

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING No. 22, June 2, 1978

Present: Blackstock, Breitman, Britton, Clark, Dixon, Garza, Hawkins, Jaquith, D. Jenness, L. Jenness, Kramer, LaMont, Reid, Seigle, Stapleton, Stone, Waters, White

Guests: Barnes, Feldman, Prince

Chair: Blackstock

AGENDA: 1. N.Y. Peace Demonstration
2. U.S. Imperialist Offensive and Black Africa
3. Active Workers and Socialist Educational Conference
4. National Committee Assignment

1. N.Y. PEACE DEMONSTRATION

D. Jenness reported on the significance of the peace demonstration in New York, May 27, sponsored by the Mobilization for Survival. He proposed that we become more involved in the Mobilization for Survival and in future such peace actions, including the August 6-9 local actions. (See June 23, 1978, Militant.)

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

2. U.S. IMPERIALIST OFFENSIVE AND BLACK AFRICA

(Baumann, Frankel, Hansen, Harsch, and Seidman invited for this point.)

Barnes proposed major roundup article in Militant on anti-imperialist struggle in Black Africa since 1974, including events in Angola, Ethiopia, Zaire, and Southern Africa. The article should include correction of Militant's "tilt" toward Somalia in Somalia-Ethiopia war earlier this year and evaluation of role of Cuban troops in it.

Discussion

Agreement on basic evaluation of Angolan events, role of Cuban troops against South African invasion, importance of Ethiopian revolution, upsurge in Southern Africa, and offensive of American imperialism in Africa and against Cuba.

Agreement to continue discussion on assessment of Ethiopia-Somalia war at future meeting.

(over)

3. ACTIVE WORKERS AND SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE
(Senter invited for this point.)

Waters reported on proposals for the major presentations at conference.

The Secretariat has assigned Andrea Morell to take charge of overall political organization of conference, in collaboration with Bernie Senter, the conference coordinator.

Waters also proposed that a meeting of the Political Committee be scheduled at Oberlin immediately following the close of the Active Workers and Socialist Educational Conference to begin the leadership discussion on Cuba. We will invite all National Committee members who can stay to do so, as well as members of the leadership bodies of sections of the Fourth International.

The discussion on Cuba in the PC will be in two phases. The first phase will be a review of the SWP's political stance toward and theoretical analysis of the Cuban revolution as the revolution developed. The second phase will be a discussion of our analysis of and line toward the Cuban revolution and the Castro regime today.

The meeting at Oberlin will be limited to the first phase of the discussion.

After completing the first phase, the PC will decide the schedule and form for the second phase of the discussion.

Discussion

Motion: To approve.

Carried.

4. NATIONAL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT

Seigle reported on proposal from Secretariat that Harry Ring, who has been head of Militant Southwest Bureau, transfer to New York to strengthen staff of the paper. The Southwest Bureau would be closed for the present time. This move is in line with general need to cut costs and make maximum use of limited resources.

Motion: To approve.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned.