

# COMMITTEE TO DEFEND THE FRENCH STUDENTS

P. O. Box 386 Cooper Station New York, N. Y. 10003

National Secretary

HELENA HERMES

Oct. 4, 1968

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The following is an outline of projected activities for the French defense during the fall.

The situation in France is uncertain at this time. The government remains intransigent and continues its repression and harrassment of the left. Several hundred workers have been fired because of their activities during the strike. Some newsmen who opposed press censorship have lost their jobs. Alain Krivine enjoyed only one week of provisional freedom before being drafted into the army. The students, on the other hand, have indicated their determination to resist attacks. It is evident that the struggle is not over.

Although Alain Krivine and the other prisoners have been released, they still face charges of reconstituting the JCR. Whether they will be brought to trial depends in large part on the international defense effort. We must keep the pressure on so that these gains are not reversed.

In this country, there is still a great deal of interest in the French events. For example, last Sunday's New York Times Magazine ran a long article comparing the political viewpoints of David Rousset, a Gaullist Deputy, and his son Pierre, a leader of the JCR before it was banned. Pierre was one of those arrested at the Worker-Student Commission meeting in Paris and charged with reconstituting the JCR. In spite of some deficiencies the article included the complete text of the declaration condemning the invasion of Czechoslovakia signed by Krivine, Pierre and the other 7 prisoners.

Campuses have just re-opened for the fall and already it is clear that the events in France will be widely discussed. Most of the discussion at the SDS sponsored International Assembly of Revolutionary Students held at Columbia U. last week revolved around the events in France. Such discussion is very valuable; we should encourage it and take advantage of it.

However, in the absence of any big actions in France we cannot expect to conduct a high-powered campaign. What we want to do is (1) continue publicizing the repression and getting sponsors and statements of support for the committee and (2) continue raising money.

Let me give a few examples of what we are doing in New York:

Ernest Mandel gave the keynote speech at the Socialist Scholars Conference in New Jersey. Topic: The May-June events in France. We had a literature table up for 2 days during the conference, collected sponsor cards from 15 prominent individuals, got over 125 names on petitions, sold over \$15 worth of literature, and provoked the conservative Barron's National Business and Financial Weekly into denouncing "l'Enrage" as that "vile publication in unprintable four letter words."

At the National Guardian yearly fund-raising picnic, I represented the committee on a panel discussion about repression, outlined our activities and distributed committee literature.

We obtained over 200 signatures on petitions at the SDS Assembly of Revolutionary Students. The assembly could not, however, agree to send a message of solidarity to France.

The committee has been recognized on several campuses and literature tables are being set up periodically. The Columbia U. committee has already gotten 6 professors to sponsor the committee. One of these professors took information about the committee to a conference and received sponsorship from 15 other professors attending the conference.

Right now we're working on putting out a sponsor and fund-raising mailing. In the middle of October we're planning a fund-raising reception for Ernest Mandel.

Similar activities can be planned for other areas of the country. Be sure to keep in mind the necessity of raising funds for the committee. We are already in debt and have major printing bills coming up. Modest collections taken at forums and at meetings with an "international" focus add up.

We have purchased a film made during May and June which includes shots of the barricades, demonstrations, meetings. It should enable us to raise significant funds for the committee. As soon as we complete editing and translation we will start the film on national "tour." More information on the film will be forthcoming. In the meantime, don't neglect other fund-raising activities.

The defense committee pamphlet is in the print shop and will be ready shortly. The "Chienlit" poster with the defense committee address is finished and ready to be ordered.

If you need literature fill out the attached order blank.

It is important that each area that has not assigned someone to be in charge of the French defense do so immediately even though it will not be your major area of work. We want to get the committee recognized and established so that we can take advantage of the opportunities now available and in case something breaks in France.

I will be sending out a news bulletin on the recent developments in France as soon as I receive more information about the recent moves to draft students.

Sincerely,

*Helena Hermes*

Helena Hermes  
Secretary

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fact sheet	\$2.00 per 100	_____
leaflet (reprints of articles)	.75 per 100	_____
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