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New York, N.Y. 10014

June 8, 1971

TO ALL COMRADES

Dear Comrades,

As reported in recent issues of The Militant, Ed Jurenas, a member of the SWP and YSA on leave of absence, is now facing a court-martial simply for helping to publish and circulate a GI newspaper, the Arctic Arsenal (see attached). The Army has informed him that he will be charged with disrespect to an officer, disobeying a post regulation, and promoting "disaffection" and "disloyalty" among the troops. If convicted of these charges by a general court-martial, he could be sentenced to a number of years in prison.

The Army apparently believes that the geographical isolation from civilian support that the GIs at Fort Greely face will enable the brass to deny them their constitutional rights and crush their antiwar activity. It is the job of all supporters of the antiwar movement and all civil libertarians to show the Army that, no matter how remote a place a soldier may be sent, he will have powerful and massive support for his right to openly express his views.

It is especially important for the YSA and the SWP to defend Jurenas since an attack on any of our members must be seen as an attack on our entire movement. We must make the defense of our comrades a major area of work whenever they face victimization, in order to make the ruling class more cautious in attempts to attack our movement in the future.

The GI Civil Liberties Defense Committee (GICLDC), which successfully handled the case of the Fort Jackson Eight, has agreed to take on the Jurenas defense effort. The GICLDC has appealed for funds to cover expenses in the case, and for messages of protest to be sent by prominent individuals and groups to the Army (see attached).

The legal defense will proceed on two fronts. First, James Lafferty, an NPAC coordinator and attorney, has agreed to represent Jurenas in the court-martial proceedings. Second, Leonard Boudin, together with Lafferty, is preparing to file a suit in federal court challenging the Army's use of electronic surveillance in the case.

We want to encourage the antiwar movement to make the Jurenas defense effort a major part of its ongoing activities. SMC chapters and NPAC affiliates can use the case to campaign for the right of GIs to engage in antiwar activity, publicizing and winning support for the case among both GIs and civilians. The new issue of fighting the Army's right to wire-tapping inside as well as outside the military establishment should be very attractive. The antiwar movement can involve the broad forces drawn

around as a result of April 24 in the defense effort.

You will be receiving fact sheets and other initial literature from the GICLDC shortly.

The following steps should be taken in each area:

1) A comrade should be assigned by each area to coordinate defense activity for the Jurenas case.

2) A campaign should be launched to get protest telegrams and letters sent to the Army. Experience has shown that efforts in this direction can have a major impact on the Army, and may be a major factor in whether or not the Army goes ahead with its plans to court-martial Jurenas. Endorsers of April 24 and local prominent sponsors of the GICLDC and other defense efforts are a good place to start. Unions, church groups, campus organizations, etc., should be asked to pass resolutions and communicate them to the Army. Protests should be sent to: Stanley Resor, Secretary of the Army, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C., with copies to the GICLDC, Box 355, Old Chelsea Station, New York, N.Y. 10011. Copies should also be sent to: Gen. James Hollingsworth, Commanding General, United States Army Headquarters, Alaska, APO Seattle 98749; and to the Arctic Arsenal, P.O. Box 312, Delta Junction, Alaska 99737.

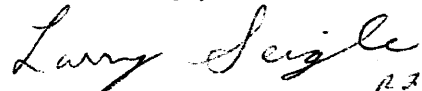
3) Local publicity should be obtained, especially through campus and underground papers, explaining the facts of the case and the basic civil liberties issues involved.

4) Every supporter of the case should be asked to contribute financially to the GICLDC to help cover the legal and publicity expenses. In addition, lists of potential contributors should be sent in to the GICLDC.

5) Because the GICLDC is an established organization with an impressive list of sponsors, there is no necessity for a major sponsor drive. However, in the course of the defense work prominent individuals who are not yet sponsors can be asked to become sponsors of the GICLDC.

6) Progress reports and the name of the comrade assigned to the work should be forwarded to me.

Comradely,



Larry Seigle  
National Office