

14 Charles Lane  
New York, New York 10014  
July 23, 1974

TO ALL BRANCH ORGANIZERS

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed are two flyers published by the Puerto Rican Solidarity Day Committee and a letter asking for the Party's cosponsorship.

This committee was formed on the initiative of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party to organize a rally in Madison Square Garden on Sunday, October 27. The central demand of the action is independence for Puerto Rico.

The PSP's first step was to establish a national board whose members are indicated on the enclosed literature. This board met in New York about two months ago and decided the general character of the action and held a news conference to announce it.

According to Alfredo Lopez, a prominent PSPer who has been assigned to head up this project, the letter asking for cosponsorship went to about 40 organizations, most of them to groups and individuals in the radical movement.

Although it's clear that there is heavy CP influence in this action, it offers an opportunity to meet and work with young Puerto Ricans inside and around the PSP. In New York and Boston comrades have been assigned to participate in the support committees for the action.

In other cities, especially where the PSP has branches, support committees may be underway and comrades are urged to check this out and get involved. Because of the PSP's close ties with CASA and the Crusade for Justice these groups may initiate committees in Colorado and California. Reports on this activity should be sent to Doug Jenness.

Comradely,

*Doug Jenness*

Doug Jenness

THE PUERTO RICAN SOLIDARITY DAY COMMITTEE  
P.O. Box 319, Cooper Station New York, New York 10003  
a Bi-Centennial Without Colonies! October 27

July 2, 1974

Dear brothers and sisters of the Socialist Workers Party,

On October 27th our committee will be sponsoring an action of tremendous importance: a demonstration in solidarity with the independence of Puerto Rico. This action, which will be held in Madison Square Garden in New York, is important because it will be the largest demonstration around this issue in the history of the United States.

We are enclosing a brochure on the demonstration. We are sure that when you read this over you will agree with us that this demonstration's importance is magnified by the current situation in Puerto Rico and the rest of the world.

The independence movement in Puerto Rico is calling this period "the turning point for Puerto Rico." Massive industrial construction and the investment of billions of dollars by United States business is rapidly destroying the island physically. In fact, as the government experts have said in a recent document, the only solution for Puerto Rico's population will soon be massive migrations to the United States and forced sterilization. There will soon be no place to live.

At the same time, the issue of Puerto Rico gives the progressive people of this country the ability to strike a blow against the continuation and intensification of the same policy they opposed during the anti-war movement. The issue gives the left of this country an opportunity to attain a powerful unity in the opposition to this policy.

We are asking your organization to officially co-sponsor this campaign. Co-sponsorship indicates that you are going on record in support of the statement in the Call, you are pledging whatever resources are available (including newspapers and bulletins) to build the action and you are making a commitment to mobilize in the form of ticket sales (whose \$3 price is designed only to cover the costs of rental of the Garden).

We would like your immediate answer since the campaign must get underway and, after receiving that answer, our staff will be in touch to discuss exact details. Many national organizations have already committed themselves to co-sponsorship. We are certain that you will join them and the people of this country in demanding: Independence for Puerto Rico...a Bi-Centennial Without Colonies. In that spirit, we welcome you to the campaign.

On behalf of the National Board, I remain,

Fraternally,  
s/Alfredo Lopez  
Executive Secretary

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New York, N.Y.  
July 11, 1974

Alfredo Lopez  
c/o The Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee  
P.O. Box 319, Cooper Station  
New York, N.Y., 10003

Dear Alfredo:

This is to inform you that the Socialist Workers Party  
officially cosponsors the Puerto Rican Solidarity Day Committee.

Fraternally,  
s/Doug Jenness

# A Call for Solidarity with Puerto Rico

*We, residents of the United States, declare our support for the December 1973, history-making United Nations' resolution recognizing "the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence" & demand a Bi-Centennial Without Colonies.*

PUERTO RICO IS A CLASSICAL COLONY OF THE UNITED STATES. This has been true since the 1898 invasion by United States troops, which violated the autonomous political status, ceded to Puerto Rico by Spain a year earlier. Although Puerto Rico today supposedly has its own government and constitution, in fact the U.S. Congress has jurisdiction over eighty-five vital areas of Puerto Rican political and economic life. . . . In 1917, Puerto Ricans were deprived of their rights of a nation and forced to become U.S. citizens, in time to be drafted into the World War I army.

