

14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014  
September 29, 1977

TO ORGANIZERS AND ANTIRACIST WORK DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

President Carter's proposed immigration policy, now before the U.S. Congress, has sparked wide opposition from a broad layer of Chicano, Latino, religious, and civil liberties organizations and individuals, as well as among Chicano and Latino elected officials. Many of these same forces took a wait-and-see attitude to or supported some of the administration's earlier trial balloons on this issue. But the Carter plan's amnesty provision--particularly the part that effectively creates a legal subclass of immigrant workers who will be denied all rights, and the provision instituting civil sanctions for employers who knowingly hire undocumented workers, have drawn the most fire.

The mushrooming opposition to Carter's and Castillo's immigration policy has increased the possibility of drawing in much broader forces into the building of and participation in the national conference on immigration in San Antonio, slated for October 28-30. This is reflected in the endorsements for the conference secured in the last three weeks from such prominent individuals and organizations as Catholic Bishop Patricio Flores of San Antonio; Rev. Lydio Tomasi, editor of the New York publication Migration Today; the executive director of the League for United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) in Texas; the Immigration Services Center; and the National Committee for Defense of the Rights of Immigrants (CODI) in New York.

CASA

Another indication of the growing momentum toward the conference is the decision by Los Angeles CASA, its affiliates, and various organizations it leads to endorse the San Antonio conference. Up until August, CASA was aligned with Chicanos in Southern California who opposed the national conference. The committee set up by these forces to undercut Southern California participation in the conference split in August, when CASA officially endorsed the conference.

Since that time, at least one component of what was the Human Rights Organizing Committee for La Raza has been on an all-out campaign to smash organizing efforts by activists in San Diego. The Committee on Chicano Rights, Inc., led by Herman Baca, is spearheading a vicious campaign to force endorsers of the Gutiérrez "Call for Action" and the national conference to withdraw their support and denounce the national conference as "SWP-dominated." A second red-baiting editorial appeared in the San

Diego Chicano movement newspaper, La Prensa, last week, charging that the conference and its supporters had been "coopted by cadres of the SWP." A response to this scurrilous attack and Baca's wrecking operation will appear in an upcoming issue of the Militant.

The fact that CASA has been forced to endorse the conference after months of organizing against it is a victory for those who have argued for the need to unite all Chicanos, Latinos, and their allies in defense of the rights of undocumented immigrants in the face of the administration's attack. While CASA representatives are participating in the San Antonio steering committee, a continuing problem is their sectarianism towards us and others they disagree with politically. In Los Angeles, for example, they set up their own support committee rather than join the existing committee established to build local participation in the conference. In San Antonio, they and their supporters have sought to encourage dissension in the coalition by raising questions about SWP participation.

#### Conference Building

Functioning committees to build the San Antonio conference and organize local activities against the deportations are now established in Los Angeles, Denver, Miami, Detroit, New York, the Bay Area, Phoenix, Tucson, Albuquerque, Salt Lake City, San Diego, and elsewhere. In most cases, the Student Coalition Against Racism has been actively involved in pulling together these broader coalitions.

In the month leading up to the conference, a series of local building conferences, symposiums, rallies, and speakouts are planned by local committees to make final plans for participation in the conference. At all of these activities, we want to counter the government's plan of continued harassment and deportations of undocumented immigrants, with the demands for full, immediate, and unconditional amnesty for all undocumented immigrants; a moratorium on deportations; and the extension of full civil and human rights for all undocumented immigrants.

The founding meeting of the ICIPP called for nationally coordinated actions on November 18-20 to support a delegation of Chicano, Latino, church, and other leaders who will be in Washington, D.C. at that time, to present the demands and proposals that come out of the conference to Carter. We support the call for these actions and think that the central demands should be along the lines of those mentioned above. At the upcoming local building activities, we should take every opportunity to educate on the need for a united, multinational, independent movement against the Carter plan and deportations, and on the need for a visible campaign of actions in the street to beat back the government offensive against Chicanos and Latinos and undocumented immigrants.

We will want to ensure that the party, the YSA, and our

election campaigns have a presence at all of these activities, through Pathfinder tables and sales of our press. These events will provide an excellent opportunity to sell subscriptions to the Militant and Perspectiva Mundial as well as to talk to the many activists we have been working with in each area about our socialist ideas.

SCAR should be encouraged to also have tables at the local building activities, where copies of the NSCAR "Fact Sheet on Deportations," and Student Mobilizers, buttons, and tee shirts can be sold or distributed.

### Conference Participation

Every effort should be made to get as many of our Chicano and Latino comrades to this conference as possible. Blacks and Anglos are also welcome at this conference, and branches will want to think out carefully which Black and Anglo comrades can and should attend.

Because of the distance and expense involved in attending the San Antonio conference for most areas outside of Texas, branch executive committees, in collaboration with antiracist work fractions, should begin to plan out now how to get the maximum numbers of comrades and others we are working with to the conference. Local conference building coalitions should be encouraged to start organizing transportation and fund-raising activities on the campus and elsewhere to help defray the costs of transportation.

Organizers or antiracist work directors should contact Osborne Hart--who is helping to organize our national fraction for the YSA National Office--or me as soon as possible regarding transportation from your area, and to let us know which comrades plan on attending the San Antonio conference.

From October 3 until the conference, comrades can reach me in San Antonio at (512) 432-3022, or 432-7625. Osborne Hart can be reached in the YSA National Office, (212) 989-7570.

Comradely,

*Olga Rodríguez*  
Olga Rodríguez  
SWP National Office