

MINUTES OF THE SIXTEENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE YOUNG SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

Chicago, Illinois, December 31, 1976 - January 2, 1977

CONVENED FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1976 AT 9:50 A. M.

Convened by Bailey

Proposal by Bailey: That Hawkins chair the session.

Moved Carried

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE CONVENTION

Following proposals by Williams for the National Committee:

1. To adopt the following agenda:

- a. Organization of the convention
- b. Socialist Strategy for 1977 Report
- c. Chicano Student Movement Report
- d. Women's Rights Under Attack -- How to Fight Back
- e. The Fight Against Racism in Southern Africa and the United States
- f. Building the YSA Report
- g. Election of the National Committee
- h. Constitution Commission Report
- i. Credentials Report

Discussion on proposal: Wunsch

Motion by Wunsch: To add world movement report to the agenda.

Further discussion: Petrin

Motion by Wunsch defeated.

Proposal by Williams carried.

2. That the following workshops take place:

- a. Puerto Rican Student Movement, led by Lubrano
- b. Defense of International Political Prisoners, led by Wagner
- c. Chicano Liberation, led by Zarate
- d. High School Work, led by R. Miah
- e. Student Government Work, led by Marshall
- f. Student Support to Labor Struggles, led by Nahem
- g. Defending Civil Liberties on Campus -- Defense of the Michigan Students, led by Williams
- h. Antiracist Work, led by Hart
- i. Women's Liberation, led by Brown
- j. Young Socialist and Militant Circulation, led by Williams
- k. YSA Finances, led by Linder
- l. Winning New Members to the YSA and Socialist Education, led by Archer
- m. YSA Suit Against the Government, led by Petrin

Moved Carried

3. To approve the schedule as written (see attached).

Moved Carried

4. That the Presiding Committee consist of the following: Archer, Berman, Brown, Farley, Hart, Linder, Petrin, Sedwick, Williams, Winsten, Zarate.

Moved Carried

5. That consultative delegates be outgoing members of the National Committee.

Moved Carried

6. That fraternal delegates be at-large members elected as specified in the Convention Call; members of the YSA National Office staff who are not regular or consultative delegates; and YSA members on the NSCAR national staff who are not regular or consultative delegates.

Moved Carried

7. That special guests be representatives of the Socialist Workers party and organizations of our international co-thinkers.

Moved Carried

8. That other socialist youth organizations be allowed two observers each at the convention without voice or vote.

Moved Carried

9. That there be a Nominating Commission composed as follows: 1 delegate from Eastern Pennsylvania, 1 from Western Pennsylvania, 1 from Mid-Atlantic, 1 from Michigan, 1 from Northern Ohio, 1 from Southern Ohio-Kentucky, 1 from New York, 1 from New Jersey, 1 from Texas, 1 from Rocky Mountain, 1 from Southern California, 1 from Illinois-Indiana, 1 from Missouri, 1 from Washington-Oregon, 1 from Upper Midwest, 1 from New England, 1 from Southeast, 1 from Louisiana, 1 from Wisconsin.

Moved Carried

10. That the Nominating Commission be chaired by S. Berman and McCutcheon, each with voice and no vote.

Moved Carried

11. That Chamberlain and Neese be convention secretaries.

Moved Carried

12. That Lubrano chair a Constitution Commission of three people, the other two to be elected by the convention.

Moved Carried

Nominations: Hill, Stone

Motion: To elect the two nominees. Carried

13. That Mattson chair a Credentials Commission of six people, the other five to be elected by the convention.

Moved Carried

Nominations: Bockman, Groth, Leonard, Morrow, Spiegler

Motion: To elect the five nominees Carried

14. That Cole, Marcus, Rupp, and Ostrofsky be the convention photographers.

Moved Carried

15. That Bak, Fitzgerald, and E. Warren head convention security.

Moved Carried

Presentation on convention security: Bak

16. That the following rules govern convention procedure:

- a. That in cases of procedural disputes, the discussion shall be limited to two speakers, one for and one against, and that each speaker be limited to two minutes.
- b. That the National Committee be elected in closed session.
- c. That all other sessions be open to YSA members, Socialist Workers party members, international co-thinkers, and guests.
- d. That all sessions of the convention be open to the media except the election of the National Committee.
- e. That the alternate delegates seated in place of absent delegates have voice and vote.
- f. That consultative delegates have voice and consultative vote.
- g. That fraternal delegates have voice and fraternal vote.
- h. That discussion presentations shall be limited to seven minutes.
- i. That in each discussion period, no one may speak twice before each person desiring the floor has had a chance to speak.
- j. That only those delegates seated at the opening of a particular session can vote during the session.
- k. That all voting will be done by voice vote unless a division of the house is called for; then the vote will be taken by a

show of delegates cards.

Moved Carried

II. SOCIALIST STRATEGY FOR 1977

Reporter: Berman

Announcements from the Presiding Committee

Recessed 11:00 A. M. - Reconvened 1:00 P. M.

