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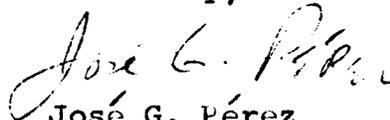
TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

During the month of March a team of three comrades organized by the YSA National Office visited Puerto Rico. The team was designed to deepen our contact and collaboration with young revolutionaries there as well as to acquaint a broad layer of activists with the work and ideas of the Trotskyist movement.

The attached report by team captain Selva Nebbia describes the activities of the team.

Comradely,


José G. Pérez
YSA National Office

PUERTO RICAN TEAM REPORT

By Selva Nebbia

This past March, the YSA sent a team of three comrades -- Candida Barbarena, Selva Nebbia and Rudy Zeller -- to Puerto Rico. Though it was not the first time that YSAers have gone to Puerto Rico, this was our first experience with a Young Socialist team there. The team spent about one month there, most of which was spent in San Juan, the capital city.

One of the main purposes of the trip was the distribution of our socialist literature and press. We took with us a selection of Pathfinder books and pamphlets, a number of socialist titles in Spanish and bundles of our press (Militant, Young Socialist, International Socialist Review, and Intercontinental Press) and bundles of several Latin American Trotskyist papers and magazines (Voz Socialista, Avanzada Socialista and Revista de America). We also took samples of our campaign literature, P.R.D.F. and U.S.L.A. materials.

The team set up tables on the main University of Puerto Rico campus at Rio Piedras and at the UPR campus in Mayaguez. We also visited the Universidad Catolica in Ponce. Most of our work was done on the Rio Piedras campus where we had the opportunity to attend several meetings and gatherings of the various campus political groups. We attended activities commemorating International Women's Day (a slide show and talk), a rally marking the end of the 18th annual congress of FUPI (the PSP's youth group), and participated in chapter meetings of the UJS (the MSP's youth group). Rudy spoke twice at a university class on Trotskyism.

The main event we participated in was a national student march organized around the support for a New University Law drafted by leaders of the UJS. If implemented, the New University Law would mean a significant transformation of the present university structure. The proposed law, among other things, would establish open admissions and student-faculty-employee control of the university. There were approximately some 1,000 students at this march, though the sponsoring groups expected a better turn out (5,000-10,000). As in the U.S. there are less radical activities on the campuses at this time, although there is no lack of interest in socialist ideas. Another indication of this was the low attendance at the FUPI congress; last year some 1,500 students were present, this year only 500.

The team also had the task of sending information and materials for use in our press. Candida sent several articles to the YS, Militant and IP on the situation with the proposed oil tanker superport, the recent teachers strike, etc. The team also obtained an interview with a young teacher who was suspended after the strike and another interview with a young Black feminist who is the founder of MIA (Women Join In Now), a Puerto Rican feminist organization.

The team and our literature met with a very good response from the young Puerto Ricans we came in contact with. People were

open and receptive to our ideas. We engaged in discussions with members of the UJS (Union of Young Socialists), MSP (Popular Socialist Movement), FUPI (Pro-Independence Student Federation), a "socialist libertarian" (anarchist) organization, PIP (Puerto Rican Independence Party), Maoists and a great number of unaffiliated youth. We got the best response from those in the UJS, with whom YSAers on previous trips had established a close relationship. Members of the UJS and the MSP expressed interest in coming to visit the YSA in the U.S.

The books that sold best were Spanish-language titles on Chile, women's liberation and Hugo Blanco's book, Land or Death. Periodicals of our Latin American co-thinkers also sold very well, and many more copies of these could have been sold if they had been available.

English language books also sold well, again especially on Chile and women's liberation, as well as Watergate. One of the best selling English titles was Peter Camejo's pamphlet on Guevarism. Our English language periodicals, however, did not sell as well as either Spanish language periodicals and books or Pathfinder titles. Our total sales were about \$500.

