

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
March 11, 1976

TO ORGANIZERS AND ANTIRACIST WORK DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed is a letter sent out by the National Student Coalition Against Racism national office explaining how SCAR chapters should help build the April 24 national march on Boston for desegregation. This march was recently announced by over 120 prominent Boston and national supporters of desegregation. This letter outlines how supporters of Black rights and equal education can begin to organize this demonstration. The SCAR national office has sent out a copy of the initial endorsers of the call. Branches should begin to think out how to begin helping to build this action. This includes gaining support for this planned march from community leaders, trade unions, women's organizations, churches, and as many other people and organizations as we can; and in the East and Midwest to start organizing buses. This issue of the Militant gives more details on endorsers of the action and recent developments in Boston.

The most important thing we can do immediately to help build the action is to get as many endorsers that we can to be sent to the Coalition for the April 24 March in Boston, c/o Arlington Street Church, 355 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass. 02116. Please send progress reports to the national office.

Comradely,

Malik Miah

Malik Miah
SWP Black Work Director

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National Student Coalition Against Racism
612 Blue Hill Avenue
Dorchester, Mass. 02121
Phone: (617) 288-6200

March 9, 1976

To: NSCAR chapters and activists and key antiracist activists
Re: April 24 National March on Boston for School Desegregation

Dear SCAR chapters,

As you can see from the enclosed call and endorser list, a call has been issued for a National March to defend school desegregation and stop the racist violence against Blacks. At our emergency Steering Committee meeting February 21, we all agreed that, should such a call be issued, NSCAR would throw itself into the effort 100%. That is exactly what we must do now in response to the call issued by the Coalition for the April 24 March on Boston.

A mass, national march is more needed now than when we met three weeks ago. The Jackson-Wallace victories in the Massachusetts Democratic primary were a big victory for the racist anti-busing movement. It put wind in their sails. They are now confident that the Presidential candidates of both major parties will run on anti-busing platforms. In addition, Judge Garrity has just announced that he is seriously reconsidering whether or not to go ahead with the implementation of Phase 3 of the court-ordered desegregation. To not go ahead would be a serious major concession to the racist School Committee. NAACP lawyers and Black leaders in Boston fear that this could jeopardize the whole desegregation plan. On the streets and in the schools, random violence directed at Blacks by racist gangs continues. Truly, a national emergency situation exists in Boston with grave implications for school desegregation and other Black rights throughout the country.

The April 24 March and Rally have the potential to be a major step forward for the pro-desegregation movement. The initial sponsorship is broader and involves more of the Boston Black leadership than either the December 14, 1974 march or the May 17, 1975 march. Time, however, is short. There are only six weeks until the action. If the demonstration is to realize anywhere near its potential we must go on an all-out national campaign with every resource at our disposal to build it. This campaign must begin immediately.

As in the past, the student movement will have to be the backbone in this effort, with NSCAR and other activists taking the lead in doing all the work and bringing in broader community forces to join us. We will want the NSCAR chapters to not only help organize broad community coalitions for April 24, but also see that students play the vital role they can by strengthening the SCAR chapters on the college, university and high school campuses.

One thing that will aid us in building the April 24 action in such a short time span is the projection for local building actions April 3 and 4. That weekend commemorates the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. Local activities are traditionally planned on those dates throughout the country. We should make every effort to

see that local actions are planned April 3 and 4 in every area. We should seek to bring together the broadest possible coalitions around these actions. And, we should seek to make a focus of these activities the school desegregation fight. An important theme of these activities should be: "Protest for what Dr. King died for, Stand up for what Dr. King gave his life for. Civil rights are in danger!" We want to say "Continue Dr. King's fight for equality for Black youth. Come to the April 24 March on Boston." April 3 and 4 should enable us to begin immediately working with a broad coalition of organizations in the local areas and should enable us to get the word out in a big way about April 24. We should aim to sell large numbers of bus tickets to Boston at the April 3 and 4 activities.

The following is a list of specific things we urge you to begin doing immediately to get the word out about April 24 in your area to insure the largest turnout possible for the action.