Presentation on Chicano Movement by Zarate

Discussion on Political Report: Mackler, Hoepfner, Fuchs, Listopad, Bockman, Temple, Douglas, Tortorici, Obata, Anderson, Wunsch, Gonzalez, Garza, Allen, Becker, Torres

Proposal by the Presiding Committee: To take a final speakers list and limit discussion presentations to five minutes.

Moved Carried

Further discussion: Cooper, Lesnick, Brudno, Taylor, Nahem, Huget, Quintano, Robohm, Fontenot, Eagan, Marshall, Matthews, Stallworth, Golinsky

Summary of Political Report: Berman

Proposal by the Presiding Committee: To approve the general line of the National Executive Committee draft political resolution and the political report.

Vote on Political Report:

Delegates

For:	79
Against:	1
Abstain:	0

Consultative Delegates

For:	20
Against:	0
Abstain:	0
No Vote:	1

Fraternal Delegates

For:	9
Against:	0
Abstain:	0

Carried

Recessed: 5:00 p. m.

Workshops I : 5:00 p. m. - 6:30 p. m.

Presentation on Expansion of the Socialist Movement

New Year's Eve Party

RECONVENED SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 1977 AT 9:45 a. m.

Proposal by the Presiding Committee: That Perrone chair the session.

Moved

Carried

III. WOMEN'S RIGHTS UNDER ATTACK -- HOW TO FIGHT BACK

Reporter: Brown

Proposal from the Presiding Committee: To send the following telegram to Joanne Little:

"Dear Sister Joanne,

"We recently learned that the North Carolina Paroles Commission has denied you parole. This decision was made despite your status as an 'honor grade' prisoner. The Sixteenth National Convention of the Young Socialist Alliance meeting in Chicago over New Year's weekend protests this outrageous racist attack on your rights. We pledge to continue the fight for your freedom. Free Joanne Little!"

Moved

Carried

Discussion on Women's Liberation Report: Finn, Hennigan, Rozier, Sholin, Obradovich, Hill, Taylor, Farber

Proposal from the Presiding Committee: To take a final speakers list and limit discussion presentations to five minutes.

Moved

Carried

Further discussion: Brudno, Becker, Higdon, Husk, Wagner, Patterson, Mackler, Nakata, Listopad, R. Miah, Austin, Lubrano

Summary of Women's Liberation Report: Brown

Proposal by the Presiding Committee: To approve the general line of the Women's Liberation Report.

Vote on Women's Liberation Report:

Delegates

For: 78

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Consultative Delegates

For: 20

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Fraternal Delegates

For: 9

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Carried

Proposal by the Presiding Committee: To revise the schedule as follows:

- 12:30 - 1:30 The Fight Against Racism in Southern Africa and the United States
- 1:30 - 2:30 Lunch
- 2:30 - 4:30 Discussion
- 4:30 - 5:00 Summary and voting
- 5:00 - 6:00 Organization Report
- 6:00 - 6:45 International Greetings
- 6:45 - 8:00 Dinner
- 8:00 - 10:00 Socialist Rally

Moved

Carried

Proposal by the Presiding Committee: That Gonzalez chair the next session.

Moved

Carried

IV. THE FIGHT AGAINST RACISM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE UNITED STATES

Reporter: Sedwick

Recessed 12:45 p. m. - 1:45 p. m.

Discussion on the Fight Against Racism in Southern Africa and the United States Report: Cooper, Mackler, Bivens, Rodriguez, Mattso Balsam, Green, Nahem, Stone, Austin, Eagen, Fontenot, Pollack

Proposal by the Presiding Committee: To limit discussion contributions to five minutes.

Moved

Carried

Further discussion: Hart, Perrone, L. Burke, Chappell

Proposal by the Presiding Committee: To send the following telegram to Rubin "Hurricane" Carter and John Artis:

"The Sixteenth National Convention of the Young Socialist Alliance meeting in Chicago over the New Year's weekend expressed outrage at your second conviction for a crime that you did not commit. This conviction reflects the racism permeating society. We will not allow this setback to halt our efforts on your behalf. Instead we intend to redouble the fight against all racist frame-ups. Free Carter and Artis! Stop all racist frame-ups!"

Moved Carried

Proposal by the Presiding Committee: To hear international greetings.

Moved Carried

Taped greetings delivered to the convention by Tsietzi Mashinini, first president of the Soweto, South Africa, Students Representative Council.

Greetings delivered to the convention by Serge and Sylvie for the Young Socialists/Ligue de Jeune Socialistes of Canada.

Summary of the Fight Against Racism in Southern Africa and the United States Report: Sedwick

Proposal by the Presiding Committee: To approve the general line of the Fight Against Racism in Southern Africa and the United States Report and the National Executive Committee draft Southern Africa resolution.

Vote on the Fight Against Racism in Southern Africa and the United States Report:

Delegates

For: 75  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0

Consultative Delegates

For: 14  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0

Fraternal Delegates

For: 6  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0

Proposal by the Presiding Committee: That Marshall chair the next session.

Moved Carried

V. BUILDING THE YSA REPORT

Reporter: Petrin

Recessed 7:15 p. m.

