

P.O. Box 471 Cooper Station
New York, N.Y. 10003
February 13, 1976

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed is a report on the YSA's approach to anti-CIA protests. The general line of this report was approved by the YSA National Executive Committee on February 4th.

Comradely,

Brian Williams
Brian Williams
YSA National Office

REPORT ON YSA'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST CIA

by Brian Williams

During the past year revelations about CIA and FBI crimes have continued to hit the press. A good part of this information has exposed CIA domestic plots and in particular their activities on college campuses. Last May the Rockefeller report on CIA domestic spying was issued. In November a Senate committee report described several CIA assassination plots. Last January, the House Select Committee on Intelligence compiled a 338-page report detailing numerous CIA schemes that include further proof of CIA infiltration of U.S. campuses. This controversial report was suppressed by the House of Representatives, but details from it have continued to leak out. On January 25, the YSA and SWP obtained files from the CIA's Operation CHAOS files, which document CIA spying activities at three college campuses -- Utah State, Brown University, and Boston University.

These revelations and the recent increase of public CIA recruitment on campus have continued to spark anti-CIA protests on the college campuses. Last October the CIA invited administrators from twenty-three universities to attend a special minorities recruitment conference. At several of these campuses -- University of California at Los Angeles, University of California at Berkeley, University of California at San Diego, and University of Michigan at Ann Arbor -- rallies in opposition to this conference were held. In Logan, Utah, where the release of the CHAOS files was front-page news, the YSA chapter held a very successful press conference condemning the CIA spying and demanding that all CIA files be opened up.

These protests open new opportunities to expose campus complicity with the CIA, FBI, NSA (National Security Agency), etc. For the purpose of this report the points made about the CIA should also be applied to campus activities of all the other intelligence and military agencies.

A central focus for our anti-CIA propaganda campaign is raising the demand to expose and end all university complicity with the CIA. Administration records should be opened up to the public in order to reveal the full truth about their CIA connections. We want to know what secret CIA research projects the university is sanctioning and/or funding; what CIA spying and disruption plots the administration is helping to implement.

This campaign demanding "open the university files" is part of our overall campaign to make all files on CIA crimes available to the American people. This demand is of paramount importance as a focus for our propaganda and also as a basis

for campus anti-CIA actions that may arise. We know that the exposure of CIA dirty tricks can be an important factor that radicalizes students and the rest of the American population.

Recently the Congress, the president, and the entire intelligence community have been discussing plans to reform the CIA. Congress plans to set up an oversight committee so that Congress can be clued into some of the CIA's covert plots. Some more sophisticated Democratic party reformers like Tom Hayden even call for abolishing the CIA. Hayden's proposal is to reconstitute the CIA's "valuable" intelligence-gathering functions within the State Department. All of these proposals for reforming and even abolishing the CIA will be ineffective and insufficient for solving the problem at hand. The CIA crimes that have come to light, and their numerous other still suppressed crimes, are not just departmental "excesses" or failures by the president and Congress to effectively "control" or "oversee" the CIA. These secret CIA activities are an indispensable prop to the entire capitalist political system. These crimes are part of the political perspective and record of the Democratic and Republican parties.

The YSA should aggressively intervene into this debate about how to end CIA crimes. Through articles and discussions on campus we want to expose the shortcomings of the reform-the-CIA schemes. We should explain that the only way to really end these crimes is through independent working class political action. Working people, Blacks, and Chicanos should form their own political parties and run against the Democratic and Republican perpetrators of these crimes. Further elaboration of this point is provided in the December 26, 1975 Militant editorial entitled, "What will stop CIA, FBI, crimes?"

CIA and our suit

The CIA revelations also offer us a valuable opportunity to publicize and gain additional support for our suit against government harassment. Comrades should keep in mind that every YSA member is a plaintiff in this suit. Our suit is directed against all of the various military and intelligence agencies whose operations we are trying to unearth on the campuses. We should point out to students that more than 4,000 pages of FBI and CIA documents have already become public thanks to the efforts of our suit. Between now and when the suit comes up to trial, we will be subpoenaing additional documents. Comrades should take advantage of this publicity about CIA crimes to gain new endorsements for our suit.

