

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

November 5, 1974

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

The National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee has agreed to take the case of Steve Wattenmaker who is being threatened with a "national security" discharge from the Army Reserves. Wattenmaker completed two years active duty and, like all draftees, is serving four years in the stand-by reserves before getting a final discharge.

Enclosed in this mailing are: 1) A press release issued by the Political Rights Defense Fund; 2) A copy of the Army's letter; 3) A statement by Wattenmaker.

Comrades should take special note that the Army bases its charges on the Attorney General's list which the government claims was abolished in June. The continued use of the Attorney General's list and the fact that Wattenmaker, a National Committee member of the YSA, is being harassed only a few weeks after the YSA filed for an injunction to block planned FBI surveillance of our convention, can be used to publicize the convention and build further support for the YSA's suit.

The enclosed material can be reproduced and submitted to campus press, other local radical newspapers and the city-wide media where appropriate.

Comrades should tie this latest development into the work we are doing to contact student governments, professors, campus organizations and other individuals about our suit to halt FBI surveillance of the convention. We want to continue to solicit statements of support, financial contributions and new endorsers for the Political Rights Defense Fund. Student governments should be pressed to pass resolutions demanding a halt to the government's harassment of the YSA.

Comradely,

Delpfine Welch
Delpfine Welch
YSA National Organization
Secretary

PR Political Rights
DF Defense Fund

156 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 703 • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10010 • (212)691-3270

For release Nov. 7, 1974

For more information contact
Catherine Perkus 212/691-3270

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ATTORNEY GENERAL'S LIST STILL IN USE

CIVIL LIBERTIES GROUP CHALLENGES ONGOING USE
OF ATTORNEY GENERAL'S LIST

NEW YORK, Nov. 7 -- The attorney general's list of so-called subversive organizations, supposedly abolished last June by the Nixon administration, remains in operation today under the Ford administration.

Continuing use of the list was made public today when Steven Wattenmaker, a leader of the Young Socialist Alliance, released the text of a letter he received from the U.S. Army Reserve. Citing the list, the Army threatened to discharge Wattenmaker on the grounds that his retention in the service "would not be clearly consistent with the interests of national security."

The 27-year old list was proclaimed abolished on June 4, 1974 by then President Nixon. In an Executive Order he declared that it "is hereby abolished and shall not be used for any purpose." A Justice Department spokesman explained at the time that "government agencies will not be permitted to refer to the Subversive List."

In the letter dated Oct. 18, 1974 and received by Wattenmaker on Nov. 1, the Army explained its action against him on the grounds that "the YSA is controlled and dominated by the

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Socialist Workers Party, which has been designated as a subversive organization by the Attorney General of the United States."

Under normal Army procedure, Wattenmaker would be discharged in April, 1977.

Edith Tiger, director of the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, announced that her group will challenge on Wattenmaker's behalf "the continuing use of this unconstitutional 'enemies list'." NECLC attorney David Kairys, who successfully defended the Camden 28, will represent Wattenmaker.

In a first move, Wattenmaker requested that the Army convene a "Field Board of Inquiry" to consider his challenge.

During his two years of active duty from 1971 to 1973 in San Antonio, Texas, Wattenmaker was active in opposing the Vietnam War and presenting a socialist viewpoint to his fellow GIs. He ran for Congress from San Antonio in 1972. Wattenmaker maintains that political activity by GIs "is protected by the Constitution."

The Army's letter charged that Wattenmaker "exhibited evidence of your specific intent to further the unlawful goals" of the YSA. Wattenmaker, a national committee member of the YSA, called the Army's charges "totally untrue."

He said that "the Army knows full well that both the YSA and SWP are completely lawful organizations. The government is the lawbreaker.

"They used that unconstitutional attorney general's list for 27 years, supposedly abolished it, and now in blatant violation of their own rules they continue to use it against

(MORE)

lawful political activity," he concluded.

This is the second case of government harassment against this socialist group to be disclosed in the past week. On Tuesday, Oct. 29, the YSA moved in federal court here for a preliminary injunction against FBI surveillance of the group's upcoming national convention scheduled to begin Dec. 28 in St. Louis.

The YSA learned of the FBI plans to monitor their convention from a hotel employee who submitted an affidavit relating that an agent told her that "the FBI would be on the premises during the convention" and "would keep an eye on the convention in case anything should break out."

