

NEW YORK PARTY MOBILIZER



6th Floor • 235 West 23rd Street, New York, New York 10011 • (212) 924-0550

January 11, 1988

---MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY ACTIVITIES TO BE OCCASIONS
OF PROTEST AGAINST RACIST VIOLENCE AND ALL FORMS OF RACISM

---ALL OUT IN NEW YORK CITY TO SUPPORT JANUARY 18 - 1:00 P.M.
CITY HALL DEMONSTRATION AGAINST RACIST VIOLENCE AND IN
SUPPORT OF LAW AGAINST RACIST AND ANTI-SEMITIC VIOLENCE!!

Statement on the Howard Beach Verdict

by Jarvis Tyner, Chairperson, C.P.N.Y.S.

The recent verdict in the Howard Beach trial engenders a mixed response to say the least. But it must be recognized that what has happened so far was a basic result of a growing mass upsurge against racism. The mass marches and demonstrations and rallies which have been initiated by the African-American community but included trade unionists, peace activists, New Yorkers of every race and nationality acting against racism have brought about a new situation. The anti-racist spirit is being awakened among people and if its full potential is reached the forces of racism will suffer an enormous setback in our city, state and nation.

We do not doubt that the young racist thugs who chased Michael Griffith to his death did intend to kill him. According to various accounts, that is what they said they were going to do, and that is what they did. Furthermore, even after they saw Michael Griffith's body thrown 20 feet in the air by a high speed auto and fall crushed and lifeless to the ground, they still went after Cefric Sandiford and beat him until they thought he was also dead. If this is not intent, then what is?

It is our view that the appropriate verdict should have been guilty of murder. The jury decided differently. However, it is clear that on that awful night of December 21, 1986 in Howard Beach, the gang of racist thugs did not see their victims as human beings. They had no feeling for them whatsoever. Even when they heard them cry out in anguish, they continued to attack. It is also clear that they were convinced that no matter what

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they did to these Black men, they would never have to pay for their heinous crimes. And that is the crux of the matter.

There is a pattern in our city of incident after incident of racist violence by police and racist gangs (often you cannot tell them apart) where the racists are set free. Racist violence is defacto legal in New York City. And that is the other side of the coin in the Howard Beach verdict. The jury did break the "no conviction" precedent involving cases of racist violence. The guilty verdict on 2 serious crimes means a prison sentence of from 5 to 15 years for each crime. Though not enough, it is, nevertheless, a break from the old precedent and opens the way to push for the stronger punishment in future cases and for new, stronger laws against acts of racist violence. We hasten to add that the four will not be sentenced until January 25. Special Prosecutor Hynes says he will ask for the maximum, but it is very important that the mass pressure that helped to bring this case to trial in the first place be continued.

Much is at stake in the struggle. What we are dealing with is more than the racist attitudes of "some kids" in Howard Beach, Queens. There is a system of racist oppression that must be defeated. In New York City, as in much of the nation, there is a system of segregated neighborhoods. In these neighborhoods Black and Latino people are not allowed to rent or buy. There are organized racist gangs who roam these areas and feel they can attack and/or kill any Black or Latino, or, in some cases, Asian or Jewish person for the simple act of being in that neighborhood. In that way they keep those neighborhoods segregated. Segregated housing is a gold mine for the real estate capitalist and is a basic part of the whole housing shortage/high rent crisis in New York City. Koch is wholly committed to the real estate interest. Ever since he has been mayor he has been openly opposed to any real advance in African-American and Latino equality. He has a long record of insensitivities and transgressions when it comes to civil rights. Is it any surprise that the local police in those segregated areas got the message and readily cooperate with the racist gangs? Apartheid, New York style, (all the way down to the racist gangs) functions because the power structure, the Mayor in the first place, allows it to function.

