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New York, N.Y. 10014

February 5, 1972

TO ALL NC MEMBERS, ORGANIZERS AND USLA COORDINATORS

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed is a copy of the latest issue of the Young Socialist Organizer. It contains a report made by Terry Hillman to the United States Committee for Justice to Latin American Political Prisoners panel at the recent YSA convention outlining the tasks of all branches and locals on Latin American defense work.

The purpose of this letter is to describe our first goals in more detail and to clarify a number of questions that have come up.

Initial Goals

The USLA Justice Committee is planning a major release to the press March 8, 1972. The focus of this release will be on the broad support gathered in defense of the rights of dissidents in Argentina. USLA will issue the list of endorsing individuals and groups to date and indicate the international support that has been generated as a result of USLA's call to action.

An essential aspect of this release will be an impressive listing of prominent individuals and groups endorsing the campaign in the United States to date. To gain these endorsers, a campaign will be launched to run from now to March 1 to sign up endorsers for the USLA Justice Committee or the Argentine campaign. SWPers and YSAers will want to help in this effort. The committee proposes that areas with 10 USLA supporters or less shoot for 3 sponsors; areas with 11 to 30 supporters try to get 10 endorsers and for areas with more than 30 supporters, 15 sponsors. Though this is a modest number of sponsors, it seems realistic for the first stage of the campaign given the fact that we are trying to sign up prominent individuals and groups.

Before any public notice can be given of endorsement, USLA has to have received signed sponsor cards from these individuals or groups. These have to be in the hands of the USLA Justice Committee by March 1 for the results to be announced March 8.

Some of the initial sponsors for the campaign include Ruth Gage-Colby of NPAC and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Bert Corona, a founder and former president of Mexican-American Political Association and a supporter of the Los Angeles Raza Unida Party; Jules Feiffer, noted cartoonist; Emile de Antonio, maker of Point of Order and Milhouse; Barbara Dane, folk singer; Sidney Lens, author; and The Roof, underground paper.

Involving Others in USLA Work

Recent USLA activities show there is a great deal of interest in this issue and that it will be possible to involve many new forces in the fight to free political prisoners in Latin America. Although the committee does not propose setting up local chapters at this time, it is desirable to involve these new independent forces -- sponsors and friends of the committee -- on an on-going basis.

There are several ways to involve people without forming chapters. First, the local USLA has to have a mailing address and telephone number which can be put on locally distributed materials. This address and phone should not be that of the SWP or YSA headquarters. Different areas have gotten post office boxes or used someone's home address and phone for further information.

People who indicate they want to do work with USLA should be followed up regularly by phone or by mailings telling about local activity and national goals. They can be involved in selling the Reporter, soliciting endorsements, staffing literature tables, organizing speaking engagements, raising money, etc. Some people who endorse the campaign or organization will have access to information that would be useful for Reporter articles. They should be encouraged to write articles or send materials and graphics to New York for the magazine. Every aspect of work that comrades are doing should also be done by other USLA supporters.

One good technique that has been tried in New York to help interest new people in USLA is to have the Militant Labor Forum or a campus group sponsor a panel on Latin America. The panel could be composed of a USLA representative, a professor/sponsor of USLA and a representative of some campus or community group USLA wants to get closer to. USLA work can provide good openings to do common work with Latino and Chicano groups and a forum of this type might be a good way to begin. On most campuses there are also Latin American clubs, Latin American studies program, etc., which can provide speakers and enable USLA to make connections with various Latin American students in your area. These meetings can provide volunteers to help with USLA work if there is a sign-up sheet for those interested in working on the committee.

#### Who Should Sponsor the Committee?

All areas have received two kinds of sponsor cards: cards specifically for the Argentina campaign and cards for USLA sponsors. You have also received copies of the USLA Statement of Aims. A sponsor to the committee as a whole is the most desirable type of sponsor. These people have agreed to the general purpose of the group and thus also endorse each specific campaign of the committee. Any prominent person you meet who shows a lot of interest in the work should be asked to sponsor the ongoing activity of USLA. Others who seem less likely to get involved in the ongoing work of USLA can be asked to endorse only the Argentine campaign.

#### Fund Raising

Frank Grinnon is in charge of fund raising nationally for the USLA Justice Committee. He will be sending out another letter soon pinpointing our tasks in this area. However, all comrades working on USLA should integrate fund raising completely with every visit for sponsorship.

To carry out the plans we have for USIA nationally, all areas should send the national office of USIA 60%, or more if possible, of all funds raised for USIA work. The remaining money raised can be used to defray local expenses.

Comradely,

*Peter Camejo* (RF)

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SWP National Office

*Malik Miah* (RF)

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