



STATEN ISLAND COUNCIL FOR PEACE & JUSTICE

P. O. Box 509 • Staten Island, New York 10314

SUBJECT: Consolidation of the U.S. Peace movement

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Dear Friends,

The US Peace Council Sponsoring Committee is now in formation, based mainly on individual US members of the World Peace Council, friends who have participated in various WPC activities, as well as local peace organizations that wish to be identified with the national effort. The goal here is not to place emphasis on accumulating long lists of sponsors. Rather, it is to gather those forces which do now, in fact, identify with the WPC, and build from there. Particularly at this moment, with a period of great activity around disarmament approaching in the Fall, there is a need to identify and consolidate the US peace movement in order to project it on the scene in the coming months.

In this sense, I would like to hear from you as soon as possible as to whether or not our Council wishes to be identified as part of the national US Peace Council Sponsoring Committee. If I do not hear from you by September 6th, I will assume that the reply is positive. The national effort would like to hear from local peace groups around the country by September 7th.

In carrying out its emphasis in several areas of work -- disarmament and the Stockholm Peace Appeal, as well as activity around Southern Africa, the Mideast, Chile, I would like to report the following:

a) The WPC has declared October 15th as International Disarmament Day -- the day upon which peace forces around the world will carry out massive activities to end the arms race, push for an international disarmament conference, etc.

In addition to the activities already being planned by US Peace Council committees around the country, the newly-formed disarmament coalition, "Mobilization for Survival", is planning a week-long national program of teach-ins and protest actions around that time.

We should begin thinking about our October plans, so that we can relay to the national office our activity and help benefit other committees from our program.



b) In terms of peace work around the Mideast, a national organizing conference will be held in late November concerning human rights of Palestinians in the occupied territories. The formation of the Palestine Human Rights Campaign is most promising since it is not anti-Israel or anti-Arab, but rather pro-human rights, self-determination and peace for all peoples in the Mideast. In line with this, they are sponsoring speaking tours of prominent Israeli and Arab peace personalities, issuing material, and carrying out legislative work on the question of military aid to that part of the world. The US Peace Council is a member of this coalition and plans to support building this movement.

Also in relation to the Mideast, the US Peace Council has been invited to send a US delegation to the October 14-15 World Conference for a Just Peace in the Mideast, to be held in Paris. Details concerning size of the delegation, cost, etc. will be available right after Labor Day.

Our Jewish Issues Committee, which has been doing fine work around the struggles against anti-semitism, will undoubtedly be taking up this question in the near future.

c) The 23 person US delegation to the Lisbon World Conference Against Apartheid, Racism, and Colonialism held in June made several commitments to carry the work of that Conference to the United States. The most important was to provide the initiative for organizing a Fall People's Assembly Against Racism and Apartheid -- a national meeting that would bring together the broadest possible forces to agree upon united campaigns against apartheid to carry out over the next period. Since its still in its early planning stages, there is nothing definite to report now, but details will be passed on as they become available.

I feel that it would be a fine opportunity for our Southern Africa committee to get in touch with this national organizing effort against racism.

I hope to hear from you by September 6th, and look forward to working more closely and consistently from now on. After several ups and downs, the national peace movement is now moving rapidly ahead and I have great confidence that our Council will become a living part of that forward movement.

Sincerely yours, for Peace
and Justice,

Angela D'Angelo

Angelo D'Angelo
acting coordinator for
the Steering Committee.



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