Socialist Rally

RECONVENED SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 1977 AT 9:50 a. m.

Proposal by the Presiding Committee: To postpone greetings from the Socialist Workers party and begin with discussion on the Building the YSA Report.

Moved Carried

Discussion on the Organization Report: Petit, Kear, Sholin, Bockman, Linder, Taylor, Listopad, Williams, Hawkins, Fontenot, Preston, Kalman, Allen, Patterson, Rayson, Robohm, Shadden, Groth, Fuchs, Iverson

Proposal by the Presiding Committee: To hear greetings from the Socialist Workers party.

Moved Carried

Greetings delivered to the convention by Olga Rodriguez for the Socialist Workers party.

Further discussion: Gollub, Souweire, Marshall, Becker

Proposal by the Presiding Committee: To hear greetings.

Moved Carried

Greetings read to the convention from the Revolutionary Marxist Committee.

Greetings delivered to the convention by Masako Sasaki from the Japanese Communist Youth

Greetings delivered to the convention by Natasha Lopez from the Liga Internacionalista de los Trabajadores of Puerto Rico.

Greetings read to the convention from the Alliance des Jeunes por le socialisme of France, the Socialist Youth Alliance of Australia, the Revolutionary Communist League of Iceland, the Ligue Communiste Revolutionnaire of France, and the Revolutionary Communist Youth of China.

Proposal by the Presiding Committee: To grant the reporter an additional seven minutes summary time and to revise the convention schedule by moving all points forward thirty minutes.

Moved Carried

Sedwick  
Soares  
White  
Williams  
Womack  
Zarate

Summary of the Building the YSA Report; Petrin

Proposal by the Presiding Committee: To approve the general line of the Building the YSA Report.

Alternate members of the National Committee:  
(in ranked order)

Vote on the Building the YSA Report:

Delegates

For: 68  
Against: 1  
Abstain: 0

Consultative Delegates

For: 9  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0

Fraternal Delegates

For: 4  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0

- 1. Baca
- 2. Harkness
- 3. Nahem
- 4. Jarosh
- 5. Chapell
- 6. Farnsworth
- 7. Stallworth
- 8. Taber
- 9. Marshall
- 10. Rozier
- 11. Fontenot
- 12. Ponaman
- 13. Gonzalez
- 14. Burke
- 15. Mattson
- 16. Jayko
- 17. Douglas
- 18. Tortorici
- 19. Smith
- 20. Brooks
- 21. Obata
- 22. Kear
- 23. Obratovich
- 24. Brady
- 25. Joel

Proposal by McCutcheon for the Nominating Commission: That there be 32 full and 25 alternate members of the National Committee.

Moved

Discussion: Jayko

Carried

Recessed 2:00 p. m. - 3:00 p. m.

V. ELECTION OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Proposal by the Presiding Committee: That Wald chair the next session.

Moved Carried

Reporters for the Nominating Commission; McCutcheon and S. Berman

Nominations by Nominating Commission read by McCutcheon

Carried

Discussion on Full National Committee nominations: Shadden, S. Berman, Teitlebaum, Stallworth, Hoepfner, Ponoman, Shadden, Harkness, Jayko, Greeves, S. Berman, Barrera, Williams, Soares, Feather, Brooks, Strader, Swanson, McCutcheon, Gonzalez, Fuchs, S. Berman, Nahem, Soares, Teitlebaum, Taber, Brooks

Motion: To close discussion and nominations.

Carried

Proposal by the Presiding Committee: That the vote be taken by secret, written ballot; that there be no bullet balloting; and that a tally committee of eight people be elected to count the vote.

Discussion on the proposal: Ponaman

Carried

Nominations for tally committee: Brudno, Murphy, Freeman, Benjamine, Zins, Groth, Davey, Allen, Johnson.

Freeman declines nomination.

Motion: To elect the eight nominees.

Full members of the National Committee:

- Archer
- Austin
- Barrera
- R. Berman
- S. Berman
- Bivens
- Brdar
- Brown
- Eagen
- Farley
- Fuchs
- Garza
- Gonzalez
- Green
- Hart
- Hawkins
- Hayes
- Linder
- Lubrano
- Mailhot
- Miah
- Patterson
- Petrin
- Quinn
- Robohm
- Rodriguez

Carried

Vote on full members of the National Committee:

Nominees elected unanimously

Floor opened for discussion and further nominations for alternate members of the National Committee.

Proposal by McCutcheon for the Nominating Commission: That the alternate National Committee be ranked 1-25.

Moved

Discussion on the proposal: Linder

Carried

Discussion on the proposed alternate National Committee: Rozier

Nomination by Rozier: Husk

Further discussion: Jayko, Anderson, Winsten

Proposal by the Presiding Committee: That the vote proceed in two stages. First that a vote be taken on the 25 members of the alternate National Committee without regard to rank. Then a vote be taken on the order in which to rank the members.

Moved

Carried

Further discussion: Strader, Linder, Budno, Murphy, Brooks

Motion: To close discussion and nominations.