1. Produce attractive literature for the action immediately. We will send you a printed copy of the call, the endorser list, and a sample leaflet in a couple of days; all will be suitable for reproduction. But you don't have to wait. Make your own copies of the call and the endorser list and do your own leaflet to begin circulating now if at all possible. The Coalition for the April 24 March on Boston will have posters and buttons available soon. Be sure to send copies of all literature and mailings locally produced to NSCAR's National Office and to the Coalition's National Office.

2. Start getting endorsers. We will be issuing a daily addendum to our endorser list. We want you to call in daily with any names you have to add to the list. With the literature you have, you should call for their personal endorsement, the endorsements of their organization and their help in getting more endorsers. Will they take some literature and make some calls themselves? Will they give you a list of others to call? The key is establishing the authority of this action as rapidly as possible. It should be the top priority of every SCAR chapter. (If possible, please give us the addresses of and phone numbers of endorsers you obtain so they can be put on the national mailing list. However, you should take the responsibility to see that all local endorsers get copies of the national and local literature as it is produced; because of mailing costs we will not be able to always do that.) Some of the types of individuals and groups to approach are: student governments; Black student unions and other Third World student groups; campus newspapers; professors; NAACP chapters and leaders; Urban League chapters; Muslim mosques; Black church leaders; Black elected officials on a city, state and on a Congressional level; civil liberties and liberal groups like the American Civil Liberties Union, Americans for Democratic Action, League of Women Voters, Common Cause, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Liberal Democratic Party Groups and youth groups; local Black media; local alternative press; Black lawyers groups; white church leaders and groups like the Unitarians, Quakers, state councils of churches, etc.; labor officials and unions, including groups like the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; women's groups such as National Organization for Women chapters, campus women's liberation groups, etc.; prominent intellectuals, peace activists in your area; state legislators, your Congress people and Senators in Washington D.C.

3. As soon as possible, call a news conference with the broadest possible participation of community and student leaders. If you can't do that right away, try to at least immediately get out a news release. (Be sure to send us copies of them and news articles that do appear). You may want to peg this news media work around both April 24 and April 3-4.

4. Call a meeting as soon as possible to organize a local coalition for the April 3-4 activities and to build for April 24. If some of the organizations involved in April 3-4 are hesitant somewhat about April 24, the April 24 coalition and SCAR should work out positive ways in which to relate to the April 3-4 activities, be a part of them and raise the April 24 March at them in whatever way possible.

5. SCAR chapters should also try to hold campus meetings right away with all attempts made to involve student governments, Third World student groups, professors, etc. These meetings can either be sponsored by SCAR or SCAR and a number of campus groups. The key is that SCAR take the lead in getting these meetings off the ground.

6. Get a mailing out to every possible interested group and individual in your area. This can contain only April 24 information or also announce the first meeting to form an April 24 Coalition. This will be most effective if it includes a cover letter signed by a number of prominent and/or organizationally representative people in your area.

7. Raise funds. Everyone you talk to should be asked for a contribution. SCAR should encourage local April 24 Coalitions to establish a bank account right away with a couple of prominent people as signers if that is possible. Not only do the National Office of NSCAR and the Coalition need money badly from you, but you too will need sizeable funds rapidly for buttons, posters, literature, office space, phones, bus deposits, etc.

8. Discuss setting up an office for the coalition. If many cases, the NSCAR chapters may want to work out of this office also. Churches, universities and other institutions often have free or cheap space available if you go through the right person.

9. Hold public meetings on campuses and in communities to get out the real truth about Boston, perhaps with an eyewitness speaker from Boston which we can provide. Put out news releases on events in Boston as they unfold. Both will help counteract the media cover-up on Boston.

10. Begin to check out bus rentals and other forms of transportation.

April 24 presents NSCAR and all supporters of Black rights with an important opportunity to counter the racist offensive and strike a powerful blow for school desegregation and equality for Blacks. We must do everything we can to insure its success. The enclosed materials and suggestions should help you get started. Whether or not you do everything, the key is that we all get to work doing whatever we can do now. If you need any help, call us. And remember, what we can do here depends a lot on what support you can generate in your area. Good luck! Together, we can make April 24 a big success. On to April 24!

The address of the April 24 Coalition is:
Arlington Street Church, 355 Boylston St.,
Boston, Mass. 02116

In Solidairty,
s/ Maceo Dixon
NSCAR Co-ordinator