**THIS POLITICAL CONTROL IS DEEPENED BY ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE.** North American corporations control 85% of all industry in Puerto Rico. These corporations, exempt from taxes and benefitting from the low wage-scale, extract huge profits. A dramatic example of this economic colonialism is the escalating investment in the petro-chemical industry on the island over the last 15 years.

. . . For the Puerto Rican people this means that industrial development is based on the needs of North American industry. Puerto Ricans produce what they cannot consume and consume what they do not produce. In fact, Puerto Rico is the fourth largest market for U.S.-produced goods in the world!

U.S. control of Puerto Rico has created a life and death crisis for this nation of four million people, with a history of more than four hundred years. U.S. domination stifles any real economic development on the island, bringing starvation wages and a cost of living even higher than in the U.S., and causing chronic unemployment for 30% of the workers. Forced to look for work, over one and one-half million Puerto Ricans migrated to the United States. Those who leave face brutal racist oppression on the mainland, live in the worst slums or migrant camps, and find only the lowest paying jobs available.

The corrupt government of Puerto Rico, unwilling and unable to resolve the people's problems, and losing popular support, has become more repressive. Five political prisoners, members of the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico, have been in U.S. jails for more than twenty years. Today there are mounting political arrests, constant police brutality, and threats on the lives of political activists. Right-wing groups, with proven financial ties to the CIA, have been linked to several bombings of *Claridad* a pro-independence newspaper, and attacks on the offices of both the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP) and the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP).

## THESE REALITIES HAVE NOT GONE UNCHALLENGED.

From the very beginning at the time of the Spanish invasion, Puerto Rico has had a long history of anti-colonial struggle, with traditions of courage and resistance. Today, the Puerto Rican independence movement is growing by leaps and bounds. Labor strikes this past year—on a national level—have halted all trucking, municipal transportation, school services, sanitation collection, electrical and power utilities operations. The student movement, the most militant sector of the independence movement since the early sixties, has closed down the University twice this year—once in support of labor struggles.

This resistance brought the colonial condition of the Puerto Rican people to the attention of the nations of the world. Last year, after listening to Ruben Berrios and Juan Mari Bras, the leaders of the Puerto Rican Independence Party and the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, in a precedent-setting moment the United Nations approved the resolution which declared that Puerto Rico has the right to independence and instructed the United States and the corporations under its jurisdiction to refrain from any measures—economic or social—which might serve as an obstacle to decolonization. Current U.S. plans for building a superport petroleum complex and massive strip mining for copper in the central mountain range clearly show that the United States intends to ignore this resolution.

The United States government continues to deny the existence of the massive independence movement. The mass media maintains a conspiracy of silence about it, promoting the myth that Puerto Rico is the "showcase of democracy."

In 1976, the United States will celebrate its 200th anniversary as a nation. It is a farce to speak of celebrating the 1776 revolution against colonialism while denying freedom to another people. The millions of Americans who rejected U.S. domination in Vietnam must join in demanding an end to U.S. domination of the courageous Puerto Rican people.

**THE MOMENT OF UNITY IS HERE.** It is up to us, people living in the U.S., to make the government stop its illegal and immoral activity in Puerto Rico, to pull out its troops and stop its repressive intervention—to get out of the Puerto Rican people's lives.

On May 1, 1974 the Puerto Rican Socialist Party called for a massive demonstration of support for the struggle of the Puerto Rican people for their independence in New York on October 27, 1974.