Carried

Proposal by the Presiding Committee: That the delegates write out a specific list of nominees that they are voting for, rather than writing "list" on the ballots.

Moved

Carried

Vote on alternate members of the National Committee:

Nominees elected unanimously in the order proposed by the Nominating Commission

Workshops II: 5:00 p. m. - 6:30 p. m.

Proposal by the Presiding Committee: That Listopad chair the next session.

Moved

Carried

VII. CONSTITUTION COMMISSION REPORT

Reporter: Lubrano

Proposals by the Constitution Commission:

The amend the following sentence in Article II, Statement of Purpose: "We also follow in the traditions of the American people represented by such leaders as Sam Adams, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, Wendell Phillips, Susan B. Anthony, Eugene Debs, and James P. Cannon," to read as follows: "We also follow in the traditions of the American people represented by such leaders as Sam Adams, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, Wendell Phillips, Susan B. Anthony, Eugene Debs, James P. Cannon, and Malcolm X."

Moved

Carried

VIII. CREDENTIALS REPORT

Reporter: Mattson

Proposal by Mattson: To approve the Credentials Report (see attached).

Moved

Carried

Motion by the Presiding Committee: To applaud the comrades who helped organize the convention.

Carried

Raffle of convention banners.

Singing of the Internationale.

CONVENTION ADJOURNED 6:45 p. m.

CREDENTIALS REPORT -- SIXTEENTH YSA NATIONAL CONVENTION

Total registered: 711

Members of the YSA: 347

Length of time in the YSA

Less than 6 months 21%  
 More than 5 years 18%

Age of convention participants

Average age 24  
 Oldest 63  
 Youngest 12  
 Most numerous age group 22

Students attending the convention

Total students registered: 295

Junior high school 6  
 High school 26  
 College and trade school 261

315 convention participants (45%) are women.

Nationalities

116 convention participants are members of oppressed national minorities

Afro-American Indian 1  
 Native American 4  
 Asian American 4  
 Latino 4  
 Puerto Rican 9  
 Chicano 18  
 Black 76

Translating skills (12 languages)

Spanish Greek  
 French Latin  
 German Portuguese  
 Swahili Chinese  
 Danish Russian  
 Hebrew Sign language

International guests

Japan 2  
 Canada 5  
 Puerto Rico 3

Organizations

Delegates listed themselves as members of more than 50 other organizations including the Socialist Workers party, National Organization for Women, United Farm Workers, Chicano Student Organizations, NAACP, National Student Coalition Against Racism, anticutbacks groups, campus women's liberation groups, Coalition of Labor Union Women, campus gay organizations, Youth Liberation, Pro-abortion groups, the Committee for Artistic and Intellectual Freedom in Iran, Federacion Universitario Socialista Puertorriquenos, AFSCME, United Federation of Teachers, United Auto Workers, and United Steelworkers of America.

Former membership in:

Students for a Democratic Society, Yippies, Student Mobilization Committee To End the War, New American Movement, American Indian Movement, National Peace Action Coalition, Communist party, Socialist party, Progressive Labor party, numerous Black and Pan-Africanist groups, Joanne Little Defense, Attica Brigade, Industrial Workers of the World, Farm Labor Organizing Committee, Democratic party, Rape Crisis centers.

72 chapters are presently chartered by the YSA

Delegates

Total number 187

Students 138  
 From oppressed national minorities 39  
 Asian 2  
 Puerto Rican 1  
 Latino 4  
 Chicano 7  
 Black 26  
 Women 84

Areas represented at the convention

Participants came from 29 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Illinois 148  
 New York 64  
 California 54  
 Ohio 46  
 Wisconsin 41

MESSAGES RECEIVED

I. From the Revolutionary Marxist Committee

The Revolutionary Marxist Committee conveys warm greetings to the Young Socialist Alliance at its 1976 convention. We in the PMC have a number of serious political differences with you. Nevertheless, we have joined with you in building the Student Coalition Against Racism and look forward to further joint work with you in the future. We think that SCAR can become a powerful weapon in the struggle against racism, and we agree with you that Trotskyists should be in the vanguard of such struggles.

Our common work with you in SCAR also serves another purpose. It provides a practical demonstration that political disagreements do not and should not prevent the closest possible collaboration among Trotskyists. Common struggle not only brings us closer to the goals we all share. It also provides us with a solid basis for discussing our differences in practical work and resolving them under circumstances which can only unify and strengthen the Trotskyist movement as a whole.

In the coming year we hope to work closely with you toward a goal we hold in common -- the building of SCAR into a powerful opponent of racial oppression. Through building SCAR, we hope that the RMC and the YSA can set an example for joint work in the Trotskyist movement. Such an example, we think, can be a small step forward toward a goal we also share with you -- the construction of a united and powerful Fourth International.

II. From Tsietzi Mashinini, first president of the Soweto, South Africa, Students Representative Council

I would like to take this time to send greetings to the national convention of the Young Socialist Alliance. Your convention is an important gathering of students, because just as students in Soweto played a role in sparking mass struggles this summer in South Africa, militant students in the United States have and can play such a role in America. South Africa is key to the international situation and to the freedom of Black people the world over. It is your responsibility as revolutionary students in America to build a movement in solidarity with South African Blacks and against U. S. complicity with the bloodthirsty, barbaric South African regime.

