

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
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TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND EDUCATION DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

SPRING SOCIALIST CONFERENCES

The fall socialist conferences were very successful in their goal of attracting and recruiting people to our movement in 1974. The National Education Department suggests that, in collaboration with the YSA, socialist conferences should be held in the spring. These can be extremely useful in consolidating contacts made through our 1976 election campaign, our propoganda campaign on the capitalist economic crisis, and in the struggle against the racist offensive.

These conferences are not oriented primarily toward intensive cadre education; rather they should be seen as propoganda activities for our movement. Well planned, well organized, aggressively and imaginatively built conferences can have considerable appeal, and can be a powerful recruiting tool.

The timing of these conferences should be given careful consideration. As in the fall, branches should seek to hold them at a time that will be most suitable for drawing contacts around us and for follow-up. Branches may want to consider jointly sponsoring these conferences with the YSA and/or local campaign support committees.

A format that proved successful in several fall conferences was the combination of a major talk on "The Prospects for Socialism in America," "Reform or Revolution," etc., with concurrent class series on the basic ideas of socialism. The latter should be aimed at answering some of the most fundamental questions that people who are radicalizing have about socialism. Examples of such classes include: What is Socialism?; Marxist Economic Theory and the Capitalist Economic Crisis; The Socialist View of the Soviet Union and China; The Socialist View of Israel and the Arab Revolution; The Struggle for Black Liberation; and others.

HISTORY OF THE YSA SERIES

Since 1975 is the fifteenth anniversary of the founding of the YSA, areas may want to include classes on the history of the YSA and the role it has played in the youth radicalization from its beginnings as part of the program of the Spring conferences. A class series on the history of the YSA has been prepared by the YSA national office which will provide speakers on this topic. This can be an excellent way to introduce contacts to the ideas and activities of the revolutionary youth organization.

A subsequent mailing will list speakers available through Viewpoint for the spring conferences. Due to the limited number of these speakers, no area can expect to have more than one national speaker. Branches are strongly encouraged to rely on local speakers for classes and talks.

Comradely,
Fred Feldman
Fred Feldman
National Education Department