Politics of RYM II—an analysis

By DOUG JENNES

ATLANTA, Ga.— The RYM II fac-
tion of the Students for a Democratic Society, who held a national conference here Nov. 27-30. According to the con-
cference call there will be “discussions and actions for black liberation, white supremacy, male supremacy, and the direction of RYM II.”

Mike Klomsky, Noel Ignatian and Marv Treiger, Revolutionary Youth Movement II is one of three groups that are preparing for the conference for the allegiance of young radicals in SDS. Many SDSers who are disgusted with the extreme ultra-leftists of the Weather
man faction and with the Worker-
Student Alliance’s reactionary view of Cuba and black nationalism will be interested in seeing what RYM II has to offer.

It is difficult at this time to discuss RYM II’s views because they are evolv-
ing very rapidly, vary from one city to another, and most of them are not written down. Nonetheless, there is enough information to consider some of the positions held by the leadership of this group.

The said test for revolutionary in-
nationalists today is whether or not they are helping to defend the Vietnam-
ese revolution. While the Weather-
men organized the April, 1965, March on Washington, SDS’s record on this ques-
tion has not been good.

Although they were the largest stu-
dent radical organization in the coun-
try, they played absolutely no role in the major national actions. However, even before their split with the Weathermen, the RYM II leaders were beginning to recognize the importance of the anti-
war movement and since the split have taken measures to do something about something else.

What concrete have they proposed to do? Following their split with the Weathermen, RYM II has held a national conference in Detroit in mid-September where they adopted a resolution intro-
duced by Marv Treiger entitled, “Serve the people—Get the U.S. out of Viet-
nam.” The first paragraph begins “RYM II is the first in the U.S. to gath-
ering passes a resolution for action in-
cluding these points: 1) A national ac-
tion in Chicago in the fall relating op-
oposition to the war to the theme of ‘Serve the people.’ 2) A political line for that action taken from the principle slogan “U.S. Get Out of Vietnam” plus a number of secondary slogans. 3) The launching of a year’s solidarity with the Vietnamese including mobilizing for the Nov. 8 local actions and planning a spring offensive of our own against the war.

Not a word in the entire resolution about the then upcoming Nov. 15 march on Washington and San Fran-
cisco not was there any mention of this action in the first issue of their newspaper, Revolutionary Youth Move-
ment, even though the principal de-

tailed plans for black. The U.S. im-
mediate withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Vietnam.

As already pointed out, RYM II organized a relatively small action in Chicago on Oct. 11 aimed primarily at count-
teracting War Memorial’s ven-
ture rather than building a mass ac-

ion against the Vietnam war. The Nov. 8 meeting and the subsequent circulars.

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The absence of a program of their own means that they are highly prone to adopting bits and pieces from other programs especially of reformist cur-
rents. One example is the unrealistic ac-
ceptance by a number of the RYM II leaders of the most pernicious Stalinis-
skadgers against the Trotskyist move-
ment including defense of the Stalinist purge trials and Stalin’s brutal assas-
sination of Leon Trotsky. All of the crimes were perpetrated to crush the revolutionary Marxist tendency so that the reformist politics of Stalinism could pre-
vail.

This acceptance of so monstrous a counter-revolutionary crime is no un-
related to RYM II’s failure to even at-
tempt a political assessment of the Trol-
skyist organizations, the Young Social-
list Alliance and the Socialist Workers

Party. One would assume that if the RYM II leaders are serious in their rejection of Trotskyism they would be dissec-
ting each point that they consider to be in error. How can anyone take serious-
ly those who aspire to be revolution-
ary leaders but do not explain fully where they differ with alternative pro-
grams?