When I return to America this spring to tour the country, I hope to find you all supporting the national demonstrations called by NSCAR March 25-26.

Long live the South African revolution!

Long live the Young Socialist Alliance!

A luta continua!

III. From Serge and Sylvie of the Young Socialists/Ligue de Jeune Socialistes

It's with enthusiasm that I present the greetings of the YS/LIS to the SA.

A limited time is allotted to me in these few lines to elaborate the development of the class struggle in Quebec and English Canada, but I hope that these few words will give you a general overview of what has been happening in English Canada and inspire you to come to tomorrow's panel on Quebec.

There have been many important moments in the class struggle in Canada and Quebec, but two dates mark the history of the last period and pave the way for the next. October 14 and November 15.

On October 14, 1976, in an unprecedented action, over a million workers from both nations walked off the job in protest of wage controls and to demand the repeal of the laws which impose them. This was the most important joint action of workers from the two nations in the history of Canada.

This amounted to the first general strike in Canada in over forty years and represented a very important step in the unity in action of English Canadian workers and Quebecois workers. This showed the rise in the radicalization and the combativity of the workers of both nations, and gives a very good indication of the battles to come against their common enemy, the Canadian capitalist state.

Hardly a month after this very important action, on November 15, as you may know, the Parti Quebecois, a bourgeois nationalist party, won an unexpected victory against the Liberal party which was in power. What is the significance of this victory?

Quebec is an oppressed nation within an imperialist country. As described in one book written by Pierre Ballier, a very famous Quebec author, "the Quebecois are the white niggers of America."

Although the Quebecois are a majority in a territory which is well defined, with its own language, with its own distinct culture and institutions, we are accorded a very inferior status to the Anglophone minority in that country.

Even in periods of relative economic prosperity for capitalism, unemployment is much higher in Quebec, and salaries are much lower for Quebecois workers than for English Canadian workers. Therefore, the radicalization of the Quebecois masses has always been more deep than in English Canada.

The results of the latest provincial elections reflected, in a deformed way, the revulsion the Quebecois masses had toward the Liberal party: its antilabor policies, its corruption, and especially its total lack of respect for the national rights of the Quebecois.

A recent example that I can take from many others of the

attacks on the linguistic rights of the Quebecois was the ban on the use of French in air-ground communications in a Quebec airport. This was done on the pretext that French represents a danger for communication in aviation. This decision was taken by the federal government under the threat of a strike by the union of air traffic controllers and pilots in English Canada -- a union which reflects the continuation of anti-Quebecois chauvinism among English Canadian workers.

If, according to this logic, speaking French in aviation is dangerous, it's a wonder that they haven't shut down French airports a long time ago!

A new political period has opened in Quebec with the PQ coming into power. The Quebecois masses think that the PQ is going to solve their problems. But only a mass labor party with a socialist program can meet aspirations of the Quebecois masses, not a capitalist party like the Parti Quebecois. The task of revolutionary Marxists, therefore, is clearly to unmask the Parti Quebecois, and to put forward the necessity of a mass labor party in Quebec.

Several important developments have taken place in the student movement in the past year. In Quebec, since the foundation of the National Association of Students of Quebec (ANEQ), several student struggles have taken place.

Among other struggles, last spring sixteen CEGEPs (which are junior colleges in Quebec) and universities walked out to support the struggle of the public and parapublic sector, which consists of teachers, support staff in schools, hospital workers, and so on, against their bosses, the provincial government.

These struggles of students took place despite an antidemocratic and conservative leadership of ANEQ, which was very strongly influenced by a Maoist organization. The YS/LJS played an important role in all these struggles.

In English Canada, we consolidated our base on campuses through struggles against budget cuts, against Canadian complicity in apartheid, and for actions around the October 14 demonstrations.

In Quebec, as comrades may remember, the LJS was dissolved in order to better develop and form, with the Ligue Socialiste Ouvriers, a collective leadership capable of building an independent Trotskyist youth organization on a solid basis. The student comrades of the LSO, who represent the nucleus of a future youth organization in Quebec, are organized in a student fraction of the LSO.

In the last year, we have tripled our student forces, especially through our work in student struggles in Quebec. In addition, we have organized a tendency within ANEQ that has as its objective to transform the National Student Association into a democratic and militant student association.

The organization of such a tendency has allowed us to work very closely with the two other Trotskyist organizations in Quebec: the

Groupe Marxiste Revolutionnaire, a sympathizing organization of the Fourth International, and the Groupe Socialiste de Travailleurs de Quebec, which is the organization affiliated to the Organizing Committee for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International.

Today, the delegation from the University of Quebec at Montreal to the National Student Association of Quebec, a delegation which defends a common program of action in ANEQ, is composed of one member of the GMR, one member of the GSTQ, and myself for the Ligue Socialiste Ouvriers.

