

14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014

October 17, 1973

TO ORGANIZERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

With the escalation of the Mideast war, the major task of the party is to educate as many people as possible about the real nature of this conflict. The main way this can be done is through sales of The Militant and meetings where representatives of the YSA and SWP can present our position.

It is already clear that there is more receptivity to our ideas about the Mideast now than was the case during the 1967 war. The Militant has been enthusiastically received not only in Arab communities but elsewhere as well. Brooklyn, for example, reports that after four days of selling the October 26 issue ("Behind Israeli Aggression") they have almost sold their quota. They sold 110 copies in the Arab community and 42 copies in one day at Brooklyn College, a traditional stronghold for Zionism and the JDL.

The Arab community has responded to the outbreak of the war with meetings and rallies and we want to continue to be at these events, showing support and selling The Militant. Detroit sold out of their bundle of 290 Militants in less than an hour at a demonstration in the Arab community. At a meeting of 500 Arabs in Chicago, not only did comrades sell every piece of literature they had with them, but Fred Halstead, who happened to be in the crowd, was asked to speak to the meeting.

In light of these experiences, branches may want to consider raising their Militant bundle or sales quota as part of the sales drive. For instance, Seattle raised their sales goal to 500 for the first two issues featuring the war.

Most branches have scheduled forums on the Mideast and many are now planning Mideast talks at their upcoming educational weekends. In addition, branches should consider setting up meetings on inner-city campuses and in the region for our speakers. Detroit, for example, is planning a mailing to their regional list offering a local speaker on the Mideast which will hopefully result in a short tour.

Areas will need to develop local speakers on this question. In addition, Viewpoint speakers bureau is compiling a list of speakers who will be available to speak where branches feel this would be helpful.

It is clear there will continue to be many opportunities to work with Arab groups, Black and Chicano organizations and other pro-Arab forces to build united activities such as teach-ins and rallies in defense of the Arab struggle and in opposition to U.S. intervention.

Comradely,

*Betsy Stone*

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SWP National Office