee and a symposium on Angola.

6. Excerpts of a letter from Iowa City

One result of...our immediate arena of activity, has been the formation of a labor coalition in which RMOC and ST (Sojourner Truth) organization are dominant. The coalition is composed of 9 workers currently. Efforts to expand the coalition will be made shortly; up to now this effort has not been made in order to iron out political differences. Bob F. chairs the coalition until a steering committee is set up.

Sojourner Truth Organization is basically anarcho-syndicalist in practice with a theoretical commitment to Leninist organization. Locally and in Davenport, Ia. the STO is almost totally composed of ex-CP and ex-CP sympathizers who were revulsed into a sort of political antithesis of CP. Politically, STO is a bag of glaring contradictions held together by subjective feelings. If these feelings are shattered, STO can be destroyed on political grounds. There may be 7-8 STO sympathizers in Iowa City; a STO collective of 7 in Davenport, which has industrial contacts in a number of Iowa and Illinois cities.

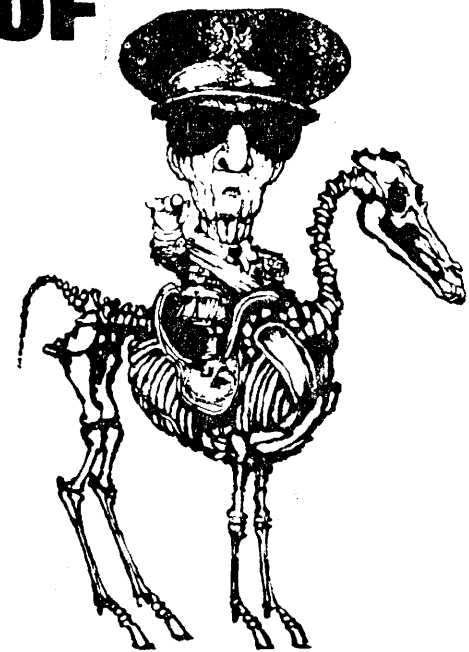
There seems to be locally (and from what I understand, nationally) a growing anti-Stalinist left which is atomized. Locally, these elements are not attracted to NAM - except in a transitory way - since NAM clings to its swamp politics. We may be able to become the pole for regroupment.

At the moment there does not seem to be a great deal we can do around the issue of Iberian solidarity. The only other people who express an interest in international concerns are CP. Since comrade Chuck M. was expelled from the CP realm as a Trotskyist splitter/wrecker and various other unsavory characterizations, chances of joint work with CP are probably zip for awhile.

Comradely, Bob F.

TEACH-IN AND DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH:

On April 25, 1974 the Portuguese people toppled the oldest facisist state in the world. In Spain the dictatorship is in its death agony. Angola will declare its independence from centuries of colonial rule on Nov. 11. The U.S. government is actively seeking to prop up the Franco regime, impose a neo-colonial solution on Angola and reverse the gains of the people in Portugal. Come to a teach-in to support the struggles in Portugal, Spain and Angola.



SPAIN

DATE: SAT. NOV. 15
TIME: 1-5 PM
PLACE: Central YMCA
211 W. Wacker



PORTUGAL

SPEAKERS:

Abraham Lincoln Brigade
Solidarity Committee for
Spain and Portugal
Committee for Liberation of
Angola, Mozambique, and
Guiné-Bissau
Communist Party
Workers World Party



ANGOLA

& WORKSHOPS
For Info. Call 348-3370 or
472-5932