Long live the Young Socialist Alliance!

Long live the Fourth International!

#### IV. From the Japanese Communist Youth

Comrades and friends! The Central Executive Committee of the Japan Communist Youth sends its greetings of warmest solidarity to the YSA convention. To all of you who have gathered here from across America, we send our best wishes for the success of this convention.

It has been more than a year since the final victory of the Vietnamese Revolution. East Asia today is still shaking from that blow. The strength of imperialism in this region is unmistakably on the decline. We see the pronounced instability of the counter-revolutionary dictatorships in countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines, where confrontations between working people and the regimes are increasing day by day. The counter-revolutionary coup in Thailand is the clearest example of this trend. And even in South Korea -- the last line of defense for imperialism in East Asia -- the crisis of the Park Chung Hee regime is becoming more and more acute.

Japanese imperialism has acted as one wing of the system of U. S. domination in the Far East, and in this new regional context, the Japanese capitalists have also been shaken. For the past twenty years, they pursued a policy of rapid economic expansion, but that policy has now become bankrupt. Japan's rulers have been forced into confrontations with the working people. This has brought on the situation in which the capitalists' Liberal Democratic party lost its controlling majority in the recent election.

And then there is Maoism, trying to suppress revolutions in Asia by means of a "peaceful coexistence" policy. Maoism has maintained a tremendous political influence, particularly among youth, but in the past year they've begun to lose that influence. We can foresee that the present factional struggle within the Chinese Communist party will lead to increased political activity by the Chinese people, further undermining the authority of Maoism.

So it's clear that a new revolutionary era has opened

in East Asia following the victory in Vietnam.

The Japan Communist Youth is an organization of young Trotskyists that was formed in February 1975 under the banner of "The Asian Revolution and Socialism." We Trotskyist militants are striving to advance to the fore of this new revolutionary wave in Asia. We will grow to become the future majority of the Japanese youth movement, a movement today dominated by youth groups of the Communist and Socialist parties. The future belongs to youth! Long live the unity of Asian youth! We join with you in the struggle to unite all the youth of the world!

Japanese Communist  
Youth  
Central Executive  
Committee

V. From the Liga Internacionalista de los Trabajadores of Puerto Rico

The Internationalist Workers League of Puerto Rico sends a fraternal greeting to all the companeros and companeras attending the sixteenth convention of the Young Socialist Alliance.

Last October at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras campus, there was a strike of the two campus workers unions. These were the Brotherhood of Non-Teaching Employees, which organizes all office workers, and the Workers Union, whose membership is made up of all the maintenance workers. Both unions demanded a just wage increase, something which had been denied to them for the last three years.

In this situation, the students at the Rio Piedras campus decided to take an active part in the strike. On a request from the university administration, the Puerto Rican government ordered the State Police to occupy the campus. The State Police were authorized to carry out any type of physical assault against the students and workers on the campus.

Many students were clubbed, arrested, and beaten by the police, for the sole reason that they demanded that the university administration respect their rights and that the police be withdrawn from the campus. Their presence constituted a gross violation of university autonomy.

Understanding the importance of the student movement within the nationwide struggle, the LIT played an active part in the strike. We organized work in defense of the democratic rights of the university students, such as free speech, the right to hold meetings, and freedom of association, which were being violated by the university administration.

In addition, we would like to share with you the celebration of the first year of publication of our newspaper, La Verdad. The largest number of foreign subscriptions were obtained here in the United States. One of our goals is to increase our circulation. es-

pecially in the Puerto Rican communities in the U. S.

For us, La Verdad (that is, the truth) is the only force capable of mobilizing millions of the oppressed in the struggle against injustice, exploitation, and for the total liberation of all humanity. For, as Leon Trotsky once said, "Truth is the motor force of history."

That is our pledge!

Long live international student unity!

Long live an independent and socialist Puerto Rico!

Long live the Fourth International!

VI. From the Alliance des Jeunes pour le Socialisme of France

Dear Comrades,

We received your invitation to participate in your convention December 21. For that reason, we regret that we are unable to send a representative on such short notice.

The National Office of the AJS has followed your campaign against the FBI's harassment, and your work in collaboration with the SWP in the presidential election campaign, and your encouraging success with great interest.

We salute your convention and the delegates from the revolutionary young people in the USA who are participating.

As you know, the AJS views its activities in France as part of an ongoing campaign to bring together all the youth forces around the world who are fighting against imperialism and Stalinism. Therefore the AJS has put all its forces into the struggle to free Plyusch, Bukovsky, and Jiri Muller, the struggle against bureaucratic repression and imperialist repression, particularly in Latin America. Important victories have been won during the last few months, which strengthen our determination to carry on this indispensable struggle, the advancement of the socialist cause and the building of the Revolutionary Youth International.

Our convention will be taking place definitely in four or five months. In accepting our fraternal greetings, please consider this letter as an invitation to our next convention, about which we will give you details when the date is set.

