

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES, No. 3, December 7, 1967

Present: Barnes, Halstead, Kerry, Dobbs, Jones, Hansen, Sheppard, DeBerry, Novack.

Visitor: Breitman

Chairman: Dobbs

AGENDA:

1. Black Magazine
2. Liang Letter
3. Antiwar Report
4. International

1. BLACK MAGAZINE

Barnes reported discussion with the black fraction on the difficulties in putting the project into effect.

Motion by Dobbs: To accept the recommendation of the black fraction to postpone publication of the black magazine and for the present to publish as best they can pamphlets dealing with the black struggle.

Carried.

2. LIANG LETTER

Letter of December 3, 1967, from Liang read to committee. (Copy attached.)

Motion: To refer to the next plenum Comrade Liang's proposal that the Dobbs-Hedlund correspondence be published as a special bulletin for the information of the membership.

Carried.

3. ANTIWAR REPORT

Jones reported on problems arising during Stop the Draft Week. Written report to NC members will be prepared as soon as whole national experience can be assessed.

4. INTERNATIONAL

Hansen reported new witchhunt case has been started in Mexico similar to case of last July. 14 have been arrested: 10 students, 3 workers and a prominent labor lawyer. They are charged with (1) blowing up a statue of former President Miguel Alemán; (2) leaving a time bomb in the Bolivian Embassy after the death of Che Guevara; (3) damaging an army truck with dynamite; (4) planting a time bomb in the car of a government official; (5) various assaults and robberies.

The arrests were met with big headlines in all the press and the accused are supposed to have confessed on November 29 following tortures.

The composition of the group is generally pro-Chinese but reported to be evolving toward a Castroist position. They had participated in setting up the Defense Committee for the prisoners of last July.

Work is being done in Mexico to help the new prisoners with problems of lawyers, jail conditions and in getting protests of the witchhunt. An appeal has been issued for international solidarity on the case. Stories and press releases on the case are to appear in World Outlook.

Meeting adjourned.

Attachment to PC Minutes, No. 3

C O P Y

Los Angeles
December 3, 1967

Farrell Dobbs
National Secretary, SWP
New York

Dear Farrell:

The Dobbs-Hedlund correspondence is marked "FOR NC INFORMATION" -- meaning, I assume, that it is not to be communicated to non-members of the NC:

I see no good reason for treating this correspondence with secrecy. On the contrary, and especially since it voices dissent by a veteran member from our basic political course, the party ranks should be informed about it.

Full disclosure cannot hurt the party. Secrecy will. It would be far better to publish Comrade Hedlund's forthright views and rather startling conclusions than to have them "leaked" by somebody.

I propose to the PC that the Dobbs-Hedlund correspondence be published as a special bulletin for the information of the membership.

Fraternally,

s/ John Liang