

MINUTES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

December 16, 17, 18, 19, 1978

Saturday, December 16

Convened by Clark--9:35 a.m.

Motion: That Pulley chair this session

Carried.

Welcoming of international guests.

Attendance:

Regular: Bailey, Barnes, Blackstock, Breitman, Britton, Camejo, Chertov, Clark, DeBerry, C. Garza, Halstead, Hawkins, Horowitz, Jaquith, D. Jenness, L. Jenness, Jones, Kramer, LaMont, Levine, Lovell, Lund, Lyons, Manuel (Saturday, Sunday, Monday), Miah, Morell, Pulley (Saturday and Sunday), Reid (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday), Ring, Rodríguez, Seigle, Sheppard, Stapleton, Stone, Thomas, Warren (Saturday and Sunday), Waters, Weinstein, Wohlforth (Saturday and Sunday), P. Wright (Saturday and Sunday)

Alternates: Brundy, Foley, Evans, Matson, Henderson, Zimmermann, Harris, Feldman, Gallo, Shilman, Roberts, Olsen, Finkel, McBride, Mackler, Vásquez, Dawson, Rose, Markey (Saturday and Sunday), Meyers, Ariza (Sunday and Monday), Musa, Prince, R. Wright (Saturday and Sunday), Austin, Feeley, Leonard, Lubrano, Sedwick, McCutcheon, Johnston (Saturday and Sunday), Williams (Saturday, Sunday, Monday)

Control Commission: V. Garza, Scheer, Stewart

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE PLENUM

Clark reported recommendations of the Political Committee on organization of the plenum.

Motion: To approve the following procedural recommendations:

1. That in cases of procedural disputes, discussion be limited to two speakers, one for and one against, and that each speaker be limited to two minutes.
2. That general discussion be limited to eight minutes per speaker and that no one speak twice until all who wish to speak have already done so.

(over)

3. That the Presiding Committee consist of: Barnes, Britton, Clark, Hawkins, D. Jenness, Lyons, Sedwick, Seigle, Sheppard, Stone, and Waters.
4. To designate Fowler, Robohm, and Roche as secretaries.
5. To invite as observers: Control Commission members, heads of national departments, members of the YSA National Executive Committee, local organizers, branch organizers, and special guests.
6. To give voice to all organizers during discussion of the Organization Report.

Carried.

Motion: To approve the following agenda and schedule as attached:

1. Organization of the Plenum
2. World Political Resolution
3. Political Report
4. Organization Report
5. Cuba
6. Africa and Antiapartheid Campaign
7. Election of Political Committee
8. International Women's Resolution
9. World Movement Reports (Canada and Mexico)

Carried.

Motion: To give voice to the United Secretariat delegation, International Executive Committee members, and a representative from the Organizing Committee for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International (OCRFI) during the discussion of the World Political Resolution report.

Carried.

2. WORLD POLITICAL RESOLUTION

Sheppard reported.

Motion: That extended discussion time be given to a representative of the Organizing Committee for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International (OCRFI).

Carried.

Discussion: L. Pierre

Recess--12:42 p.m.

Reconvene--2:15 p.m.

Motion from Presiding Committee: To give voice under this point to Comrade Cyrus of the Sattar League.

Carried.

Further discussion on the World Political Resolution report:
Camejo, Evans, Thomas, Roberts, Olsen, Wohlforth,
Barnes, Henderson, Horowitz, Feeley, Cyrus, Breitman,
Clark, L. Pierre.

Summary: Sheppard

3. POLITICAL REPORT

Barnes reported.

Recess--6 p.m.

Reconvene--7:05 p.m.

Discussion on the Political Report: Lovell, Thomas, C. Garza,
Pulley, Rose, Kramer, Johnston, Rodríguez, Finkel,
Musa, Markey, Weinstein, Halstead, McBride, Britton,
Jones

Motion from Presiding Committee: That the three remaining speakers conclude the discussion, followed by the summary.

Carried.

Discussion: Wohlforth, Mackler, Warren

Summary: Barnes

Motion: That proposals for endorsement of or support for referenda, initiatives, and other similar ballot items be referred to the Political Committee by branches, locals, or districts in the same way that party endorsement for any non-party candidate is brought before the Political Committee.

Carried.

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular:	39 for
	0 against
	0 abstentions
Consultative:	31 for
	0 against
	0 abstentions

Carried.

Recess--10:30 p.m.

(over)

Sunday, December 17

Reconvene--10 a.m.

Motion from the Presiding Committee: That Zimmermann chair this session.

Carried.

4. ORGANIZATION REPORT

Waters reported.

Discussion: Rose, Ressler, L. Jenness, Foley, Vásquez, Henderson, S. Singer, Levine

Recess--1 p.m.

Reconvene--2:30 p.m.