For the National Office of the AJS  
with our sentiments of socialist friendship.  
Gerard Bauvert  
National Secretary of the AJS

VII. Socialist Youth Alliance of Australia

The Socialist Youth Alliance greets your national con-

vention. We follow with great interest the YSA's continuing campaign against racism in the U. S. and South Africa. 1976 has seen an upsurge in the student movement here, with more than 20,000 students taking part in demonstrations opposing education cutbacks on September 30, and next year promises further actions in which the SYA is in the forefront.

Forward to a socialist America and a socialist world!

Long live the Young Socialist Alliance!

Dave Deutchman  
SYA National Secretary

VIII. From the Revolutionary Communist League of Iceland

Comrades, we wish you a successful convention. Revolutionary greetings,

Revolutionary  
Communist League

IX. From the Ligue Communiste Revolutionnaire of France

Dear Comrades,

We apologize for not being able to send a representative to your convention, the sympathizing youth organization of the Fourth International. We want to express our warmest wishes for the new year which is beginning at this convention. We are sure that the YSA will fulfill its role, as it always has, in the forefront of the constant struggle against American imperialism.

The important job that you carried out during the Vietnam War, the brilliant election campaign of Camejo and Reid that you helped to build, are for us the guarantee that the coming mobilizations of the American proletariat and its youth will be able to count on the support and guidance of the revolutionary youth organization which is linked by its tradition and program to the fraternal party in the United States, the Socialist Workers party.

We are anxiously awaiting the results of your debate, we will report the achievements of your national convention in our daily newspaper, Rouge.

Long live the Young Socialist Alliance!

Long live the Socialist Workers party!

Long live the Fourth International!

Political Bureau of  
the LCR

X. From the Young Socialists of New Zealand

The New Zealand Young Socialists extend our warmest revolutionary greetings to the Sixteenth National Convention of the YSA. The New Zealand Trotskyists will be gathering at the same time as your convention at the Fourth National Conference of the Socialist Action League; and early in the new year, the Young Socialists will be holding a National Council meeting to plan for our Third National Conference at Easter. At these gatherings, we will be facing many of the same issues as you do.

High on our priorities, as no doubt on yours, will be continuing and stepping up solidarity with the oppressed people of southern Africa. The struggles of Black youth, begun by the high school students of Soweto, provide an inspiring example to young people around the world. Comrades will remember that it was New Zealand's sporting contacts with South Africa that led to the massive walkout of African athletes for the Olympic Games. But New Zealand has a strong anti-apartheid movement, and we will be working hard to involve thousands of people in the solidarity actions that are already planned for Sharpeville Day.

The "pass laws" atmosphere of South Africa is increasingly becoming part of the New Zealand scene. Immigrant workers from the South Pacific, like those from Mexico in the U. S., are being hounded by the government and set up as scapegoats for the ills in society. The government's campaign, which has included police harassment of the brown-skinned people on the streets of New Zealand's cities, has led to wide popular support for an amnesty for all so-called overstayers, and an end to the government's random checks on Pacific Islanders.

Education cuts here have not reached the levels that you face. But a nationwide mobilization against the cuts, and for high tertiary bursaries last June, along with direct action by teachers, have given warning to the government that New Zealanders will not stand by and let the education system be run down to protect private profits.

Reactionaries, as around the world, are continually trying to restrict women's rights, making the frontal attacks on the right to choose abortion. For the third year running, women have had to mobilise to prevent the government closing down the only inexpensive and sympathetic abortion services available in the country, and further action will be needed next year to protect and extend abortion rights.

New Zealand workers have by no means escaped the twin evils of inflation and unemployment that face the American working class. Unemployment has reached record levels, and many school leavers and college students are unable to find jobs. Wages have been frozen by government decree, while food prices alone have been rising by almost 20 percent a year.

In facing this increasing level of mass activity and class

struggle, and the growing interest in socialism, we have one major advantage over every other tendency -- the international experience and links that we are able to draw on. We in New Zealand owe much to the YSA for developing the internationalism that provides the basis of our movement, and for your sharing of your experiences with us. Through reviewing your publications and above all through the visits of comrades to and from the United States, we have learnt much. Your success and growth help us to look to the future with confidence.

Although we cannot be with you in person, we will be meeting at the same time as you to face similar problems, and to work for the same goal -- the world socialist revolution to bring about a just, humane, socialist society.

Long live the YSA!

Long live the Fourth International!

National Executive  
New Zealand Young  
Socialists

#### XI. From the Revolutionary Marxist Group of Canada

The Revolutionary Marxist Group, sympathizing organization of the Fourth International in English Canada, sends fraternal greetings to the convention of the Young Socialist Alliance. Unfortunately, we are unable to send a representative of our national leadership to observe your convention, as we have scheduled a plenum of our Central Committee for the same time.

Events of the past several months have once again confirmed the need to build a strong revolutionary international. A new weak link in imperialism's chain has been exposed by the struggles of the South African and Zimbabwean masses against the white supremacist regimes of Smith and Vorster and their imperialist backers. The activity of militants and supporters of the Fourth International around the world in defending and supporting these struggles can play an important role in helping the development of a dynamic of permanent revolution which will ensure the victory of the oppressed Black masses. The activity of the YSA against U. S. support to the racist regimes continues to be an important part of this process.