It is, therefore, not surprising that Koch's response to the Howard Beach verdict included a racist charge that Black people commit more acts of racist violence against the white people than white people commit against Black people. This is, of course, not true, as recent events and study after study have shown. Koch's position is nothing more than a coverup, indeed a rationale, for the continued existence of widespread system segregation and discrimination and widespread organized racist violence in defense of that system in our city, state and nation.

Koch is not opposed to the system - he is part of it. It is significant that the Mayor has not uttered a word about the Israeli government's continued oppression and current campaign

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of fascist repression against the Palestinian people on the West Bank and Gaza. This is the same Koch who is constantly speaking out for the so-called "human rights" in the socialist countries and in progressive countries like Nicaragua. Koch makes his false charge that the biggest problem is Blacks attacking whites, in tandem with the recent wave of vicious racist attacks like the police murder of Yvonne Smallwood and the KKK attack on Towanna Brawley in Westchester. This and the fact that he supported Bernhard Goetz and every policeman who has been charged with acts of racist brutality or murder, speaks volumes about his so-called belief in human rights.

The growing militancy in the struggle and the possibility of greater unity of Black, white, Latino and Asian against racism really frightens the big Wall Street bankers and real estate moguls who are behind Koch and Reagan. These forces know that harder economic times are coming and they'd rather muster a real fightback against imposed hard conditions which results in higher exploitation and higher profits.

Many good demands are being put forward. Key demands are for new and tougher laws against racist and anti-Semitic violence, civilian control of the police, and the appointment of a full-time special prosecutor to handle cases of racist violence. There is legislation pending in Albany and City Hall on many of these questions. If passed, this legislation will improve democratic rights and the well-being and safety of all New Yorkers. What is needed is the united intervention of the people to guarantee passage. This will be a giant step toward silencing the racists for good.

On Monday, January 18, Martin Luther King's Birthday, such a united action is being organized. Some of our city's most important elected officials, trade unions, Afro-American, Latino, religious, peace and civil rights forces are coming together calling for a united multi-racial march on City Hall against racist violence and for equality.

This march will particularly focus on the demand to pass the Patterson Bill against racist and anti-Semitic violence and for a special prosecutor. Other vital issues like homelessness, hunger and crisis in education will also be raised.

To help built the action and support for the pending legislation, hundreds of people are already circulating a petition in support of the Patterson Bill. Every club, every Communist should do their utmost to help mobilize themselves and their mass organizations and contacts, family, friends and co-workers to be present on January 18. TIME IS SHORT - DON'T WAIT - ACT NOW!! Thousands of united multi-racial marchers against racism on Jan 18 will give a resounding rebuff to Koch, Wall Street, and the forces of racism in this town. For leaflets and more information, contact the District Office. ALL OUT FOR JANUARY 18!!

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PDW SPECIAL ISSUE - JAN 14 - WILL BE A SPECIAL ISSUE ON MARTIN LUTHER KING JR LIFE AND LEGACY. IT WILL INCLUDE MANY N.Y. ARTICLES: AN OP ED ITEM ON ANTI-RACIST UNITY BY COMRADE TYNER. ALL CLUBS SHOULD CALL PDW CIRCULATION DEPT BEFORE JAN 13 TO ORDER BUNDLE & CALL DISTRICT TO DISTRIBUTE P.D.W. AT JAN 18 DEMONSTRATION.
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DECISIONS OF STATE COMMITTEE MEETING - DECEMBER 19, 1987

A. Political Action

- 1- Approved Resolution of Central Committee on approach to 1988 elections.
- 2- Approved running of candidate for U.S. Senate and goal of at least one candidate in each NYC borough.
- 3- Candidates to run on left line.
- 4- Called for Party involvement in immediate process of broad anti-Reagan electoral activities.
- 5- Support for and involvement in voter registration.