Further discussion on Organization Report: Newton, Austin, Kelly, Seidman, Lovell, Brundy, Pulley, Miah, Gurewitz, Halstead, Stone, Matson, Barnes

Motion from Presiding Committee: That after end of Organization Report discussion and summary, to hear Cuba Minority Report and postpone Cuba Majority Report to Monday morning.

Carried.

Discussion continued: Tarnopol, Ring, Weinstein, McBride, Markey, Dawson, J. Johnson, Gannon, Rosenstock

Summary: Waters

Motion: To concur with the Political Committee decision to establish the Chicago-Gary Area District and the New York-Northern New Jersey District; and to approve the by-laws adopted by each district convention. (See attached.)

Vote:

Regular: 38 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Consultative: 29 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Carried.

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular: 38 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Consultative: 29 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Carried.

Recess--6:10 p.m.

Reconvene--6:30 p.m.

5. CUBA, MINORITY REPORT

Wohlforth reported.

Recess--8:40 p.m.

Monday, December 18

Reconvene--9:35 a.m.

Motion from Presiding Committee: That Henderson chair this session.

Carried.

6. CUBA, MAJORITY REPORT

Seigle reported.

Motion from Presiding Committee that Breitman be first speaker in discussion and be given 1/2 hour to speak.

Carried.

Discussion: Breitman

Motion from Presiding Committee that Barnes be next speaker in discussion and be given 1/2 hour to speak.

Carried.

Discussion: Barnes, Thomas, C. Garza, DeBerry, Foley, Miah

Motion from Presiding Committee to adjust schedule to have discussion on Cuba until 7:15, hear two 15-minute summaries; and to adjourn at 10:45 p.m.

Carried.

(over)

Recess--1:04 p.m.

Reconvene--2:04 p.m.

Further discussion on Cuba reports: Lyons, Kramer, Sheppard,
Feeley, Ring, Camejo

Recess--3:00 p.m.

Reconvene--6:35 p.m.

Motion from Presiding Committee: To reduce speaking time to seven minutes.

Carried.

Discussion continued: Mackler, Olsen, Lund, Feldman, Weinstein

Summary, Minority: Levine

Summary, Majority: Seigle

Motion: To approve the general line of the Majority Report:

Vote:

Regular: 29 for
2 against
0 abstentions

Consultative: 29 for
1 against
0 abstentions

Carried.

Motion: To approve the general line of the Minority Report.

Vote:

Regular: 2 for
29 against
0 abstentions

Consultative: 1 for
29 against
0 abstentions

Defeated.

(Written statement submitted following vote: "We voted for the general line of the Minority Report even though we disagree with the view that Cuba is a workers' state, deformed, degenerated, or otherwise. Our vote signifies agreement simply with the call for a new, revolutionary party in Cuba and an orientation to a new revolution there." Signed: Kramer, Levine and Olsen)

7. AFRICA AND ANTIAPARTHEID CAMPAIGN

Hawkins reported.

Motion from Presiding Committee: To adjust the schedule and reduce speaking time to six minutes.

Carried.

Discussion: Olsen, Thomas, Dawson, Vásquez, Barnes

Motion from Presiding Committee: To grant voice to Green from the YSA National Executive Committee under this point.

Carried.

Discussion continued: Green, Evans, Halstead, Sheppard, Waters

Recess--10 p.m.

Tuesday, December 19

Reconvene--9:38 a.m.

Motion from Presiding Committee: That Lubrano chair this session.

Carried.

Further discussion on Africa and Antiapartheid Campaign report:
Roberts, Musa, Harris, Sedwick, Barnes

Summary: Hawkins

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular:	33 for
	0 against
	0 abstentions
Consultative:	30 for
	0 against
	0 abstentions

Carried.

8. ELECTION OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Barnes reported.

Discussion: Henderson, Barnes

(over)

Motion: That a literary discussion be held in the party discussion bulletin on Cuba and the five resolutions now before the world movement: "The World Political Situation and the Tasks of the Fourth International"; "Socialist Revolution and the Struggle for Women's Liberation"; "Socialist Democracy and the Dictatorship of the Proletariat"; "Resolution on Latin America"; "The Crisis in Capitalist Europe and the Present Tasks of the Fourth International." That the literary discussion be opened with the publication of the Europe resolution and the report on Cuba adopted by the plenum.

Vote:

Regular: 34 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Consultative: 30 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Carried.

Motion: That the Political Committee consist of 17 members including one to be selected by the YSA National Executive Committee.

Vote:

Regular: 34 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Consultative: 30 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Carried.

Barnes nominates: Barnes, Britton, Clark, Dixon, Hawkins, Horowitz, Jaquith, D. Jenness, L. Jenness, Kramer, Lyons, Morell, Ring, Seigle, Stone, Waters

Further nominations: None

Motion: To close nominations.

Carried.

Motion: To elect nominees.

Vote:

Regular: 34 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Consultative: 30 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Carried.

Motion: To hear a special report by Stapleton on party campaign against government cover-up in Tony Adams case in Salt Lake City. To hear a special point by Camejo on Peru; to adjust schedule to adjourn on time.

