

14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014  
February 3, 1978

TO ORGANIZERS AND MARROQUIN DEFENSE DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

The public outcry on behalf of Héctor Marroquín has forced the INS to allow him to travel to ninety-four cities to plead his case before the American people. The Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee is organizing a four-month tour that starts February 14 and winds up June 21. Attached is a proposed tour schedule with proposed tour quotas for each area. The tour quotas are quite large. They should be seen as fund-raising goals to be met through honoraria, benefits, cocktail parties, collections, and other money-raising activities.

The tour gives us the potential to involve a broad range of forces in the defense of Héctor Marroquín's right to asylum, raise substantial funds, and get major media coverage for the case. Attached are some suggestions for building the tour. Branches and YSA chapters should begin planning out the tour as early as possible to ensure that maximum advantage is taken of this big opportunity.

Organizing the Defense Work

The Marroquín defense work has two sides, each of which complements the other. One side is setting up local Marroquín defense committees as a form through which to gather broad support for the case. The local defense committees have the potential to involve activists and prominent figures in their work. In Houston and Los Angeles, for example, independents have agreed to serve as officers along with comrades and play a consistent role in planning out defense activities. In some areas this may not be the case and we may be limited, initially, to asking some prominent supporters to allow their names to be placed on the letterhead of the committee.

The other, and equally important, side of our defense work is the mobilization of the SWP and YSA in defense of Héctor Marroquín. Marroquín defense work is the job of every single comrade and supporter of our movement. Although we seek to involve independents in the defense work, the bedrock of the defense effort is participation on a regular basis of every comrade. Trade-union comrades can sign up endorsers, ask co-workers for contributions, and fill petitions. Comrades involved in women's liberation and anti-Bakke work can go after endorsements by heads of women's, Black, Chicano, and Puerto Rican groups, raise money, etc. Student comrades can get endorsements for the Campus Appeal and contributions on the campuses.

Every branch and YSA chapter should assign a member of their executive committee to coordinate and direct the Marro-

quin defense work and bring in frequent reports to the exec and membership meetings.

### Fund Raising

To mount a national defense effort, thousands of dollars must be spent to put out buttons, brochures and pamphlets, subsidize travel for witnesses for the deportation hearing, and pay legal costs. In the next four months the defense committee has to raise well over \$20,000 to meet these expenses. Fund raising must be a top priority of the Marroquin defense work. Comrades should pay particular attention to the fund-raising suggestions in the attached tour-building guide.

### Endorser Drive

Although the endorser drive is off to a good start, there are as yet relatively few endorsers among trade-union officials, major politicians, and prominent individuals. A special effort should be made to seek these types of endorsers.

Kansas City comrades made a list of all the trade unions in town, and put out a mailing asking for their endorsement. In return, executive boards of six unions agreed to have a representative of the defense committee make a presentation at their meetings. Six others agreed to put a point on the agenda of the executive board or local meeting. One of the bodies that will hear a speaker is the Central Labor Council.

All endorsers must sign endorser cards, which should then be mailed in to the defense committee's national office in New York. Names of endorsers will not be publicly released by the committee unless their signatures are on file at the office.

### New Defense Materials

A number of new materials are available from the defense committee (see enclosed order form), including a pamphlet based on "My Story" by Héctor Marroquín, which appeared in the January 27 Militant. Areas should be sure to place ambitious orders for the pamphlet, which will be a major piece of defense literature that we can use before, after, and during the tour to publicize the case, raise funds, and win new supporters.

