

NATIONAL COMMITTEE PLENUM MINUTES

YOUNG SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

New York, July 4-7, 1974

Present:

Full: Alewitz, Artz, Brdar, Clark, Coren,
Dixon, Finkel, Freiwirth, Friedman,
Fulkes, Gersh, Graumann, Hardy,
Hildebrand, Jerome, Johnston, Little,
Lovgren, Manuel, Miah, Miller,
Mirelowitz, Mitten, Oliver, Perez,
Potash, Pulley, Rodriguez, Schneider,
Singer, Ugolini, Welch, Whicker,
Williams

Alternate: Lieberman, Petrin, Lemon, Dork,
Winsten, Weisman, Scharret, Brown,
Murphy, Moorhead, Rosenstock,
Miliner, Linder, Hillson, Wattenmaker,
Bombaro, Ariza, Byrne, Scherr,
Rashkind, McCutcheon, Nebbia, Bailey,
Lause, Vasquez, Holton

Consultative: Balderston, Berman, Buchanan,
Burfiend, Cabana, Cahalane, Cooper,
Farley, Fisher, Frank, Gajewski,
Gotesky, Halverson, Harris, Hodroff,
Hutton, Kahn, Kellog, Lazar, Libby,
Manning, Mauer, Ostrow, Pelle, Pettit,
Phillips, Rayson, Roland, Satinover,
Severs, Shanaphy, Shangold, Slubowski,
Smith, Soares, Stiller, Tabor, Thomas,
Tomasko, Warren

Observers: Aubin, Barzman, Camejo, Clara, Foley,
Francoise, Fred, Jones, Ken, Maria,
Massey, Mike, Scott

CONVENED THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1974 at 2:54 P.M.

Motion by Pulley: That Petrin chair the first session.

Carried

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE PLENUM

Following motions from the National Executive Committee presented by Welch:

Motion: To adopt the following agenda:

1. Organization of the Plenum
2. World Movement Reports
3. May 11 Referral Report

- 4. World Situation Report
- 5. Supplementary Report on Portugal
- 6. Political Report
- 7. Black Struggle Report
- 8. Report on the YSA's Fight for Democratic Rights
- 9. Organization Report
- 10. Financial Report
- 11. Young Socialist Report
- 12. Convention Call

Carried

Motion: To approve the schedule as written (see attached).

Countermotion by Mitten: That the IT be allowed the provision for equal time on the World Movement Report, the Political Report, and the Black Struggle Report as requested, as well as allotted time for extended remarks under the Organization Report and the Report on the YSA's Fight for Democratic Rights. This was requested in a letter to the NEC. That the Presiding Committee take this up and come in with a revised schedule to the plenum.

Discussion: Welch

Countermotion
Defeated

Motion Carried

Motion: That the Presiding Committee consist of Clark, Dixon, Finkel, Freiwirth, Hildebrand, Little, Miah, Perez, Pulley, Welch and Whicker.

Carried

Motion: That consultative delegates be local, city-wide and regional organizers who are not members of the National Committee.

Carried

Motion: That observers be designated representatives of the Socialist Workers Party and of organizations of our international co-thinkers, and special guests.

Amendment by Mitten: That we be informed of who special guests are and that Cathy Matson, national coordinator of the IT, be granted observer status as a special guest at this plenum.

Discussion: Pulley

Amendment Defeated

Motion Carried

Motion: That Loew and Thornton be the two plenum secretaries.

Carried

Motion: To adopt the following rules for the plenum:

1. That procedural questions be decided by majority vote, with one speaker for and one speaker against, each having two minutes.
2. That consultative delegates have voice and consultative vote.
3. That observers have voice under the World Movement and World Situation reports.
4. That in any discussion period no one may speak a second time before each person desiring the floor has had a chance to speak.

Carried

II. WORLD MOVEMENT REPORTS

Reporter for the Leninist-Trotskyist Faction: Mirelowitz

Reporter for the IEC Majority Tendency: Aubin

Motion by Clark for Presiding Committee: That supporters of the IMT be given four speakers of their choice.

Carried

Discussion: Miah, Scharret, Mitten, Mike, Freiwirth, Balderston, Clark, Barzman

Summary of World Movement Report: Aubin

Summary of World Movement Report: Mirelowitz

Recessed 7:00 P.M.

RECONVENED FRIDAY, JULY 5, 1974, at 3:20 P.M.

