

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING No. 24, April 5, 1976

Present: Barnes, Blackstock, Breitman, Garza, D. Jenness,  
L. Jenness, Jones, Lund, Lyons, Miah, Seigle, Stapleton,  
Waters

Visitors: Morell, Petrin, Rodriguez

Chair: Breitman

- AGENDA:
1. Draft Chicano Resolution
  2. Political Committee Tours on Implementing the Party Turn
  3. St. Paul Branch
  4. Membership
  5. Lockheed Scandal
  6. Party Suit and Fourth International
  7. Developments in Party Suit
  8. World Movement

1. DRAFT CHICANO RESOLUTION

(Zárate invited for this point.)

Rodriguez reported.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the general line of the resolution for circulation to the National Committee prior to the plenum.

Carried.

2. POLITICAL COMMITTEE TOURS ON IMPLEMENTING PARTY TURN

(Aspoy, Matson, Ogden invited for this point.)

Jones reported on trip to Philadelphia.

Waters reported on trips to Seattle, Portland, and Detroit.

Aspoy reported on trips to Richmond and Washington, D.C.

Discussion

3. ST. PAUL BRANCH

Jones reported on request of the Minneapolis branch that it release nine members to constitute a branch in St. Paul.

Discussion

Motion: That a party branch be constituted in St. Paul.

Carried.

#### 4. LOCKHEED SCANDAL

Lund reported on correspondence with Japanese comrades (see attached).

#### Discussion

Motion: To send attached letter to Japanese comrades and assign Lund to pursue project.

Carried.

#### 5. PARTY SUIT AND FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

(J. Hansen invited for this point.)

Barnes reported that Hedda Garza, representing "supporters of the Fourth International" and "former members of the Internationalist Tendency," and a representative of the Revolutionary Marxist Organizing Committee have announced a news conference for tomorrow morning related to developments brought forward by party suit against government. Hedda Garza and Mike Bartell have been informed in phone calls organized by Jack Barnes for the SWP Political Committee, John Barzman for the supporters of the IMT in the SWP, and Ernest Mandel for the Bureau of the United Secretariat of the Fourth International, that any public activity of this kind must be left solely to the SWP. They were requested to cancel the news conference and informed that failure to do so would be considered a direct act against the interests of the SWP and the Fourth International.

#### Discussion

Motion: To distribute to the news media at tomorrow's conference the statement of dissociation cosigned by Ernest Mandel for the United Secretariat of the Fourth International and Jack Barnes for the Political Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, the text of which has been agreed to by Mandel, Barzman, and Barnes (see attached).

Carried.

#### 7. DEVELOPMENTS IN PARTY SUIT

(Baumann, Dawson, J. Hansen, Perkus, Winters invited for this point.)

Stapleton reported on the broad scope of the national publicity around the release of the documents on the FBI burglaries. This included national television and radio, as well as front-page coverage in most of the major newspapers in the country, and a Nation editorial. Nearly a week after the release, the Sunday New York Times ran three articles about the SWP case. The New York Times Magazine is planning to publish an article on the SWP and its suit by Walter and Miriam Schneir. Random House is moving up its publication date of COINTELPRO book from September to May 1, enlarging it to include material on the burglaries and running more copies than originally planned.

In light of these developments the National Campaign Committee and PRDF are sending out special kits to the branches in order to help prepare them to immediately take advantage of the national publicity as it occurs to help get more local publicity, support, influence, and recruits.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

8. WORLD MOVEMENT

(J. Hansen invited for this point.)

Barnes reported.

Discussion

Meeting Adjourned.

Correspondence with Japanese Revolutionary Communist League

Tokyo  
March 23, 1976

New York, N. Y.  
April 5, 1976

SWP Political Committee  
New York, N. Y.

Political Bureau  
JRCL  
Tokyo

Dear Comrades,

As you probably are aware, the Lockheed payoff scandal is now a centrally important issue in the class struggle in Japan. It is generally acknowledged that detailed disclosure of the role of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in these payoffs would cause the LDP government to be brought down in the next elections.

Of course we are making the struggle for disclosures a central area of our work. By our propaganda and by every possible initiative we can take, we are seeking to deepen the crisis of the government and to influence and raise the consciousness of the Japanese workers.

We will send you more detailed information at a later date, but right now we would like to ask your advice on a specific question. It was reported in the bourgeois press that the U. S. and Japanese government officials had agreed on a plan to delay or prevent the disclosure of the names of Japanese government officials who are alleged to have received bribes (the Japanese Ministry of Justice refers to this as an "Agreement on the Terms of Disclosure"). As we understand from published accounts, the only names to be disclosed are those of government officials whom the LDP government decides to prosecute.

A report in the March Yomiuri Shimbun contains a vague statement referring to the possibility that the U. S. "Freedom of Information Act" could be invoked to force the Securities and Exchange Commission to disclose more information -- and perhaps sooner -- than the LDP government decides to disclose.

We know almost nothing about this law, but we note that some of the FBI files published in the Militant were obtained "under the Freedom of Information Act." Please reply as soon as possible, advising us as to whether there is any way of using this law in the case of the Lockheed payoff scandal, or if any American groups are already trying to use the law for this purpose. If possible, please send us a copy of the Freedom of Information Act, or a thorough summary of its provisions.