In North America too, another weak link in the chain of imperialism is coming to the fore, following the election of an independent Parti Quebecois government in the Quebec elections last November 15. This development threatens the very existence of the pan-Canadian capitalist state and only serves to underline once again the important role of the national question in the class struggle throughout North America, and the necessity of Trotskyists throughout the continent to take up the defense of the Quebecois's right to self-determination.

Canadian and American imperialism are committed to maintaining the pan-Canadian state because of the political and

economic instability (including the potentially massive rise in Quebec workers' struggles, already the most advanced on the continent,) that would result from the break-up of the pan-Canadian Confederation. On several occasions in the past, the Canadian army has occupied Quebec to intimidate the population, and the Trudeau government is already preparing both a propaganda campaign and its weapons of economic and political sabotage and destabilization in an attempt to halt the dynamic of the Quebec national struggle.

Our response to these preparations must be to make our own, through explaining the national oppression of the Quebecois, the dynamics of their struggles, and the need to defend their basic democratic right to national self-determination. Moreover, this work takes on an added importance for revolutionary Marxists in North America and throughout the world because of the potential impact of the national and class struggles in Quebec on the consciousness of larger sections of the North American working class. We must begin to communicate exemplary lessons contained in the experiences of the Quebecois struggle.

Revolutionary internationalism, the political foundation on which the Fourth International is built, is the guide for this activity. The American Trotskyists of the YSA and the Socialist Workers party have a long tradition of internationalism, most recently shown in your activity against the maneuvers of imperialism in southern Africa. As a result, we are sure that you will be able to carry out the necessary activity on the question of Quebec, which is vital to the future of the North American class struggle.

Long live the Young Socialist Alliance!

Long live the Fourth International!

#### XII. From the Groupe Socialiste des Travailleurs du Quebec

(In French)

#### XIII. From the Revolutionary Communist Youth of China

Dear Comrades,

The success of the SWP election campaigns which you supported, the extensive press coverage received by your lawsuit against government political harassment, the important role the YSA has played in the fight against racism, and your increasing influence on campus inspire Trotskyist youth here. They are promising signs of the growth of the Trotskyist movement in the U. S.

We regret that no representative can be sent from here to attend your convention and share your experience. We wish you success in your discussion and preparing yourselves to meet the new challenge in the coming year. With revolutionary greetings,

**Cheung Kweng**  
**For the Standing Committee of**  
**the Revolutionary Communist Youth**

SCHEDULE OF THE SIXTEENTH YOUNG SOCIALIST ALLIANCE NATIONAL CONVENTION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1976

5:00 - midnight Registration  
7:30 - 8:00 National Committee meeting  
7:30 - 8:30 Orientation session  
8:30 - 10:30 China After Mao -- a class by Les Evans

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1977

9:30 - 10:00 Welcoming Remarks  
10:00 - 10:30 Rules and Organization of the convention  
10:30 - 11:30 Political Report  
11:30 - 1:00 Lunch  
1:00 - 1:30 Chicano Movement Presentation  
1:30 - 4:30 Discussion  
4:30 - 5:00 Summary and voting  
5:00 - 6:30 Workshop session I  
6:30 - 8:00 Dinner  
8:00 - 9:30 Presentation: Expansion of the Socialist Movement  
9:30 - 1:00 New Year's Eve Party

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 1977

9:00 - 9:30 Orientation session  
9:30 - 10:00 Women's Liberation Report  
10:00 - 11:30 Discussion  
11:30 - 11:45 Summary and voting  
11:45 - 12:45 Report on the Fight Against Racism in Southern Africa and the United States  
12:45 - 2:15 Lunch  
2:15 - 4:15 Discussion  
4:15 - 4:30 International Greetings  
4:30 - 5:00 Summary and voting  
5:00 - 5:30 International Greetings  
5:30 - 6:30 Organization Report  
6:30 - 8:00 Dinner  
8:00 - 10:00 Socialist Rally

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 1977

9:30 - 10:00 Greetings from the Socialist Workers party  
10:00 - 1:00 Discussion  
1:00 - 1:30 Summary and voting  
1:30 - 3:00 Lunch  
1:30 - 4:30 Election of the National Committee  
3:00 - 4:30 Classes: Student and Labor Upsurge in Quebec, History of the YSA  
4:30 - 6:00 Workshop session II  
6:00 - 6:30 Constitution and Credentials Reports  
6:30 - 6:45 Singing of the Internationale

WORKSHOPS I

Puerto Rican Student Movement Panel  
Defense of International Political Prisoners  
Chicano Liberation  
Student Support to Labor Struggles  
High School Activists Panel  
Student Government  
Defense of the Michigan Students and the Right to Organize on Campus

WORKSHOPS II

Antiracist Work  
Women's Liberation  
Young Socialist and Militant Circulation  
YSA Finances  
Winning New Members and Socialist Education  
YSA Suit Against the FBI and CIA