Comradely,



Roger Rudenstein  
Socialist Workers Party  
National Office



Betsy Farley  
Young Socialist Alliance  
National Office

Proposed

Marroquin Tour Schedule

Figures in parentheses indicate tour quotas

Feb. 14 - 17	San Antonio (200)	Apr. 23	Rest
Feb. 18	Dallas (200)	Apr. 24	Cleveland
Feb. 19	Rest	Apr. 25 - 27	Detroit (450)
Feb. 20 - 21	Dallas	Apr. 28	Toledo (150)
Feb. 22	Travel	Apr. 29	Cincinnati (300)
Feb. 23 - 25	Portland (250)	Apr. 30	Rest
Feb. 26	Rest	May 1	Cincinnati
Feb. 27 - 28	Seattle-Tacoma (250)	May 2 - 3	Louisville
Mar. 1	Travel		(Lexington) (250)
Mar. 2 - 4	Bay Area (1200)	May 4 - 5	Indianapolis
Mar. 5	Rest		(Bloomington) (200)
Mar. 6 - 9	Bay Area	May 6	Chicago (Champagne-
Mar. 10 - 11	San Diego (250)		Urbana) (1100)
Mar. 12	Los Angeles (1200)	May 7	Rest
Mar. 13	Rest	May 8 - 12	Chicago
Mar. 14 - 17	Los Angeles	May 13	Milwaukee (Madison) (300)
Mar. 18	Travel	May 14	Rest
Mar. 19	New York City (1500)	May 15	Milwaukee
Mar. 20	Rest	May 16 - 19	Minneapolis-St. Paul
Mar. 21 - 25	New York City		(600)
Mar. 26	Rest	May 20 - 21	Kansas City (Omaha) (350)
Mar. 27 - 30	New York City	May 22 - 24	St. Louis (500)
Mar. 31-Apr. 1	Boston (Kingston, Amherst) (650)	May 25 - 27	Washington D.C.- Baltimore (450)
Apr. 2	Rest	May 28	Rest
Apr. 3 - 4	Boston	May 29 - 30	Raleigh (150)
Apr. 5	Albany (100)	May 31-June 2	Atlanta (450)
Apr. 6 - 7	Newark (300)	June 3	Miami (Tallahassee) (200)
Apr. 8	Philadelphia (State Col.) (450)	June 4	Rest
Apr. 9	Rest	June 5	Miami
Apr. 10 - 11	Philadelphia	June 6 - 7	New Orleans (200)
Apr. 12 - 18	Break for <u>Bakke</u> action	June 8	Travel
Apr. 19 - 20	Pittsburgh (Edinboro) (200)	June 9 - 10	Denver (200)
Apr. 21	Morgantown (150)	June 11	Rest
Apr. 22	Cleveland (300)	June 12	Denver
		June 13 - 15	Salt Lake City (150)
		June 16 - 17	Phoenix (Tucson) (150)
		June 18	Rest
		June 19 - 21	Albuquerque (200)

## SUGGESTIONS FOR ORGANIZING THE MARROQUIN TOUR

By Betsy Farley

The upcoming national speaking tour for Héctor Marroquín is the best opportunity we have to publicize and win support for Marroquín's fight for political asylum in the United States. This makes careful organization and planning of the tour one of the most important aspects of our Marroquín defense work this spring. The following are ideas for organizing the tour.

### Citywide rallies

Each city should plan a major citywide event that all comrades and other supporters of the defense can attend. These events will be most successful if held in the evening, at a community center, church, or other easily accessible meeting hall. We should aim for broad sponsorship of the event by women's, Black, Chicano, and Puerto Rican groups, unions, or individual leaders of these organizations.

Prominent supporters of the Marroquín defense can be invited to speak or send messages of support to the rally. The rally held in Houston on January 20 was a good example of the type of event that areas can organize. Speakers there included a past president of a Houston NAACP chapter, the president of the Women's Equity Action League (WEAL), and a leader of PADRES, a Catholic social action group. Special attention should be paid to getting labor and student supporters of the defense to speak also.

The citywide meeting should be publicized as widely as possible. Leaflets can be distributed at political meetings, forums, and posted on campus, and in the Black, Chicano, and Puerto Rican communities. We will also want to publicize the event during sales at plant gates, to co-workers, and at union meetings. Ads should go in the Militant calendar. It may be possible to get announcements of the meeting in newspapers, especially in the Black and Chicano press. Radio stations can be asked to announce the meeting on public service spots.

The rally itself should be organized to run smoothly with time limits for all the speakers. A sign-up sheet should be circulated at the meeting for those who want to work on the defense, or are interested in more information on the YSA or SWP. An appeal for funds should be made at every meeting, and a collection taken. The Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee in Houston was able to raise more than \$600 in this way at their January 20 rally.

### Campus meetings

Speaking engagements on the campuses will be among the best ways that we can get the news out on the Marroquín defense. Chapters and branches will want to plan as many campus engagements as possible during the tour in each city. We should

## Organizing the Tour/2

try to have Marroquín speak on campuses where there are YSA fractions. In many cases it will also be possible to organize meetings on campuses where there are no members of the YSA.

The first step in organizing a campus meeting is to aim for broad sponsorship of the event. Professors, student governments, campus women's liberation, Black, Chicano, and Puerto Rican groups, and unions representing campus workers can be approached to cosponsor the meeting with the Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee and the YSA. This will be an important way we can involve other forces in the Marroquín defense, and help draw large numbers of students to the campus meetings.

