

P.O. Box 471 Cooper Station  
New York, New York 10003

June 11, 1970

To All Organizers, NC Members, and At-Large Members

Dear Comrades,

Plans for a third Venceremos Brigade have been announced. This Brigade is to help pick fruit on the Isle of Youth, and is scheduled to leave the U.S. at the end of July and return in mid-September.

On June 9, the National Executive Committee discussed the Brigade and adopted the following position on YSA participation in the Brigade: we are not sending a YSA delegation on this Brigade and are strongly discouraging any comrades from going, for three reasons.

1. If any comrades went, they would miss the Socialist Activists and Educational Conference on August 8-15. This conference will be extremely important in preparing our movement for expanded activities this fall and all comrades should plan to attend.

2. One of our main considerations in sending YSAers to Cuba has always been their ability to become informed enough about Cuban society to speak publicly with the authority that comes from real knowledge of Cuba. Based on the stated plans for this Brigade and on reports from the comrades who went on the last one, people who go spend the vast majority of their time helping harvest, having little contact with any Cubans other than those assigned to the Brigade. Brigade members are not able to travel throughout Cuba and become more than superficially familiar with various aspects of Cuban life.

3. There are limitations on the amount of fruitful contact work that can be done on the Brigade itself, due to its political composition. Many of the people who went on the two previous Brigades were unaffiliated ultralefts, political opponents such as members of the Young Workers Liberation League, etc. We have no indications that this Brigade will be significantly different.

For YSAers, trips to Cuba have always been viewed as political assignments, with the primary objective of facilitating our propaganda in defense of the Cuban revolution. For the reasons stated above, we feel that the disadvantages of participating in this Brigade outweigh any gains that might be made.

If locals or at-large members feel, for some pressing reason, that any exceptions should be made in the policy of not participating in the Brigade, the N.O. must be informed. In no case should members of the YSA apply or go on the Brigade without informing the National Office.

Comradely,  
*Susan LaMont*  
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National Secretary