No longer in attendance: Mitten, Lause, Holton, Balderston and Manning

Motion by Presiding Committee: That Gersh chair the next session.

Carried

III. MAY 11 REFERRAL REPORT

Reporter: Pulley

Motion by Pulley: The National Committee of the Young Socialist Alliance commends and upholds the July 4, 1974 motion of the National Executive Committee recognizing the Internationalist Tendency's status

as a separate, rival organization and informing members of the Internationalist Tendency party that this status places them outside the constitutional provisions for membership in the Young Socialist Alliance

Discussion: Graumann, Mirelowitz

Vote by full members

Against: 1
For: All others

Carried

IV. WORLD SITUATION REPORT

Reporter: Pulley

V. SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT ON PORTUGAL

Reporter: Foley

Discussion on preceding reports: Pelle, Foley, Cooper, Rayson, Hodroff, Artz, Scharret, Clark, Miliner, Lieberman, Foley

Summary of World Situation Report: Pulley

Motion by Presiding Committee: To approve the general line of the World Situation Report.

Vote by full members

Against: 1
For: All others

Recessed 6:30 P.M. - Reconvened 8:05 P.M.

Motion by Presiding Committee: That Manuel chair the next session.

Carried

VI. POLITICAL REPORT

Reporter: Finkel

Discussion: Cooper, Dixon, Miliner, Linder, Perez

Recessed 10:05 P.M.

RECONVENED SATURDAY, JULY 6, 1974 at 10:02 A.M.

Further discussion on Political Report: Artz, Pettit, Hillson, Petrin, Graumann, Williams, Berman, Friedman, Schneider, Scherr, Ugolini

Motion by Welch for Presiding Committee: That the plenum schedule be adjusted as follows:

10:00 - 12:30	Discussion
12:30 - 12:45	Summary
12:45 - 1:00	Greetings from YS/LJS
1:00 - 2:30	Lunch

Carried

Further discussion on Political Report: Freiworth, Whicker, Warren, Miliner

Summary of Political Report: Finkel

Motion by Presiding Committee: To approve the general line of the Political Report.

Vote by full members

Against: 1
For: All others

Special Point

Greetings from the Young Socialists/Ligue des Jeunes Socialistes (Canada) presented by Francoise.

Recessed 12:50 P.M. - reconvened 2:35 P.M.

Motion by Whicker for Presiding Committee: That Potash chair the next session.

Carried

VII. BLACK STRUGGLE REPORT

Reporter: Miah

Discussion: Lemon, Soares, Scharret, Hodroff, McCutcheon, Winsten, Hillson, Manuel, Vasquez, Dixon, Murphy, Bailey

Summary of Black Struggle Report: Miah

Motion by Presiding Committee: To approve the general line of the Black Struggle Report.

Vote by full members

For: Unanimous

Carried

Special Point

Motion by Perez for Presiding Committee: To send the following message to the Juventud Socialista de Avanzada (Argentina):

Dear Comrades,

The National Committee of the Young Socialist Alliance meeting in New York City July 4-7 sends its warmest revolutionary greetings to our sister organization, the Juventud Socialista de Avanzada, and to the Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores.

We want to express our solidarity with your struggle against the terrorist attacks. These assassinations, which have taken the lives of four of our comrades, including Mario "Tano" Zidda, a leader of the JSA, are blows to the entire world Trotskyist movement.

Your consistent active participation in the struggles of workers and young people and your battle for a socialist Argentina has made you a target for these terrorist attacks by those who profit from the exploitation and oppression of working people.

We hail your initiative in mobilizing thousands of high school and college students in protest of the murders of our comrades.

Those united demonstrations show the way forward for the Argentine masses. A united front of all working class organizations and tendencies can defend the rights Argentine workers and youth have won through their massive struggles.

LONG LIVE THE JUVENTUD SOCIALISTA DE AVANZADA!

LONG LIVE THE PARTIDO SOCIALISTA DE LOS TRABAJADORES!

LONG LIVE THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL!

National Committee
Young Socialist Alliance

Carried

VIII. REPORT ON THE YSA'S FIGHT FOR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

Reporter: Dixon

Recessed 10:05 P.M.

RECONVENED SUNDAY, JULY 7, 1974 at 10:20 A.M.

Motion by Mirelowitz for Presiding Committee: That Brdar chair the next session.