Anti-CIA actions on campus

The YSA should look for opportunities to support and actively participate in all anti-CIA actions that occur on the

campuses. We want to intervene in all these protests to demand that all university files be opened up and that all campus complicity with the CIA be exposed and ended.

We should also be on the lookout for openings to initiate united front anti-CIA action coalitions. Two specific issues that offer us opportunities to initiate anti-CIA protests are CIA campus research programs and CIA campus recruitment.

The campuses continue to be an important place where CIA counterinsurgency projects are tested and perfected. The CIA has already admitted to the House Select Committee on Intelligence that they continue to hold "ongoing contracts" with various universities. We want to be on the lookout for any information that can expose these research projects. Where opportunities arise, we want to initiate broad-based committees of inquiry to unearth the full facts about these research programs and assist in mobilizing students to demand that they be halted. In the 1960s, during the anti-Vietnam war movement, several of these secret research projects were exposed. An excellent account of one such secret military research program at the University of Pennsylvania -- both how it was discovered and the campaign waged against it -- is contained in the pamphlet Germ Warfare Research for Vietnam: Project Spicerack on the Pennsylvania campus.

The campuses remain a central arena for the CIA to recruit new case agents. For years the CIA focused its recruitment at Ivy League schools, aiming to clip the "cream of the crop." Today, CIA recruitment activities are greatly expanded. The New York Times reported that the CIA has contacts with more than 400 universities and colleges. Recently they have been making a public effort to return to the campuses and to step up their recruitment activities.

The YSA is opposed to CIA recruitment on campus. When we discover that recruiters are coming to campus we want to help build massive, peaceful, united front picketlines and rallies to protest CIA recruitment activities. We can point out that recruitment is a specific form of administration complicity with the CIA. Our anti-recruiter demands can be linked to demands calling for opening up all the university's files and investigating the full extent of university-CIA ties.

Some administrators may try to counter anti-CIA protests by raising the bogus issue of the need to defend the CIA's "freedom of speech." Some ultralefts will fall into the trap of creating a controversy over this issue rather than the CIA's crimes.

The YSA of course is opposed to any administration-imposed rules that limit or forbid free speech for anyone. We are quite

willing -- eager in some cases -- to debate a CIA spokesperson about their heinous crimes through articles in the campus paper or speeches on campus. However we should make it clear to students that the CIA is coming on campus not to debate but to recruit. The administration raises the issue of CIA "free speech" in order to divert students away from mounting an effective campaign to expose university complicity with CIA recruitment efforts. We can point out to students that by coming to campus to recruit, the CIA is imposing its policy on the student body without their approval; this is analagous to the way it carries out covert operations behind the backs of the American people.

Part of a campaign to expose and end campus complicity will be explaining the need for student-faculty control of the university. Information unearthed about university-CIA ties may reveal some interesting connections between university trustees and the military and intelligence agencies. Any of these links that can be exposed will help students to see that the fight against CIA campus activities is part of the fight to wrest decision-making power away from the trustees and give it to the students and faculty.

Example of Portland State

At Portland State University the issue of student-faculty control of the university and the issue of CIA recruitment activities was raised. The administration-controlled publications board there ordered the editor of the student newspaper to print a CIA recruitment ad. The editor refused, at which point the administration began a campaign to fire the editor. Our comrades defended the editor against this administration attack, insisting on the right of the students to run the campus newspaper without interference. The fact that the CIA is stepping up its campus recruitment -- and that the administration so ardently was pushing the CIA's ad -- led us to also demand that students and faculty conduct an investigation to reveal the full scope of university-CIA ties.

The initial struggles that we have seen so far reveal that struggles against CIA campus activities can erupt around various issues -- recruitment, secret research, university trustees' links to the CIA. The key task we have is to evaluate each struggle in the concrete, using tactics that will best be able to build a movement demanding Open all university files! End all campus complicity with the CIA! Halt all CIA campus spying!

An article in the March Young Socialist will explain our strategy for fighting the CIA. It will expose the current proposals for reforming the CIA and explain what it will really take to halt CIA crimes.