

P.O. Box 471 Cooper Station
New York, N.Y. 10003
October 28, 1976

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND ANTIRACIST WORK DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

The third National Student Conference Against Racism will take place less than four weeks from now, November 19 - 21 at Boston University. For the three weeks between November 2 and November 19, our participation in helping NSCAR to build that conference will be the YSA's number one national priority and political campaign.

At its meeting on October 25, the YSA National Executive Committee voted to mobilize the YSA east of the Mississippi for the conference. This decision should be reported at the next chapter meeting. In addition, every YSA chapter should plan to be part of the national mobilization we want to go on to publicize the conference and the political issues that will be discussed there.

The purpose of this letter, and the materials attached, is to provide comrades with information that will help chapters to immediately begin to organize our work to help build the November conference.

Enclosed are the following materials:

A report on the decisions made by the national steering committee meeting of NSCAR which took place in Boston on October 23.

A proposal adopted at the steering committee meeting on actions demanding an end to U.S. complicity with the racist regimes in Southern Africa.

A tentative agenda for the November conference, which was also approved by the steering committee.

A recent report to the SWP political committee on the death penalty by Malik Miah.

Although there are a number of materials attached, it is important that all organizers and antiracist work directors read all of this material thoroughly. Of particular importance is the material outlining the political campaigns NSCAR is launching. What follows is how the YSA can best organize to help NSCAR carry out these campaigns.

Every chapter of the YSA should begin now to plan, in collaboration with the SWP (in cities where there are SWP branches), our movement's involvement in building the November antiracist conference. Our participation will be instrumental in working with NSCAR to make the conference a success. Each chapter should begin immediately to plan the following:

1. Discussions should take place as soon as possible in the executive committee to plan the chapter's activities to build the conference starting right after the elections. These discussions should include making assignments of leading members of the chapter to coordinate and organize this work. We should plan to be prepared right after election day to have major reports on conference building plans discussed at chapter meetings so that the entire YSA membership can take part in this campaign.

2. In cities where there are SWP branches, chapters should collaborate closely with the party in planning perspectives for anti-racist work leading up to the conference. Conference building will be one of the major priorities for the political work of the branches following the elections.

Because of the political importance of the conference, where discussions will take place on many different issues -- including the death penalty, southern Africa, teachers and desegregation, and racist frame-ups -- all party members active in antiracist work are being encouraged by the SWP national office to build and attend the conference. This includes helping YSA chapters to build the conference on the campuses.

3. The last few days of election campaigning will be a good opportunity to begin building for the antiracist conference. Camejo and Reid have endorsed the third National Student Conference Against Racism. They feel that attending this gathering and participating in the important discussions there will be an important priority for all those who support the SWP 1976 presidential campaign. Camejo and Reid will explain this in their remarks made over the national telephone hook-up on election night. We should begin discussions with campus Camejo-Reid supporters now about attending the conference.

The YSA can discuss with local campaign committees how we can get out information about the conference through the last few days of campaigning. Local SWP candidates can make publicizing the conference a priority in the final days of their campaign.

4. Distributing conference building materials will be an essential part of getting people to go to Boston for the conference. We should encourage SCAR chapters to put in a telephone order to the NSCAR national office in Boston for some of these materials right away. This should be done immediately and by phone, not mail, because the materials must be shipped out quickly if they are going to be of maximum use during the three week November 2 - 19 period. Available materials are:

- a) Conference building STUDENT MOBILIZER (\$.08 ea.)
- b) "No to Racism from Boston to South Africa" buttons (\$.35 ea)
- c) Conference building leaflet
- d) Multi-colored conference poster

SCAR chapters should be encouraged to call NSCAR at (617) 288-6200 to place orders.

5. Local areas should begin to make preparations now for

transportation to the conference. Buses should be reserved right away, even if it is not clear exactly how many people from your area will attend the conference. In this way, SCAR chapters can help insure that no one who wants to go to Boston for the conference will be left behind. We should aim to work with NSCAR to widely publicize the conference and bring to it antiracist activists who have worked with NSCAR and those who haven't but are interested in the important issues the conference will discuss.

6. An important part of mapping out the three-week campaign to build the conference will be making plans for the YSA to help NSCAR meet its \$3,000.00 fundraising goal between now and November 19. The details of this campaign are attached.

The YSA national office is taking some steps on a national scale to organize the three-week conference building campaign.

Nan Bailey will be in Boston beginning November 3 through the conference to help organize our movement's participation in the conference. Comrades who have questions or reports on the YSA's participation in the campaign can contact her there at the NSCAR national office. Brian Williams will be helping to coordinate antiracist work in the YSA national office through the conference.

We will be sending out regular mailings between now and November 19 to report on conference building progress.