That motion is part of a broader civil suit filed in July, 1973 by attorney Leonard Boudin on behalf of the YSA and SWP. Supported by the Political Rights Defense Fund, that suit seeks a permanent injunction against such Watergate-style harassment as wiretapping, burglary, mail tampering and intimidation. It also seeks an end to use of the attorney general's list.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
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ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63132

IN REPLY REFER TO:

AGUZ-PAD-RT Wattenmaker, Steven
171-40-6490

18 OCT 1974

SUBJECT: Notice of Action to Determine Your Suitability for Retention
in the Army

PFC Steven Wattenmaker
220 Haight Street, Apt 2
San Francisco, CA 94102

1. Reference is made to AR 604-10. This regulation prescribes the administrative procedures for the disposition of military personnel when retention in the United States Army Reserve is not clearly consistent with the interests of national security.
2. Information has been received by the Department of the Army which furnished reason to believe that your retention in the United States Army in any capacity would not be clearly consistent with the interests of national security. The information received is to the effect that, since 1971, you have been a member of the Young Socialist Alliance and have exhibited evidence of your specific intent to further the unlawful goals of that organization by your activities on behalf thereof. The Young Socialist Alliance is controlled and dominated by the Socialist Workers Party, which has been designated as a subversive organization by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.
3. In accordance with AR 604-10, you are hereby afforded an opportunity to refute the above cited allegations before a board of officers. You may, within five (5) days of receipt of this letter, submit a written request for a personal appearance before a "Field Board of Inquiry", with or without counsel. At this hearing you may present relevant matter favorable to your interests. You will be furnished the services of military counsel appointed for you or of your own choosing if reasonably available. You may have civilian legal counsel at no expense to the Government. You may request the assistance of the "Field Board of Inquiry", in procuring witnesses who can offer pertinent testimony and are reasonably available. You will not be entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred incident to your appearance or the appearance/assistance of civilian witnesses.

AGUZ-PAD-RT Wattenmaker, Steven
171-40-6490

SUBJECT: Notice of Action to Determine Your Suitability for Retention
in the Army

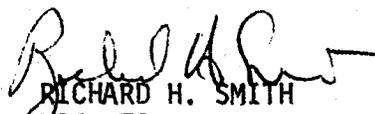
4. You may, within five (5) days of receipt of this letter, request discharge in lieu of further elimination proceedings in the manner suggested in the inclosed form letter. In the event you request discharge in lieu of elimination, you may be awarded an honorable discharge unless such discharge is precluded by the character of your service in the Army. You must agree to accept discharge of the character specified, although final decision as to the type of discharge to be awarded rests with Headquarters, Department of the Army.

5. Should you fail to reply to this letter within fifteen (15) days of its receipt, your case will be processed at Headquarters, Department of the Army, without further referral to you, and such processing may result in discharge in the interests of national security or a decision that you may not be granted a security clearance.

6. You may consult civilian counsel or request assistance from the personnel officer at any military installation in deciding which one of the choices offered in paragraph 3 and 4 above, you should elect. Since your election must be made in writing, place such reply in the inclosed envelope and mail it to the Commander, Sixth U. S. Army, Presidio of San Francisco.

7. This letter is marked "FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY" solely for your protection. This notation in no way limits your use of this letter but is intended to insure that the contents thereof are not unnecessarily divulged without your consent.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



RICHARD H. SMITH
MAJ, TC

Chief, Removal & Transfer Branch, PAD

2 Incl

1. Appl for Disch
2. Return envelope

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

STATEMENT OF STEVEN WATTENMAKER RELEASED NOV.4,1974

On November 2, 1974 I was informed that I was being considered for a punitive discharge from the U.S. Army Reserves as an alleged "security risk". The Army's threat to railroad me out of the Reserves with a less than honorable discharge is an outrage and a further example of continuing Watergate-style harassment of socialists and others fighting for social change.

By claiming that the Young Socialist Alliance, of which I have been a member for five years, has "unlawful goals", the Army hopes to victimize me and smear the YSA at the same time.

The government's "proof" for their accusation is that the Socialist Workers Party is "subversive" according to the Attorney General's list -- a Joe McCarthy era catalog of radical organizations which was supposedly abolished by the government six months ago! Evidently, because the YSA supports the election campaigns of the SWP, we come in for the same treatment.

In reality, the Army knows full well that the YSA and SWP are completely legal organizations. Members of the YSA and SWP are socialist in our political convictions and we actively struggle alongside students, Blacks, women and other working people to advance their needs against the exploitation we suffer under this system. The YSA runs in student government election campaigns on campuses, supports demonstrations like those demanding freedom for Chilean political prisoners and campaigns for Socialist Workers Party candidates for public office.

The Army's witch-hunt against me is only the latest chapter in a long history of harassment against the YSA. Last week the YSA filed for an injunction in Federal court to prevent the planned FBI surveillance of the YSA national convention in St. Louis set for Dec. 28 - Jan. 1. All these acts of government harassment aim to stigmatize the YSA to prevent our ideas from getting a fair hearing among young people.

My real "crime" in the eyes of the military brass is that even while I was on active duty after being drafted in 1971, I have always exercised my constitutional rights. I spoke out against the war in Vietnam; I demanded full democratic rights for G.I.s and I ran for U.S. Congress as a socialist while stationed at Ft. Sam Houston in 1972.

I plan to fight back against the government's attempt to intimidate me and the YSA. I have demanded a hearing before a military board of inquiry to answer the charges leveled against me. And along with YSA members around the country I am redoubling my efforts to encourage young people by the thousands to come to the YSA convention as the best way to answer the government witch-hunters.