Once the room and time is set, leaflets and posters should be made to publicize the meeting. A sample leaflet will soon be available from the Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee in New York. In some cases professors will be willing to announce the meeting in their classes. We should also ask professors to bring their classes to the meeting.

A chairperson for the meeting should be chosen in advance. This can be either a member of the YSA or SWP, or another supporter of the Marroquín defense such as a student leader or professor. Sign-up sheets should be passed around at all meetings, so that students who want more information on the Marroquín defense or the YSA can be contacted later about what they can do. A collection should be taken, and everyone should be asked to sign the petition for asylum.

### Raising funds

Fundraising is an absolutely crucial aspect of the defense, and something that should be done all the time, not only when Marroquín is in town. But the tour provides us with some special opportunities to raise money. The greatest source of money will come from obtaining large honoraria from student governments, campus speakers' committees, or university departments.

We also want to solicit contributions from professors, political groups, and other supporters to help cover the tour and other defense costs.

Money can also be raised by taking collections at Militant forums, holding receptions and cocktail parties, benefit concerts or plays, and by requesting contributions from people we ask to endorse.

One thing we should be wary of is making a big investment of funds in fund raising mailings to large lists of people. Usually such mailings are beyond the scope of a local committee and only absorb money that could be sent to the national defense committee to

defray urgent expenses.

Local defense committees will not need large bank accounts. As funds are raised the bulk of them should be sent to the national defense office after defraying local expenses.

#### Media work

The case of Héctor Marroquín has received scanty news coverage so far. The tour will be a good opportunity to turn this situation around.

Every area should assign someone to organize this aspect of the tour at least two to three weeks in advance. Interviews can be lined up with reporters for the major daily newspapers in each city. We can expect that the Black and Chicano press will be the most receptive, and we will want to pay special attention to approaching them.

Radio and TV stations should also be approached, targeting news interview shows on local stations. We should make sure to contact the media in advance with invitations to attend and cover all the meetings for Marroquín. In some areas it may be possible to organize news conferences for Marroquín, along with other prominent endorsers of his fight for asylum.

#### Literature

The tour will be an excellent opportunity to distribute the new literature available. Comrades will want to make sure to push sales of the new button and pamphlet, My Story, at every meeting.

Areas should make sure they have enough literature on hand for the tour. Materials can be ordered by filling out the enclosed order form and mailing it to the Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee in New York.

#### Recruiting to the YSA and SWP

National tours by leaders of our movement have always been one of the best vehicles to win new members to the YSA and SWP. Héctor Marroquín's upcoming national speaking tour provides us with the opportunity to explain our ideas to radicalizing working people and youth, and recruit them to our movement.

In addition to the public meetings and media interviews for Marroquín, areas can plan more informal activities, where members and contacts of our movement can meet and talk with Marroquín, and with each other. Dinners, receptions, and parties are all good ways to do this. We will want to pay special attention to inviting people we know are interested in the YSA and SWP to attend such gatherings.

The SWP and YSA have a very real potential to recruit  
(over)

## Organizing the Tour/4

through our work in the Marroquín defense. We want to win support for Marroquín's right to asylum on a civil liberties basis--regardless of whether or not individuals agree with our politics. But this defense campaign will also spotlight the political ideas of the YSA and SWP, attracting people we meet through the Marroquín defense to our program. To take best advantage of this side of the defense campaign we must organize recruitment work as carefully as every other aspect of this work.

HECTOR MARROQUIN DEFENSE COMMITTEE

Materials Order Form

Name/Area \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

<u>No.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Cost</u>
_____	Brochure: "Torture, Death, or the Right to Asylum?"	2.5¢ each	_____
_____	Petition	1¢ each	_____
_____	Appeal for Asylum	1¢ each	_____
_____	Endorser card	1¢ each	_____
_____	Campus Appeal	1¢ each	_____
_____	Button: "Political asylum for Héctor Marroquín"	50¢/35¢ for 10 or more	_____
_____	Pamphlet: "My Story" by Héctor Marroquín		
_____	English	50¢/35¢ for 10 or more	_____
_____	Spanish	50¢/35¢ for 10 or more	_____

Send to: Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee, 853 Broadway,  
Room 414, New York, N.Y.  
10003 phone: (212) 254-6062

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSED IS: \_\_\_\_\_