

C O P Y C O P Y C O P Y

SUMMARY OF W.E.B. DUBOIS CLUBS NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING held in Philadelphia December 2-4, 1965

The main points of the agenda are listed below with a brief notation of conclusions and/or decisions reached, and, in some instances, a brief resume of discussion. In several areas, separate documents are being issued by the National Executive which will develop these points in detail.

I. DISCUSSION OF THE CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE TO END THE WAR IN VIETNAM (NCCTEWN) See the DBC Report on NCCTEWN Convention for full analysis.

II. PEACE

A. ON CALLING FOR NEGOTIATIONS

After a six-hour discussion on whether or not our demands concerning the war in Vietnam should include a call for negotiations to implement the Geneva Accords and end the war, differences of opinion still existed. Those who argued for the negotiations demand (a majority of the NCC) contended that 1) This war like any other must end at the negotiations table, 2) To oppose this demand is actually to oppose the one realistic means of ending the war, 3) A call for negotiations to implement the Geneva Accords can counter LBJ's misuse of the slogan of negotiations in his effort to confuse the American people 4) A call for negotiations is a demand to which the American people will be receptive and is one around which Americans can be mobilized.

Those who argued against a call for negotiations contended that 1) As a socialist organization we have a certain responsibility to the world socialist movement, and to the NLF which is a part of that movement, and that we have no right to call for negotiations when the NLF has not done so. 2) By calling for negotiations, we are compromising ourselves and playing into LBJ's hands by adding to the confusion of the American people about the complicated issue of negotiations.

At the end of this discussion, a majority of the NCC accepted the following as our demands concerning the war in Vietnam:

"IN ORDER TO END UNITED STATES AGGRESSION IN VIETNAM, THE W.E.B. DUBOIS CLUBS OF AMERICA DEMANDS:

- 1) Immediate cessation of bombing in North and South Vietnam
- 2) Recognition of the National Liberation Front
- 3) Negotiations to honor and implement the 1964 Geneva Accords
- 4) Withdrawal of all United States and allied troops."

B. ASSISTANCE FOR THE NCCTEWN

Frank Emspak, National Chairman of NCCTEWN, made a series of requests which the DBC NCC will attempt to fulfill. These include sending the NCCTEWN our international contacts list and our national key contact list, and attempting to supply a fulltime staff person, for the NCCTEWN. Further, ALL LOCAL CLUBS SHOULD SEND ALL REPORTS ON PEACE ACTIVITY TO THE NCCTEWN AS WELL AS TO THE DBC NATIONAL OFFICE. We urge maximum support for the NCCTEWN.

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C. DRAFT PROGRAM (See our pamphlet on the DBC Draft Program)

It was generally agreed that our draft program should have secondary emphasis to our main peace effort which is directed at Ending the War in Vietnam. To implement our draft program, we adopted the following measures:

- 1) Accepted the anti-draft petition, accompanied with a cover letter (See at end of NCC Summary)
- 2) The National Executive shall prepare a series of leaflets aimed at different sections of the American people and illustrating how the war in Vietnam works against their self-interest.
- 3) A Speakers Bureau on the War in Vietnam shall be organized
- 4) The DBC shall initiate an international youth and student petition against the war
- 5) The National Executive shall prepare a prospectus assisting local clubs in raising the peace issue in conjunction with the 1966 elections.

D. EVERY LOCAL CLUB SHOULD ELECT A PEACE COORDINATOR WHO WILL COMMUNICATE REGULARLY WITH NATIONAL PEACE COORDINATOR MIKE MYERSON.

E. DEC. 20 DEMONSTRATIONS

We agreed wherever possible to support with educationalists the hemispheric demonstrations on December 20 commemorating the founding of the NLF and opposing the war.

III. ECONOMIC PROGRAM FOR YOUTH

This section of our NCC was of utmost importance. SEE SEPARATE DOCUMENT ON ECONOMIC PROGRAM FOR ANALYSIS AND PROGRAMATIC SUGGESTIONS, including a National Youth Plank for the War on Poverty.

IV. SUMMER PROJECT

Again people from more developed areas will be recruited to work on concentrated summer organizing projects. Cities definitely selected (with number of full-time workers needed) include: CHICAGO (10 people) CLEVELAND (6 people) DETROIT (7 people) PHILADELPHIA (5 people).