B. Finance

- 1- Agreed to set up a District Finance Committee accountable directly to the State Committee and the Board.
- 2- The District Finance Committee will be responsible for:
 - a- preparation of annual and monthly budget for the Party.
 - b- monthly analysis and reporting of income/expenses in line with the budget plan.
 - c- annual plan for District and clubs' fund-raising to meet Party and PDW fund drives.
- 3- Since the current District Fund Drive had only reached 33% mark, it was agreed that the most urgent task is to complete the drive by February and to give special assistance to clubs in serious arrears with their goals.
- 4- By the next State Committee meeting of Feb 6, the following is to be ready:
 - a- draft of 1988 District budget.
 - b- proposed plan for PDW 1988 fund drive.
 - c- initial organization of District Finance Committee.

C. Other

- 1- Approved proposals for MLK Jr celebration activities.
- 2- Approved proposals on Labor Commission & Political Action Comm.
- 3- Approved report on furlough of Kevin Mercadel from position of Harlem Section Organizer.
- 4- Approved Goldie Levenson to work on finances and Anita G. to be responsible for Membership and Public Relations.

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PREPARING YOUR CLUB AND YOUR COMRADES FOR 1988

With the New Year behind us and Club Conferences in front of us, the following are some ideas on how to prepare the Party for 1988. We want to emphasize that key to a successful 1988 is preparation. Therefore, while we hope that all clubs will complete registration by Feb 1 and that all club conferences will take place in either January or February, club conferences that are well prepared and well thought out are preferable to club conferences that simply happen without any significant collective preparation. This is

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especially true since 1988 is a key election year and election plans have to be a major part of all club activities for 1988.

Registration

Registration need to be thorough both quantitatively and qualitatively. Thoroughness does not simple mean filling out a complete form. Thoroughness does mean from a quantitative point of view visiting and registering every member including those "inactive" members who have been to few club meetings during the year. Thoroughness from a qualitative point means a full discussion with the comrades on their participation and their view of the club. It means using the meetings as an opportunity to bring dues and pledges up to date and to discuss the comrades' relationship to the press, Party building, and based on the preliminary discussions of the club plan, how the comrade relates to the club's ongoing work.

Questions for the Clubs Conference

Most of the following questions should be useful to ask (and answer) in preparing for the club conference:

- What is the geographic concentration of the club (shop and/or neighborhood) and how has the club worked to develop the work in the concentration area through involvement in mass initiatives, use of the PDW, Party building, etc?
- What is the basic economic struggle the club has centered its work on? What successes? Failures? Problems? If clubs have not developed an orientation on economic struggle, what are the problems? What kind of help is needed to develop this orientation?
- How does the club utilize the PDW? Does the club organize its work around the PDW? Does the club unite articles - know the readers - try to involve them in mass initiatives/forums, etc?
- What is approach to Party building? Are there regular forums-recruiting lists, etc? If the club recruited one, two or no new comrades in 1987, how is this explained? What needs to be done to rectify the situation? What kind of help is needed?
- Is the club organized to deal with finances on a regular basis.. dues, pledges, fund raising events, etc?

The Club and the 1988 Elections

The first area (since chronologically this is the most immediate) is involvement in the mobilization of independent forces in the campaigns of anti-Reagan candidates and in building anti-Reagan unity (see Calendar for time table). We need to know in our areas of work what anti-Reagan forces are doing and how we can participate and help.

With the decision of the State Committee to run a candidate against Moynihan, all clubs will have a concrete way to relate to a left independent campaign. Because the 40,000 petition goal is the same as a presidential petition campaign, clubs should prepare now for a major effort in the mid July-mid September petition period. This includes scheduling meetings at times other than the petition drive. For the clubs, the campaign offers tremendous opportunities even more so when there's a local candidate. The question of a big vote rests particularly with the club planning a good agitational

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campaign. However, in the main, the club has to discuss questions such as: how to conduct the campaign in our concentration area (what E.D.'s will we carry, etc.) - how to link the campaign to mass struggle and how to utilize the campaign to develop mass struggle - the campaign link in promoting anti-Reagan sentiment - involving non-Party friends in the campaign - building the Party.