There will also be follow-up phone conversations on a regular basis organized by the SWP and YSA national offices to help coordinate our national participation in this campaign.

As comrades will see from the attached materials, especially the tentative conference agenda, the conference promises to be an important event. The work that the YSA can do in helping to build it will be an important contribution to building the antiracist struggle nationally, and building NSCAR chapters on a local scale.

Comradely,

Nan Bailey

Nan Bailey
YSA National Office

REPORT ON NSCAR NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, OCT. 23

by Nan Bailey

About sixty student leaders attended the NSCAR national steering committee meeting held at Boston University on October 23.

Three major reports were given and discussed at the meeting: a report on political perspectives for NSCAR, a report on building the third National Student Conference Against Racism to be held November 19 - 21, and a report on fundraising for NSCAR. Below are summaries of the reports and discussion at the conference.

Each of the reports was approved unanimously at the meeting. YSA chapters should begin discussions on how the YSA can work with NSCAR to carry out the political priorities that were agreed upon at the meeting.

NSCAR PERSPECTIVES REPORT

This report was given by NSCAR national coordinator Maceo Dixon. The focus of discussion on the report was a proposal that NSCAR initiate discussions with other groups on holding a national day of campus activities to protest U.S. complicity with racist regimes in southern Africa (see proposal attached).

Dixon pointed out that while tremendous sentiment exists nationally, and especially on the campuses, against the apartheid policies of the regimes in South Africa and Zimbabwe, what is needed is a national mobilization of all those opposed to apartheid to demand that the U.S. end its support to the white minority regimes in southern Africa. NSCAR wants to link the U.S. government's policy of support to racist regimes in southern Africa to its racist policies at home.

A date of nationally coordinated teach-ins on the campuses could be an important step toward organizing a national coalition and future national actions on the issue. At the steering committee meeting, a date sometime in mid-February was discussed for the actions. However, in discussions since the meeting NSCAR leaders have found that there is much sentiment around having activities on or around March 21, which is the anniversary of the 1960 Sharpeville massacre in South Africa. This is a date when national and international attention will focus on events in southern Africa. NSCAR leaders are discussing a call for actions on this date with some of the anti-apartheid coalitions that have sprung up in some parts of the country, as well as student government leaders, groups like the June 16 Coalition in Washington, D.C., and the NAACP.

If there is support for this proposal, it will probably be the major focus of discussion for a spring action campaign at the third National Student Conference Against Racism in Boston in November.

Dixon also discussed some of the other campaigns which will be important political priorities for NSCAR both leading up to and

beyond the conference. One such issue is the death penalty. Dixon urged SCAR chapters to be quick to respond to proposed executions by organizing press conferences, pickets, and other protests as soon as execution dates are set.

The busing and school desegregation struggle remains an important campaign for NSCAR. Dixon pointed out that this is the central issue facing Blacks in the U.S. today, because busing is the central target of racist forces in this country.

Although there has been a decrease in antibusing activity in Boston and other cities over the fall, it is likely that after the elections there may be an increase in anti-Black violence. Already there have been reports of stepped-up violence over the last few weeks against Black students bused to South Boston, Charlestown, and Hyde Park high schools. It is not out of the question that organizations like the NAACP and other probusing forces may be willing to get involved in more activity around this issue as a result of ongoing opposition to busing. This is one reason why NSCAR feels it is important to invite these forces to the November conference.

Dixon also pointed out that defense of victims of racist frame-ups remains an important concern of NSCAR. He mentioned some of the most recent defense cases that have emerged. He encouraged SCAR chapters to contact the NSCAR national office about local defense cases to discuss including them in aspects of the November conference. Dixon also announced that Mrs. Juanita Tyler will tour several cities in October and November to speak on her son's case. This tour is being sponsored by NSCAR and the Committee to Free Gary Tyler (a committee initiated by International Socialists).

BUILDING THE ANTIRACIST CONFERENCE REPORT

This report was given by NSCAR staff person Vince Eagan. Eagan reported on the impressive list of speakers who have agreed to speak at the conference opening rally on November 19, and proposed a tentative agenda for the conference (see attached). Part of this agenda includes a list of workshops on a wide range of subjects and issues that are part of the antiracist struggle. Eagan encouraged NSCAR chapters to invite local student and community leaders, in collaboration with the NSCAR national office, to participate in already scheduled workshops or to organize one of their own. NSCAR wants to encourage all other organizations that are part of the fight against racism to attend the conference, bring materials, set up literature tables, join the general discussion, and help to lead workshops.

Eagan reported on some problems with the Boston University administration. The administration has demanded that NSCAR pay \$1,300.00 for security fees by November 5. This amount in fees for campus security staff are in excess of what the administration has charged other organizations for similar conference facilities. The administration falsely claims that the nature of the subject of the conference -- the fight against racism -- makes the

antiracist conference more prone to violence and disruption than other events held at the school.