Carried

IX. ORGANIZATION REPORT

Reporter: Hildebrand

X. FINANCIAL REPORT

Reporter: Welch

XI. YOUNG SOCIALIST REPORT

Reporter: Clark

Discussion on the four preceding reports: Harris, Cabana, Mauer, Wattenmaker, Linder, Tomasko,

Recessed 1:30 P.M. - reconvened 3:00 P.M.

Special Point

Motion by Perez for Presiding Committee: To hear greetings from the Political Committee of the Socialist Workers Party.

Carried

Greetings presented by Jones

Further discussion on preceding reports: Roland, Shangold, Rashkind, Slubowski, Burfiend, Cooper, Tabor

Motion by Finkel for Presiding Committee: That speaking time be reduced to seven minutes per speaker and that fifteen minutes be added to this discussion period.

Carried

Further discussion on preceding reports: Rosenstock, Johnston, Farley, Libby, Weisman, Berman, Miller, Rodriguez, Halverson, Gotesky, Lieberman, Jerome

Summary of Organization Report: Hildebrand

Motion by Presiding Committee: To approve the general line of the Organization and Financial reports.

Vote by full members

For: Unanimous

Special Point

Motion by Freiwirth for Presiding Committee: To send the following message to James P. Cannon:

Dear Comrade Cannon,

The National Committee Plenum of the Young Socialist Alliance meeting July 4-7 in New York City, sends you its warmest revolutionary greetings.

Our plenum enthusiastically welcomed the publication of your remarks on "Youth and the Socialist Movement" in the July-August issue of the Young Socialist. This interview serves to complement your many books, speeches, and pamphlets on the history of the Marxist movement in the United States -- a rich literature that has played such a vital role in educating the membership of the YSA in the fundamentals of Trotskyist politics.

Both your writings and your years devoted to building the revolutionary party serve as a guide for us in our work. They point the way forward for creating the leadership needed to lead the working class to victory in this country and around the world.

The four days of our plenum have been marked by a thorough discussion of the current political situation and the tasks that are posed for the YSA. Knowing that internationalism is the keystone of revolutionary Marxism, we also continued our participation in the debates and discussions on issues facing the world Trotskyist movement. And, at the same time, the plenum decisively acted to reaffirm the Leninist, democratic-centralist organizational principles on which the YSA has been grounded since its inception -- principles that you were instrumental in forging into an inseparable part of our movement's heritage.

Concluding our deliberations here, we intend to go forward in building the Young Socialist Alliance on the program of Leninism and Trotskyism. The spirit with which we carry out this task is, perhaps, best captured by your closing remark in the Young Socialist interview: "... the longer you live in this fight, the more determined you are to try to win it and the more confident you are that the human race will survive."

Long live the Socialist Workers Party!

Long live the Fourth International!

National Committee
Young Socialist Alliance

Carried

XII. CONVENTION CALL

Reporter: Whicker

Motion by Whicker for Presiding Committee: To approve the draft Convention Call (see attached).

Discussion: Miller, Berman, Weisman, Cooper, Lieberman, Welch, Miller

Vote by full members

For: Unanimous

Carried

Special Point

Singing of the International

Adjourned

ORGANIZATION OF THE PLENUM

Motions from the National Executive Committee:

1. To adopt the following agenda:
 - a. Organization of the Plenum
 - b. World Movement Reports
 - c. May 11 Referral Report
 - d. World Situation Report
 - e. Political Report
 - f. The YSA's Fight for Democratic Rights Report
 - g. Black Struggle Report
 - h. Organization Report
 - i. Financial Report
 - j. Young Socialist Report
 - k. Convention Call
2. To approve the schedule as written (see enclosed).
3. That the Presiding Committee consist of Clark, Dixon, Finkel, Freiwirth, Hildebrand, Little, Miah, Mirelowitz, Perez, Pulley Welch, and Whicker.
4. That consultative delegates be local, city-wide and regional organizers who are not on the National Committee.
5. That observers be designated representatives of the Socialist Workers Party, organizations of our international co-thinkers, and special guests.
6. That Loew and Thornton be the plenum secretaries.
7. To adopt the following rules for the plenum:
 - a. That procedural questions be decided by majority vote, with one speaker for and one against, each with two minutes.
 - b. That consultative delegates have voice and consultative vote.
 - c. That observers have voice under the World Movement Reports.
 - d. That discussion presentations be limited to 10 minutes.
 - e. That in any discussion period no one may speak a second time before each person desiring the floor has had a chance to speak.