Preparing the Club Conference

The District will send a member of the State Committee to all club conferences. However, we wish to emphasize that it is our priority to meet with club execs before the conferences in order to help in the planning. Please call Larry at the District Office with the date of your club conference and pre-conference exec meeting.

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CALENDAR

- JANUARY - FEBRUARY...Club Conference
- JANUARY 11Gus Hall Donahue Show
- JANUARY 181:00 PM City Hall Demonstration Against
Racist Violence-FULL MOBILIZATION OF PARTY
AND FRIENDS
- JANUARY 22..... Housing Justice Campaign Rally - City Hall
Park-Noon-City Council Hearing 10:00 AM
- JANUARY 21..... Start of Six Week Introduction to Marxism-
Leninism Course - 6:30-9:00 PM - 6th Floor***
- JANUARY 25..... Start of Petitioning for Delegates to Demo-
cratic National Convention
- FEBRUARY 6..... State Committee Meeting
- FEBRUARY 19..... Last Day to Register to Vote for April 19
Primary
- FEBRUARY 25..... Filing of Petitions
- APRIL 19..... Presidential Primary
- JULY 8..... Last Day to Register to Vote in September
Primary (tentative)
- JULY 19..... Petitioning Starts for Independent Candidates
(tentative)
- SEPTEMBER 13..... Primary and Filing of Independent Petitions
(tentative)
- OCTOBER 8..... Last Day to Rester to Vote in the November
Election
- NOVEMBER 8..... ELECTION DAY

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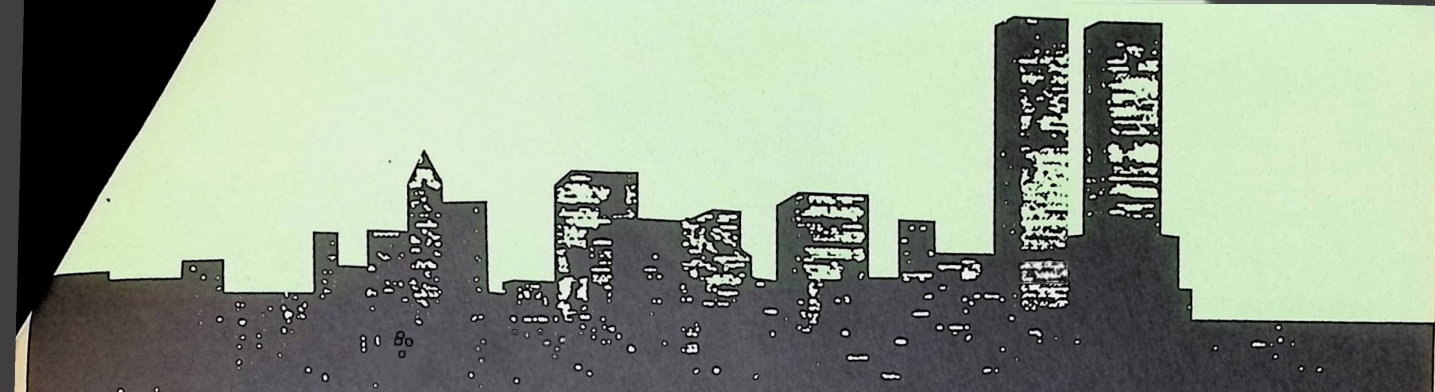
***ATTENTION ALL CLUBS!! ALL NEW PARTY MEMBERS!!

There will be a class on FUNDAMENTALS OF MARXISM-LENINISM:

On six consecutive Thursdays, starting Thursday, January 21 through February 25, 6:30 - 9:00 PM, 6 Floor, 235 West 23 Street.

The class will be taught by Comrades Lou Diskin and Carol Pittman. All new members (as of September 1986) are especially invited to attend, but these classes are open to any Party member who feels she/he would benefit.