Comradely,  
s/ K. Kihara, for the  
Political Bureau, JRCL

Dear Comrades,

Our Political Committee discussed your letter of March 23 at our meeting today and arrived at some ideas on what could be done along the lines that you suggest.

First, we were glad to hear that you are planning to send us more detailed information on the impact of the Lockheed scandal on the class struggle in Japan. Perhaps this information could be in the form of an article that we could print in the Militant. The bourgeois press here has given no indication of the mass protests against Lockheed that have taken place in Japan. The only place that we have seen brief reports that such protests are taking place is in the American Stalinist newspaper. So an article from Japan would be very important to us in getting out the word about these protests in this country.

Now, as to what can be done by our two organizations to try to force disclosure of the Lockheed-U. S. government secrets. Enclosed are two newspaper articles that describe the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. If these are not sufficient and you would like a copy of the Act itself, we can get one for you.

However, we think there might be other possibilities for legal action as well. The disadvantage of using the Freedom of Information Act is that it takes a long time. When you apply to the government for information under this act, your name simply goes at the bottom of a long list of such requests and it takes months before the government rules (most probably) that you can't have it for some reason. Then you have to appeal the ruling through the courts.

Another approach, which might be faster and attract more publicity, would be to take Lockheed to court directly by suing the company as a stockholder. A stockholder could claim that their dividends had been illegally diverted into bribes, and demand that the company open its books to show how much had been paid in bribes and to whom.

This type of legal action, or other forms of protest, by small stockholders against corporations has become quite common in this country in the past few years, especially around issues relating to ecology.

Of course, both the Freedom of Information Act and a stockholder's suit could also be tried at the same time.

These are only our initial conjectures about the possible legal moves, and we will have to consult a lawyer to confirm them and get a more precise idea of what would best fit in with our political goals. As far as we know, no one else in the United States has initiated anything along these lines so far.

We are going to explore whether any of our comrades or sympathizers own a few shares of Lockheed stock. Such a suit by a stockholder would have a special impact on the West Coast, where there are significant concentrations of Japanese-Americans. It might be possible for our Japanese-American Comrade Patti Iiyama to file such a suit. She could perhaps hold a press conference in Los Angeles, where she lives, to announce the suit together with other figures from the left and the Japanese-American community. One idea might be to take a joint legal action by an American and a Japanese person, which could be announced at simultaneous press conferences in Los Angeles and Tokyo. Such a joint action could help dramatize our point that the American and Japanese working people have a common interest in finding out the truth about government and CIA corruption, ties to the fascists, etc.

Please let us know your reaction to these ideas. Meanwhile we will investigate further the actual possibilities, both through the Freedom of Information Act and through a direct civil suit against Lockheed.

Comradely,  
s/ Caroline Lund  
SWP National Office

P. S. Enclosed is a quarter-page ad that just appeared in the New York Times.

\* \* \*

Ad from New York Times:

**YOUR DECISION KILLS JAPANESE DEMOCRACY**

Dear Mr. President:

We are Japanese who are connected with academic fields and journalism in Japan. We love our political system based upon parliamentary democracy. At the same time, we heartily desire friendship with your nation not only now but also in the future.

The great majority of the Japanese are deeply disturbed by the Lockheed scandal, and are eager to investigate it in order to thoroughly reveal the guilty parties and lay the blame where it belongs.

The Japanese have a suspicion that our government is not seriously attempting to elucidate the event to the extent of even hiding the truth. In addition, another suspicion which is increasing among the Japanese is that the American government may be cooperating with the Japanese government in covering up the truth. This may not be true. As your reply to Prime Minister Miki dated March 11, 1976 says American has its reasons for attaching conditions to release of the evidence. But we feel that you need to realize so many Japanese have begun to suspect this of you and your government.

We strongly appeal to you, Mr. President, to change your decision, which is blocking a chance to shed light on the Lockheed scandal here in Japan. We sincerely expect you to change your decision.

PLEASE STAND UP FOR OUR APPEAL

Dear American Citizens:

Because of the strict conditions of secrecy placed by America on the transfer of evidence to Japan relating to the alleged bribery of Japanese high government officials in the Lockheed affair, the possibility that the data may not be opened to the public is highly increasing.

Therefore, we have decided to appeal to the President of the United States asking him to abolish these conditions.

We strongly desire to American citizens' support of our appeal in order to protect Japanese parliamentary democracy and continue the friendly relationship between both people.

We venture to ask you for the following considerations:

- \*Please stand up for our appeal by writing letters, sending telegrams and telephoning to President Gerald Ford, to your local newspapers, radio and T. V. stations.
- \*Please send your opinion and your support to our committee in Tokyo, Japan.

Our address is as follows:

'The Ad hoc Committee of Citizens to Uncover the Lockheed Scandal'  
Villa-Koto 301  
10, Daikyo-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan

[letter signed by 24 Japanese public figures, journalists, artists, etc.]