Eagan outlined plans for NSCAR to go on a political campaign to demand that the Boston University administration treat NSCAR like all other law-abiding groups that use the school's facilities. All NSCAR chapters are being asked to participate in this campaign. Eagan explained that each chapter should ask a few prominent individuals in local areas to sign a telegram to the Boston University administration. This telegram should point out that NSCAR is well-known for the peaceful, legal nature of its activities, as shown by the past two conferences it has sponsored, and by its role in providing marshals for the May 17 probusing demonstration. It should demand that the administration cease its unfair treatment of NSCAR.

Telegrams should be sent to:

Professor Carey
George Sherman Union Building
Boston University
775 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Mass.

Conference Endorsers

Eagan pointed out that the same people approached to sign the telegram can be asked to endorse the conference. He urged that both telegrams and endorsers be sent in as soon as possible. NSCAR hopes to be able to send out a compiled list of these endorsers shortly so that they can be used in conference building.

FUNDRAISING FOR NSCAR REPORT

This report was given by NSCAR staff person Lisa Potash. She proposed that NSCAR chapters launch a four-week fundraising campaign to raise \$3,000.00 between the time of the steering committee meeting and the opening of the NSCAR conference, November 19. Payments on back debts, payments for new materials, and honoraria raised for speaking engagements will all be applied to the \$3,000.00 goal. Potash stressed that it is important for every NSCAR chapter to take this goal seriously and plan how a local contribution to this campaign will be raised.

The NSCAR national office has depleted its major sources of funds and is counting on the fundraising of chapters to raise the \$3,000.00 it will cost to hold the November conference. These funds are absolutely essential so that the conference can take place.

Chapters were encouraged to raise this money primarily through setting up speaking engagements for NSCAR speakers. This will be a good way to build local participation in the conference. We should discuss with every chapter where an NSCAR spokesperson has not recently spoken, doing this. Any amount of honoraria, with transportation costs paid beyond that, will be a contribution to the \$3,000.00 fundraising campaign.

NSCAR is making available the following speakers from Boston for speaking engagements over the next four weeks: Maceo Dixon, Hattie McCutcheon, Vince Eagan, and Mohammed Kiriimi. All have prepared talks on "The Fight Against Racism: From Boston to Southern Africa." They can also speak on local defense cases or any other subject related to the fight against racism.

Another way chapters can fundraise quickly is to solicit donations from campus professors. All those approached about the B.U. telegram campaign and endorsement for the conference can also be asked to make a contribution.

The NSCAR national office will follow up on local progress in this fundraising campaign over the next four weeks. YSA chapters should seriously think out our role in helping NSCAR raise this money. This is one of the political tasks that should be discussed immediately as YSA chapters plan how to help NSCAR build the conference.

NSCAR SLIDE SHOW

The final point on the agenda of the steering committee meeting was the showing of a slide show which was both an educational presentation on the busing and school desegregation fight, as well as a history of NSCAR, including the campaigns NSCAR is involved in today. The slide show ends by encouraging activists to join NSCAR in its activities and to come to the November conference. This slide show is an excellent conference building tool. NSCAR reports that the slide show can be purchased or rented from the NSCAR national office at a small cost. Copies should be ready for use in local areas in the next week.

We should encourage SCAR chapters that want to use the slide show to contact the NSCAR national office to place an order or reservation because the slide show will be available on a first come first served basis. It is approximately 30 minutes long.

NATIONAL DAY OF STUDENT PROTESTS AGAINST U.S. COMPLICITY WITH
RACIST REGIMES IN SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA, AND ZIMBABWE

The white minority regimes of Namibia (colony of South Africa), Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), and South Africa are experiencing social revolts by their Black populations. Since the collapse of the Portuguese empire in Africa, and the defeat of South African racism in Angola, the African masses throughout southern Africa have risen up demanding their rights.

The most significant upsurge is taking place in South Africa -- the citadel of racism and reaction in Africa. The American media is portraying the revolt as "race riots." These so-called riots, however, are political protests against the oppressive system of apartheid. The apartheid system, which the white minority of 4 million controls, is responsible for the oppression of 18 million Blacks and 2.5 million Coloureds and Indians. Since the revolt began last June, after being initiated by Black high school students, over 300 Blacks and Coloureds have been murdered. Thousands more have been arrested, including a few whites who oppose the apartheid system. Others have been forced into exile.

In response to this revolt, our government has not said a word. Although Prime Minister Vorster has said majority rule is out of the question for South Africa, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has given the white minority government legitimacy by going to South Africa during the revolt. Kissinger, however, never once discussed racism or the repression carried out by Vorster against Black demonstrators while in South Africa. Can we, then, really believe that the U.S. government is for Black rule in Namibia and Zimbabwe -- as Kissinger claims -- after such a performance?

