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May 27, 1968

TO ALL BRANCHES AND LOCALS

Dear Comrades,

SPECIAL CAMPAIGN AROUND FRENCH EVENTS

For the next several weeks the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance are mounting a special campaign through the Militant around the revolutionary developments in France and the struggle inside the Student Mobilization Committee.

Joseph Hansen, editor of Intercontinental Press, Mary Alice Waters, national secretary of the Young Socialist Alliance, and Helena Hermes, staff photographer of the Socialist Workers 1968 Campaign Committee, are now in France on assignment as correspondents and photographer for the Militant.

The Militant will be unique in its weekly coverage of the French events. There will be interviews with leaders of the students and workers, stories and analysis by the French Trotskyists, who are a publicly acknowledged part of the leadership of the uprising, eyewitness accounts by participants in the actions throughout France, and pictures available to no other newspaper. For the duration of these events George Novack, associate editor of the International Socialist Review, and Fred Halstead, the Presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, have been added to the Militant staff.

In addition, Paul Boutelle, Vice Presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, and Brian Shannon, Militant staff photographer, are in England for a three week speaking tour by Boutelle. Paul will be speaking to Labor Members of Parliament at the House of Commons, before university and colonial groups, and is tentatively scheduled for an address in Paris at the Sorbonne. The Militant will be carrying feature articles and photos of Paul Boutelle's British speaking tour.

Each week's issue will also carry a major article on the issues and development of the fight over policy and perspectives opened up with the Stalinists and some of the pacifists in the Student Mobilization Committee. These features will run through the June 28-30 SMC Continuations Committee meeting in New York City.

The articles on the Student Mobilization Committee will lay the political groundwork for the mobilization of forces against the right wing exclusionists within the SMC Working Committee. Each issue of the Militant in this period will be sent to the 2500 names on the Student Mobilization Committee list around the country.

We want to use this massive sales campaign of the Militant to spread to as many people as possible the truth about the French events and draw their lessons for the students and workers of the U.S. The larger the sales of the Militant the more permanent subscribers will be gained through the special YS and Militant sub blanks which will be run each week. The Militant will also be the central weapon in a recruitment campaign to win to the ranks of the YSA and the SWP an additional layer of young people. Each issue will feature a special ad calling on youth to join the YSA, the American sister organization of the French JCR.

The Young Socialist is also preparing a special July issue devoted to France which is scheduled for publication within three weeks, earlier than usual for distribution late in June.

The Berkeley SWP branch and YSA local are off to the fastest start in the campaign. In addition to ordering and organizing sales for 2,000 Militants a week for the duration of the campaign, they have 1) put out a leaflet calling for volunteers from the campus to help sell the special Militant, 2) set up a dispatch center in the headquarters for distribution of the paper to salesmen where a daily sales chart is set up, 3) purchased ten newstands to place the Militant in strategic spots around Berkeley, 4) placed collection cans in bookstores to raise money for the victimized French workers and students, 5) have offered special discounts on books with Militant and YS subs at their bookstore, 6) are organizing a public forum and a class on the French events and their lessons.

Let us know your plans for the campaign and reactions to the Militant in your area. The press run of the Militant was 17,000 last week and if each local pushes up their sales a little we can easily pass the 20,000 mark.

We hope soon to have tape-recorded messages from some of the leaders of the French students and workers to play at meetings and solidarity rallies. We plan to reprint replicas of a poster of the French Jeunesse Communiste Revolutionnaire (JCR). The timing of these projects depends on the mails from Europe.

Tom Kerry, editor of the International Socialist Review, will give an educational on the meaning of the French events and our campaign around them to a combined meeting of the New York City Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance on Wednesday night, May 29. Copies of the tape will be sent at cost to any branch or local who would like to utilize this educational.

Enclosed is a listing of the branch and local Militant orders for the May 31 issue. Unless we hear differently by Thursday evening, May 30, the Militant will send the same amount for the June 7 issue.

Comradely,

Jack Barnes

Jack Barnes
Organization Secretary