A final decision on a project in MEMPHIS (with 10 people) will be reached at our next NCC after our Southern Coordinator Phil Davis has made an assessment from his upcoming southern tour.

The programmatic basis of our summer project will be our Economic Program with the issue of Vietnam being raised in relationship to the War on Poverty (Make Jobs Not War, etc.)

Other cities to be considered for summer projects if funds and personnel are available include Baltimore, Pittsburg, Washington, St. Louis and Hazard, Ky. Two persons are needed to work with Carl Braden on the staff of the SOUTHERN PATRIOT and two others will work with the TENNESSEE FREE LABOR UNION. Persons interested in any of these projects should contact the National Office at once.

V. NATIONAL ACTION

Projected was a March on Washington for Jobs to climax the summer project, and to be held on August 28 (a Sunday, the anniversary of the 1963 March for Jobs and Freedom) or Labor Day (Monday, September 5). Many ideas were raised, including a mass meeting to discuss the Youth Plank for the War on Poverty, a

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conference to draft such a plank, torchlight parade, etc. A discussion paper on the proposed National Action will be sent to local clubs shortly. It was felt that this action could 1) be the next step for the Movement, which must be to link the issues of foreign and domestic policy 2) be a vehicle of expression for the community people who will be working with us in the summer project (the people who must be mobilized to force an end to LBJ's war in Vietnam) 3) provide an excellent tool for organizing and/or building DuBois Clubs this spring and summer. OBVIOUSLY THIS PROJECT IS IN THE EARLIEST TENTATIVE STAGE AND YOUR IDEAS AND OPINIONS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED AND REQUESTED.

VI. PUBLICATIONS

A. INSURGENT

It was generally agreed that while the last issue of INSURGENT was the best one yet produced, that the magazine should more consciously aim itself at the great majority of working class and student youth who are not yet actively committed to the left and that

B. DIMENSIONS

will aim at activist and left youth, and will aim at becoming a journal of the Movement. DIMENSIONS will be published January 15.

C. SPUR

In addition to being an organizational communications bulletin, SPUR should reflect the political discussions inside the National Executive, and can reprint other position papers. ALL THREE PUBLICATIONS ARE NOW LARGELY WRITTEN BY PERSONS IN THE NATIONAL OFFICE, AND IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT CRITICISMS, SUGGESTIONS FOR ARTICLES, MANUSCRIPTS, ETC. BE FORTHCOMING FROM OTHER AREAS. Each club should appoint a Publications Chairman, who will communicate regularly with Jim Peake and Celia Rosebury.

VII. EDUCATION

Syllabi will be forthcoming on the Power Structure, on Negro History, on the Civil Right Movement, on Labor History, and on the Working Class. Each club should appoint an Education Chairman (in addition to Chairman for Peace, Publications and Fund-Raising) who should communicate with the National Education Secretary, Dynamite Hallinan, immediately.

VIII. FINANCES

We have already incurred a debt of slightly less than \$1000 since the Chicago Labor Day conference. Beside that debt, if we are to carry out the plan for a convention in June, a summer project, and a national action, we obviously must raise more funds than we have in the past. Several suggestions were made.

IX. MOVING THE NATIONAL OFFICE

The National Office will be moved to Chicago by June 1. The NATIONAL CONVENTION of the DuBois Clubs will be held on the third or fourth weekend in June in Chicago.

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X. THE NEXT NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING will be on the last weekend in February (25-27) in Chicago. Final decisions on moving the National Office, the Convention, and the Summer Project will be made at that meeting, as well as a decision and planning on the National Action.

I THINK IT WAS GENERALIY AGPEED BY ALL WHO ATTENDED THIS NCC THAT IT WAS VERY ENCOURAGING AND EXCITING. THIS WAS BECAUSE WE COULD SEE DUBOIS CLUBS POLICY AND PROGRAM ARE REALLY BEGINNING TO DEVELOP. FULLER PREPARATION BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE NCC (WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE) CAN INSURE AN EVEN MORE PRODUCTIVE CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO IN FEBRUARY.

Hugh Fowler, National Chairman