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MARCH FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

A March and Rally in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his struggle for dignity and respect.

March to demand the passage of legislation that will outlaw racist and biased-motivated violence and will establish a permanent Special Prosecutor to investigate and prosecute acts of racial violence.

March in recognition of a multi-racial struggle to create a climate in New York City that guarantees racial justice and equality.

The incidents of racially-motivated violence are on the rise. The Police Department records show that racially-motivated incidents in New York City have doubled in 1987 as compared with 1986. We are equally concerned at the rise of police abuse and racially-motivated brutality.

These attacks diminish all of us. We need to unite Black, white, latino, and Asian—to join together in the struggle for justice, equality and basic human rights.

Carry on the Spirit and Success of Dr. King in the March for Racial Justice.

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Monday, January 18, 1988 • NYC City Hall • 1 p.m.

PETITION

Campaign to Outlaw Racist and Anti-Semitic Violence

To: Governor Cuomo, Mayor Koch, State Legislature, City Council

We, the people of New York City and State, vigorously protest and condemn the racist violence that has claimed the lives of, or injured, Michael Griffith, Willie Turks, Michael Phillips, Rafael Gonzalez, Pedro Molina, Luis Rodriguez, Wajid Abdul-Salaam and unfortunately many others. We want racist and anti-semitic violence outlawed. Therefore, we, the people, hereby petition our government and state our grievances as follows:

1) That both the state legislature and city council enact, as an emergency measure, legislation which will outlaw racist and anti-semitic violence by imposing criminal and civil sanctions against any person or group of persons found guilty of committing or conspiring to commit:

- murders and lynchings of persons because of race, religion or national origin;
- assaults and other non-fatal attacks on members of these groups;
- interfering with the rights of racial and language minorities to vote and hold public office;
- interfering with the rights of persons based on race, religion and national origin to live and purchase property where they choose;
- defacing or damaging, because of race, religion or national origin, any property primarily used for religious, educational, residential, memorial, charitable or burial purposes;

2) That Governor Cuomo appoint a permanent special prosecutor to conduct independent investigations of incidents of racist violence including racially motivated acts of police brutality.

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Please return petition to:
Task Force to Outlaw Racist and Anti-Semitic Violence
National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression
126 West 119th Street, New York, N.Y. 10026 (212) 866-8600

LD

PETICION

Para Proscribir La Violencia Racista e Anti-Semético

A: Gobernador Cuomo, Alcorde Koch, Legislatura Estatal, Concilio de la Ciudad de N.Y.

Nosotros el pueblo del estado y la ciudad de Nueva York, vigorosamente condenamos y protestamos la violencia racista que ha herido o ha dado a muerte a Michael Griffith, Willie Turks, Michael Phillips, Rafael Gonzalez, Pedro Molina, Luis Rodriguez, Wajid Abdul-Salaam, y otros. Queremos la proscripción de la violencia racial y anti-semético. Por ende, la siguiente es petición a nuestro estado y gobierno:

1) Qué la legislatura estatal y el concilio de la ciudad promulgue legislación como medida de emergencia, que proscriba la violencia racista e anti-semético vía la imposición de sanciones criminales y civiles en contra de cualquier persona u grupo de personas culpable de cometer o conspira a cometer:

- asesinato de personas por razones de su raza, religion u origen nacional;
- atropello y otros ataques en contra miembros de mencionados grupos;
- intervenir en los derechos de minorías raciales e lingüísticos;
- intervenir con el derechos a la vivienda y adquisición de propiedades por razones de raza, religion u origen nacional;
- el disfigurar propiedades de tipo religioso, educacional, memorial, funebre, caritativo o residencial.

2) Qué el Gobernador Cuomo nombre un fiscal especial y permanente para que conduzca investigaciones independiente en cuanto a incidentes de violencia racial, incluyendo actos de brutalidad policiaca motivado por el racismo.

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