PROPOSED PLENUM SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 4

2:30 - 2:45	Organization of the Plenum
2:45 - 3:45	World Movement Report - LTF
3:45 - 4:45	World Movement Report - IMT
4:45 - 6:15	Discussion (1 1/2 hours)
6:15 - 6:30	Summary - IMT
6:30 - 6:45	Summary - LTF

Friday, July 5

3:00 - 3:30	May 11 Referral Report
3:30 - 4:30	World Situation Report
4:30 - 5:00	Supplementary Report on Portugal
5:00 - 6:00	Discussion (1 hour)
6:00 - 6:30	Summary
6:30 - 8:00	Dinner
8:00 - 9:00	Political Report
9:00 - 10:00	Discussion (3 hours total)

Saturday, July 6

10:00 - 12:00	Discussion
12:00 - 12:30	Summary
12:30 - 1:00	SWP Greetings
1:00 - 2:30	Lunch
2:30 - 3:30	Black Struggle Report
3:30 - 5:30	Discussion (2 hours)
5:30 - 6:00	Summary
6:00 - 7:00	The YSA's Fight for Democratic Rights Report

Sunday, July 7

10:00 - 11:00	Organization Report
11:00 - 11:30	Financial Report
11:30 - 12:00	Young Socialist Report
12:00 - 1:30	Discussion (4 hours total)
1:30 - 3:00	Lunch
3:00 - 5:30	Discussion
5:30 - 6:00	Summary
6:00 - 6:30	Convention Call
6:30 - 7:00	Discussion

CALL FOR THE FOURTEENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF THE YOUNG SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

The National Committee hereby calls the Fourteenth National Convention of the Young Socialist Alliance to convene in St. Louis on Saturday, December 28, 1974, and to continue through five days (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, December 29, 30, 31 and January 1, 1975).

The following is the initial proposed agenda for the convention:

International Reports
Political Resolution
Political Reports
Organization Reports
Election of National Committee

Pre-Convention Discussion

Written discussion will open on September 29, 1974, 90 days prior to the convention. The pre-convention discussion bulletin is open to all YSA members on the subjects listed in the agenda or others which they may wish to present for the consideration of the YSA. All material submitted to the pre-convention discussion bulletin must be received in the National Office no later than December 7, 1974.

Local membership meetings shall be arranged for oral discussion of the various points on the agenda and may also be arranged for discussion of any of the articles submitted to the pre-convention discussion bulletin.

Convention Assessment

A convention assessment of \$8.00 shall be levied to help cover the expenses of the convention, the payment of which is obligatory for every member.

Basis of Representation

1. Representation from the locals shall be as follows: one delegate for the first nine members and one additional delegate for each additional nine members or major fraction thereof (five or more constituting a major fraction).

2. Each local having five or more members is entitled to a voting delegate.

3. Delegates are to be elected by the locals in accordance with

the actual number of members in good standing who have been admitted to the YSA prior to December 15, 1974, and who have paid their convention assessment. According to the YSA Constitution (Article III, Section 5), "Any member more than one month in arrears in dues ceases to be a member in good standing. Only members in good standing may vote or hold office in the YSA. Any member more than three months in arrears may be dropped after notification."

4. Locals organized after December 15, 1974, are entitled to send fraternal delegates to the convention.

5. Three or more at-large members in one locality, who carry out joint activities in building the YSA, are entitled to elect one fraternal delegate, subject to approval by the National Executive Committee

6. Members admitted to the YSA after December 15, 1974, are entitled to a voice in the local discussion, but no vote on resolutions or in the selection of delegates.

7. Members must be present and voting in person at the meeting where voting on resolutions and the election of delegates takes place. The only exception is for members whose absence is for a substantial reason, such as illness or work, and who send an unambiguous written statement of their positions or delegate choices.

8. Members transferred from one local to another after December 15, 1974, must vote in the local from which they transferred.

Proportional Representation

Where there is a division on national policy within a local unit, election of delegates in the local is to be on the basis of proportional representation. Delegates shall be elected on the basis of a vote on a resolution or statement made in writing and submitted to the local unit for a vote. Abstentions in no case count as votes.

The following table shows the modified proportional system to be followed if a division occurs:

Number of qualified members in unit	Total number of delegates the unit is entitled to	Minimum number of those voting* for a minority to get:		
		1 del.	2 del.	3 del.
5-13	1	-**	-	-
14-22	2	1/3	-	-
23-31	3	1/4	-**	-
32-40	4	1/5	2/5	-
41-49	5	1/6	1/3	-**