

P.O. Box 471 Cooper Station
New York, N.Y. 10003
September 28, 1976

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND ANTIRACIST WORK DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

Leaders of the National Student Coalition Against Racism have begun discussions on perspectives for NSCAR's activities this fall. A central part of these discussions involves building the Third National Student Antiracist Conference, which will take place November 19-21 at Boston University. The purpose of this communication is to report on these discussions so that YSA chapters, in collaboration with SWP branches, can discuss and plan out our participation in NSCAR's campaigns in the coming months.

The major national priorities NSCAR has outlined for its work this fall include:

1. Stepping up the educational campaign for busing and school desegregation.
2. Organizing solidarity activities and educational events with other groups on the South African freedom struggle and U.S. complicity with South African apartheid.
3. Continuing to support and defend racist frame-up victims. Two cases of special importance which have emerged recently and which NSCAR plans to support nationally are those of Gary Tyler and the Wilmington 10 (see Wilmington 10 letter of September 21, 1976).
4. Holding a national NSCAR steering committee meeting, which will take place October 23 at Boston University. This meeting will discuss NSCAR's Fall campaigns and make plans for the November conference.
5. Building the Third National Student Antiracist Conference which will culminate this fall's activities and hold an important discussion on the next steps for the antiracist struggle.

The probusing fight

Busing continues to be the major issue in the fight for Black rights and a major issue in American politics as a whole. The level of racist violence that has accompanied the opening of schools so far this year has been much less than over the past two years. But the bombing of a high school in Louisville, attacks on Black students inside Hyde Park High School in Boston last week, as well as racist attacks on Black families in Dorchester and Blacks demonstrating at Marquette Park in Chicago show that the Black community still faces grave threats to its rights. The antibusing campaign remains at the center of the challenge to the fight for Black equal rights. Anti-

busing bigots have not abandoned their campaign. Both the Democratic and Republican candidates for president have taken antibusing stands.

We should take note of the fact that the probusing movement has made some gains over the past several months--gains which have dealt blows to the racists. Among these were Attorney General Levi's decision, under pressure from the reaction of Black leaders, to back off from encouraging the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the Boston busing case. Another was the Supreme Court's decision not to hear the case. Probably the most significant recent blow dealt the antibusing campaign was the report of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission which condemns the role of both local elected officials and the federal government in refusing to enforce school desegregation through busing.

The question of whether or not busing will proceed so that the 1954 Supreme Court decision can be fully implemented on a national scale has not been definitively decided one way or the other.

The media is proclaiming that the "war" over busing is over. At the same time, some are questioning what school desegregation really accomplishes. We must join NSCAR in answering these questions, educating on the facts of busing, why it is needed, why this issue has not been resolved, why the threat of racist terror is not over, and why we must continue to build a probusing, prodesegregation movement to defend it and protect the gains of the probusing struggle and Black rights.

U.S. role in South Africa

This fall, the YSA and SWP have launched a campaign to build solidarity actions and get out the facts about U.S. complicity with South Africa. NSCAR leaders have also discussed making solidarity with the freedom struggle in South Africa a national campaign for NSCAR this fall. NSCAR can show the ties between that struggle and the fight for Black rights here in the U.S. We should encourage NSCAR chapters to take the initiative on the campuses and the high schools around this issue and play the leading role in helping to form broad coalitions in solidarity with the fight for Black rights in South Africa. The YSA will want to participate in these coalitions and their activities.

NSCAR national steering committee

The first step in building the National Student Antiracist Conference will be building the October 23 NSCAR national steering committee. This meeting will hold the first broad-based discussion about NSCAR's work this fall and make plans for the conference. NSCAR will have the opportunity this fall to involve in activity many new groups and individuals who may not have worked with NSCAR in the past. The issues of busing, the death penalty, South Africa, and local defense cases can involve many new students in NSCAR's activities. NSCAR wants to get as many new activists and representatives of these new groups as possible to the steering committee meeting. SCAR chapters will also want to invite community, trade union, and other leaders to attend and observe this meeting.

Building the conference

In building the steering committee and the conference, NSCAR wants to begin getting the names of prominent endorsers to help publicize the conference. Each SCAR chapter will want to draw up a list of prominent local student and community leaders and begin to collect endorsements and send them into the NSCAR national office. A new conference-building Mobilizer will be ready in early October. NSCAR chapters should place their orders immediately. Important to SCAR chapters carrying out activities on the campuses this fall will be establishing a base of operations, including having a phone number, mailing address, and meeting place. All SCAR chapters are being encouraged to send their addresses to the NSCAR national office immediately so that they can be published in the next Mobilizer.

The YSA

NSCAR as a national, multiracial student organization organizing activities in the fight for Black rights, has tremendous potential for growth this fall through working with new activists who will be drawn into joint activities around the important new issues that have come to the fore in the Black struggle recently: the death penalty; The Wilmington 10, Gary Tyler, and other defense cases; and the South Africa campaign. There will also be new opportunities to involve new activists in the busing and school desegregation fight.

NSCAR's ability to take advantage of the opportunities it faces for growth will depend in large part on the work of YSA chapters in helping to carry out this work. Along with our work around the SWP election campaign and our socialist propaganda work of which the Militant subscription drive is an important part, building NSCAR and involving ourselves in its campaigns will be one of the most important priorities for the YSA nationally this fall.

While many students are ready to join a revolutionary socialist organization like the YSA, thousands more who have not yet reached socialist conclusions are ready and willing to participate in the fight for Black rights and an organization like NSCAR.

Every YSA chapter, where this has not already been done, should have serious discussions about assigning chapter leaders to anti-racist work and how NSCAR's national campaigns can be carried out on a local level. Reports on any activities or new developments should be sent to the national office.

Comradely,

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YSA National Office