The U.S. government, in fact, is one of the strongest backers of the South Africa regime. U.S. corporations, for example, have more investments in South Africa than all other African countries combined. There are 360 American corporations in South Africa with investments totalling \$1.5 billion. The White House has never once demanded that these corporations end their complicity with the apartheid regime. The U.S. government has also vetoed resolution after resolution passed by the United Nations calling for trade boycotts against South Africa.

As student leaders opposed to American racism, we feel a special obligation to aid our South African brothers and sisters in their battle for freedom and equality. We therefore

call upon all American students to join and build a mass movement in support of Black majority rule and against U.S. governmental and corporate complicity with the white minority regimes in southern Africa. Such a movement, in our opinion, could place maximum pressure on Washington to get out of South Africa now -- lock, stock, and barrel.

We urge student governments, Black Student Unions, Puerto Rican and Chicano student organizations and other progressive people to organize a National Day of Student Protests Against U.S. Complicity with Racist Regimes in Southern Africa on February ____*____ at campuses across the country. Teach-ins, rallies, forums, pickets and marches can be organized on that day. Telegrams and letters from student, community, and union leaders can also be sent to the White House.

On February ____*____ we should demand loud and clear:

NO U.S. AID TO SOUTH AFRICA!
BOYCOTT SOUTH AFRICA -- U.S. CORPORATIONS OUT!
NO CAMPUS COMPLICITY WITH SOUTH AFRICA!
FREE ALL SOUTH AFRICA POLITICAL PRISONERS!
NO TO APARTHEID -- BLACK MAJORITY RULE NOW!

*Since the steering committee meeting was held, NSCAR leaders have decided to propose March 21, 1977, the anniversary of the 1960 Sharpeville massacre, as the date for the actions.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR NSCAR CONFERENCE

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 19

4:00 - 11:00 pm Registration -- Hayden Hall, Boston Univ.
6:00 - 7:30 pm Steering committee
8:00 - 11:00 pm "No to Racism: Boston to Southern Africa" rally
Bernadette Devlin, Robert Allen, Juanita Tyler
Tom Turner, Tom Atkins, Joe Madison, Luis Fuentes,
Imani Kazana, Clyde Bellecourt, Herbert Vilakazi

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 20

9:30 - 10:30 am Opening plenary; approval of rules and procedure
10:00 - 12:00 am Panel Discussion: The Struggle Against Apartheid
in Southern Africa and the Role of the U.S.
12:00 - 1:30 pm Lunch; Slide show on history of busing struggle
1:30 - 3:30 pm Workshop Series I:

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| 1) Organizing opposition to U.S. support to apartheid (Prof. Herbert Vilakazi) | 9) Teachers and Desegregation (Elsie Franklin, Black caucus, Boston Teachers Union) |
| 2) Affirmative Action | 10) Hurricane Carter Defense |
| 3) Death penalty (Prof. Herbert Bidau; Derek Alphan, coord., Ga. Cttee. to Abolish Death Penalty) | 11) Prisons (John Boone, dir. National Campaign vs. Prisons; Prison Reform Organization) |
| 4) Cutbacks | 12) Ella Ellison Defense |
| 5) Racist deportations | 13) Stanton Storey Defense |
| 6) Police brutality | 14) Myth of White Flight (Prof. Christine Roselle) |
| 7) Discrimination in housing (Joe Madison, Detroit NAACP) | 15) How to organize a SCAR chapter |
| 8) Gary Tyler | 16) Paul X. Moody Defense (Doa-Iyah Rashed, coord. Moody defense) |
| | 17) J.B. Johnson Defense |

3:30 - 5:30 pm Workshop Series II:

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| 1) Desegregation panel | 8) COINTELPRO and Black movement |
| 2) Bilingual-bicultural education | 9) Refuting Jensen and Shockley |
| 3) Wilmington 10 Defense (Imani Kazana, nat. coord. Wilm. 10 defense) | 10) Struggle for community control in N.Y. School District 1 |
| 4) Labor and desegregation | 11) Five Puerto Rican Nationalists |
| 5) Black youth unemployment | 12) Black women and the fight against racism |
| 6) Gays and the fight against racism | 13) Fundraising for NSCAR |
| 7) NAACP defense | 14) AIM Defense (Clyde Bellecourt) |

5:30 - 7:00 pm Dinner; Steering committee; Gary Tyler film
7:00 - 9:00 pm Plenary Session
9:30 - 1:00 Social; film

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21

9:30 - 10:30 am Steering committee
10:30 - 12:30 Plenary Session
12:30 - 1:30 pm Lunch
1:30 - 3:30 pm Plenary Session