

P.O. Box 471 Cooper Station
New York, N.Y. 10003

February 5, 1975

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND BLACK WORK DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

On January 25, the second national Afrikan Women's Conference was held in Detroit. The conference was initiated by the Congress of African People (CAP). Other sponsors included the Black Workers Congress, the All-Afrikan Peoples Revolutionary Party, the February 1st Movement, and the National Welfare Rights Organization. Over 300 people attended, most of them women. The conference was open to whites, but only a few attended.

The purpose of the conference was to set up the "Black Women's United Front" and decide upon the organization's structure. The Black Women's United Front is projected as a coalition organized around demands of Black women that are anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist, and anti-"bourgeois feminist." Conference organizers stated that the "bourgeois feminist" movement strives for equality within the context of capitalism while what is needed is a movement of Black women directed against imperialism and capitalism.

The January 25 conference was a demonstration of the evolution of, and turn toward Maoism made by CAP since the first Afrikan Women's Conference held in Newark, New Jersey last summer. At that first conference the SWP was the only multinational organization invited to send a speaker and to participate in the conference. In organizing the January 25 conference, however, CAP maintained a completely sectarian attitude. It excluded organizations with which it has programmatic differences, such as the YSA and SWP. We were not allowed to set up a literature table or sell the Militant inside the conference hall. But the October League, for example, was allowed to set up a literature table and sell its press inside the conference hall. Independents who raised points of difference with the projection laid out by the conference organizers were attacked as if they were political opponents.

YSA and SWP members who attended the conference focused our discussions with conference participants on the struggle against racism in Boston. An "Open Letter from Willie Mae Reid" was distributed which urged conference participants to endorse and attend the February 14-16 National Student Conference Against Racism in Boston. There was no response by the leadership and little discussion at the conference on the Boston struggle. Neither the Black Women's United Front nor CAP has yet endorsed the National Student Conference.

Now that the Black Women's United Front has been launched, CAP plans to go out and build chapters of the organization around the country. Comrades should watch for the emergence of local chapters of the United Front. There may be some instances where we may want to participate in and support activities organized by the Black Women's

United Front. CAP's sectarian attitude, however, may cause it to attempt to exclude organizations and individuals they politically disagree with from participating in the United Front's activities. If the sectarian attitude CAP displayed at the Detroit conference persists, it will undoubtedly alienate interested Black women from getting involved in the organization's activities.

The National Office should be informed of any activities of the Black Women's United Front and sent copies of any literature distributed by local chapters.

Comradely,

Nan Bailey

Nan Bailey
YSA National Office