P. S. We have no relationship to any specific political parties in Japan. All of the expenses for this advertisement were shared by the above Japanese citizens.

Attachments: Party Suit and Fourth International

1. Announcement of News Conference

PRESS RELEASE

April 3, 1976

Expelled former members of the Socialist Workers party, who were members of the Internationalist Tendency of the SWP and are supporters of the Fourth International, will meet with the press on Tuesday, April 6, at 11 a. m.

They will respond to the report submitted to the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee by Herbert Romerstein, which charges that the Internationalist Tendency and the Fourth International support terrorism. The illegal surveillance and burglaries perpetrated by the FBI against the Socialist Workers party and the Internationalist Tendency will also be discussed and condemned.

The press conference will be held at the Washington Square Methodist Church, 133 West 4th Street (east of 6th Avenue), in the Parlor Room.

For further information call [ phone number in original ].

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2. Press Release by Hedda Garza and Ernest Liane

April 6, 1976

For Immediate Release

SUPPORTERS OF FOURTH INTERNATIONAL DENY  
"TERRORIST" CHARGES

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary has released the testimony of Herbert Romerstein before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee in a 462-page document entitled, "Trotskyite Terrorist International." Publication of this volume takes place at a time when the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been forced to disclose the fact that it has engaged in a long series of burglaries of Socialist Workers party headquarters, as well as a constant harassment of individual members of that party and other left groups and dissenting groups. A group of supporters of the Fourth International, former members of the Internationalist Tendency (expelled from the Socialist Workers party, July 1974) responded today to the charges raised by Romerstein against them and the Fourth International.

The Fourth International supporters, presumed guilty even by the title of Romerstein's report, countered that the purpose of the document is to justify the criminal acts of the FBI which have been brought to light by the Socialist Workers party's court suit against that institution. Romerstein, in fact, is a consultant to the Friends of the FBI, and also, in his own words, "a consultant to State and Federal agencies on problems relating to subversive activities and violence oriented groups."

The former Internationalist Tendency spokespeople contend that "this slanderous testimony is published in an effort to revive the anti-Communist fears of the McCarthy era. It attempts to label those who oppose the violence of the FBI, CIA, etc., as terrorists themselves." They asked, "In Romerstein's concern with subversion, has he forgotten the subversion of the Allende government in Chile by the CIA? In his alarm over terrorism, what is his comment on the terrorism of U. S. napalming of Vietnamese villages, the terrorism of CIA-aided and approved torture of political prisoners in Latin America?" Quoting James P. Cannon, the founder of the Socialist Workers party, they explained, "Trotsky defends the violence of the proletarian revolution as a weapon forced upon it by the violence of the counter-revolutionary bourgeoisie; never did he renounce a preference for the peaceful way."

The Fourth International supporters stated that the "surveillance" organizations and their defenders have long considered violence justifiable, as long as they are the perpetrators. With revelations of CIA assassination plots, this is now public knowledge. But anyone responding to this violence is hysterically labelled "terrorist."

Another charge made by Romerstein is that the United States supporters of the Fourth International are in fact breaking the Voorhis Act, which forbids membership in an international organization. The author of this act, Gerry Voorhis, has himself called the provisions of this act absurd. The fact is that the U. S. Government, in its ongoing criminal involvements around the world, is violating this very act!

The facts are that Fourth International supporters and members have been in the forefront of the organization of such movements as the antiwar movement, women's movements, etc., and have been among the most outspoken critics of the violence and terrorism of repressive governments. And yet Romerstein's re-

port claims that the counterintelligence program was utilized "to prevent the acts of violence that were being carried out by various leftist and new-left groups, . . . ." Nowhere in the testimony is there a shred of evidence of such "violence." Much ado is made, for example, of the fact that Socialist Workers party candidates ran to spread the ideas of the party rather than in hopes of winning elected office. A cursory reading of any American history book shows that all minor parties have stated this as their main purpose, surely not a very "violent" goal! We must assume, then, that the FBI planned to prevent terrorism by terrorizing dissenters, and planned to prevent acts of vandalism by breaking-and-entry vandalizing techniques against dissident organizations!

In conclusion, the Fourth International supporters commented that the report itself was such a hysterical anti-Communist collection of half-truths and fabrications that no one on the Senate committees even noticed that a photograph captioned Charles Michaloux, one of the leaders of the French section of the Fourth International, is in reality a photograph of Giscard d'Estaing, President of France!

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### 3. April 6 Press Release

April 6, 1976

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

At a press conference held April 6 in New York, Ernest Liane, representing the Revolutionary Marxist Organizing Committee, and Hedda Garza, representing "supporters of the Fourth International" and "former members of the Internationalist Tendency," purported to speak in defense of the Socialist Workers party and the United Secretariat of the Fourth International. However, neither Garza nor Liane, nor any of the individuals or groups they represent are members of either the SWP or the Fourth International. Consequently neither the Socialist Workers party nor the United Secretariat of the Fourth International take any responsibility for their declarations. Both dissociate themselves from them.

Jack Barnes  
for the Political Committee  
Socialist Workers Party

Ernest Mandel  
for the United Secretariat  
of the Fourth International