Carried.

SPECIAL INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON SALT LAKE CITY

Stapleton reported on public campaign demanding full investigation into the frame-up and murder of Tony Adams.

9. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S RESOLUTION

Lyons reported.

Recess--1:13 p.m.

Reconvene--2:22 p.m.

Discussion: Feeley, Lund, Gallo, Jaquith, Waters, Reid, Morell

Motion: To give voice to a representative of the OCRFI, and then to hear three final speakers.

Carried.

Discussion continued: L. Pierre, Brundy, Rodríguez, Stone

Summary: Lyons

Motion: To approve the general line of the report on women's liberation perspectives for the SWP. (No vote on resolution.)

Vote:

Regular: 34 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Consultative: 30 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Carried.

(over)

SPECIAL INFORMATIONAL POINT ON PERU

Camejo reported.

10. WORLD MOVEMENT REPORTS

Horowitz reported on Mexico.

Motion from Presiding Committee to give voice under this point to two leaders of the Mexican PRT.

Discussion: Jaramillo, Barnes, Aranda, Halstead, Lund, Sheppard

Summary: Horowitz

Motion: To send delegation to plenum of PRT.

Vote:

Regular: 34 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Consultative: 30 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Carried.

D. Jenness reported on Canada.

Motion from presiding Committee to give voice under this point to two leaders of Canadian RWL/LOR.

Carried.

Discussion: Lachance, Xaviere

Singing of the Internationale

Plenum adjourned--8:07 p.m.

PROPOSED PLENUM SCHEDULE -- DECEMBER 16-19, 1978

Saturday, December 16

9:30 - 9:45 Organization of Plenum (1/4 hour)
9:45 - 11:00 World Political Resolution (1 1/4 hours)
11:00 - 12:30 Discussion (3 1/2 hours total)
12:30 - 2:00 Lunch (1 1/2 hours)
2:00 - 4:00 Discussion, Continued (2 hours)
4:00 - 4:30 Summary (1/2 hour)
4:30 - 5:45 Political Report (1 1/4 hours)
5:45 - 6:45 Dinner (1 hour)
6:45 - 9:45 Discussion (3 hours total)

Sunday, December 17

9:30 - 10:00 Summary (1/2 hour)
10:00 - 11:15 Organization Report (1 1/4 hours)
11:15 - 1:00 Discussion (4 hours total)
1:00 - 2:30 Lunch (1 1/2 hours)
2:30 - 4:45 Discussion (2 1/4 hours)
4:45 - 5:15 Summary (1/2 hour)
5:15 - 6:30 Cuba, Majority Report (1 1/4 hours)
6:30 - 7:45 Cuba, Minority Report (1 1/4 hours)

Monday, December 18

9:30 - 1:00 Discussion (3 1/2 hours)
1:00 - 2:00 Lunch (1 hour)
2:00 - 2:30 Minority Summary (1/2 hour)
2:30 - 3:00 Majority Summary (1/2 hour)
3:00 - 7:00 Break (because facilities not available)
7:00 - 8:00 Africa and Antiapartheid Campaign (1 hour)
8:00 - 10:00 Discussion (2 hours total)
10:00 - 10:15 Summary (1/4 hour)

Tuesday, December 19

9:30 - 10:15 Election of Political Committee (3/4 hour)
10:15 - 11:15 Discussion (1 hour)
11:15 - 11:30 Summary (1/4 hour)
11:30 - 12:45 International Women's Resolution (1 1/4 hours)
12:45 - 1:45 Lunch (1 hour)
1:45 - 3:45 Discussion (2 hours total)
3:45 - 4:00 Summary (1/4 hour)
4:00 - 5:30 World Movement Reports (Canada and Mexico) (1 1/2 hours)
5:30 - 7:30 Discussion and Summaries (2 hours)

CHICAGO-GARY AREA DISTRICT BYLAWS as approved by the district convention of the Chicago-Gary Area on October 15, 1978

1. The governing body of the Chicago-Gary Area district of the party shall be the district executive committee.
2. The district executive committee shall be elected by a delegated district convention and shall be subordinate to the district convention.
3. It shall be the duty of the district executive committee to direct the activities of the district, and to act with full power for the district between district conventions.
4. District conventions shall be held at least once a year.
5. Special conventions may be called by the district executive committee or on demand of the branches representing one-third of the district membership.

NEW YORK-NORTHERN NEW JERSEY DISTRICT BYLAWS as approved by the district convention of New York-Northern New Jersey on November 12, 1978

1. The governing body of the New York-Northern New Jersey district of the party shall be the district executive committee.
2. The district executive committee shall be elected by a delegated district convention and shall be subordinate to the district convention.
3. It shall be the duty of the district executive committee to direct the activities of the district, and to act with full power for the district between district conventions.
4. District conventions shall be held at least once a year.
5. Special conventions may be called by the district executive committee or on demand of the branches representing one-third of the district membership.