**WE CALL ON THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO SHOW CONCRETE SUPPORT FOR THE STRUGGLE OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE IN THIS MASSIVE NATIONAL MOBILIZATION.**

There, 20,000 of us—Puerto Rican, white and Afro-American, Mexican, Chicano, Asian, Native American—will demand:

**INDEPENDENCE FOR PUERTO RICO!  
A BI-CENTENNIAL WITHOUT COLONIES!**

We who are making this call are the National Board of the Puerto Rican Solidarity Day Committee and the Committee's local chapters and support committees.

National Board: Ramon Arbona, Puerto Rican Socialist Party\*; Ella J. Baker; Fran Beal, Third World Women's Alliance; Clyde Bellecourt, American Indian Movement; Father Phillip Berrigan; Ben Chavis, National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression; Noam Chomsky, M.I.T.; Burt Corona, CASA, Hermandad General de Trabajadores; David Dellinger, Liberation Magazine; James Forman; David Garcia, Priest-in-Charge, St. Mark's Church; Corky Gonzalez, Crusade for Justice; Arthur Kinoy, Interim Committee for a Mass Party of the People; Yuri Kochiyama, Asian Americans for Action; Antonio Rodriguez, National Committee to Free Los Tres; Irwin Silber, Guardian; Cora Weiss, Women's Strike for Peace

\*Organizations given for identification only

The Committee for Puerto Rican Decolonization has reprinted above "A Call to a National Demonstration at Madison Square Garden on October 27 in Support of the Independence of Puerto Rico" made by the Puerto Rican Solidarity Day Committee to all progressive people in the United States.

The Committee for Puerto Rican Decolonization is one of the groups which has committed itself to co-sponsoring this very significant action which we consider to be an unprecedented opportunity to unmask U.S. colonialism in Puerto Rico in such

## *What You Can Do*

First, you or your organization can sponsor the action. Add your name to the sponsor list of the Puerto Rican Solidarity Day Committee.

Second, you can become a sustainer. Your contribution of \$100.00 (made in one payment or several) for a special seat on the garden floor will help to raise the funds needed to finance the event.

You can buy a block of tickets. Mobilize your friends and associates, your organization, your work place. Buy tickets in blocks of 50!

You can send a contribution as "kick-off" money to help finance the campaign.

We need your support to make this action a success!

(Please make checks out to Puerto Rican Solidarity Day Committee.)

a way that it can never again be hidden from the people of this country. We urge all people to take a stand against U.S. colonialism by contributing in whatever way they can to the impact of this event.

Act now by filling out the coupon below. Call us at (212) 260-1290 or write to the CPRD with further suggestions.

The action at Madison Square Garden must include thousands of black people expressing a solidarity which has tremendous potential both for ourselves and our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters.

— Ben Chavis

The oppression that the Puerto Rican people suffer is characteristic of the oppression that Mexicans and other Latins are subjected to as victims of the colonialist attitudes and policies of the U.S. Government.

— Burt Corona

North Americans are struggling for their own independence when they struggle for Puerto Rican independence . . . it is the same copper companies, the same Pentagon that we are both fighting . . .

— David Dellinger

To Asians, the relationship of Puerto Rico to the United States should have a familiar ring . . . Japan is also polluting Okinawa through industries, as well as continuing a network of military installations and converting needed agricultural lands into vacation lands for Japanese businessmen . . . we, as Asian Americans welcome this opportunity to join in the struggle against colonialism.

— Yuri Kochiyama

Puerto Ricans are suffering the process which American Indians have suffered at the hands of the U.S. colonists . . . we are together in the struggle for liberation.

— Clyde Bellecourt

For the first time, we will be bringing together some of the most forgotten sectors of the American people to unite around one issue. This activity will go beyond the limits of the traditional left.

— Ramon Arbona

I/my organization wish(es) to sponsor the demonstration at Madison Square Garden. Please use my name on your sponsor list.

I/we wish to be a sustainer of the Committee. Here is my check for \$100, which entitles me to a special seat on the garden floor during the activity.

I/we wish to purchase a block of tickets. Send information.

Here is a contribution for "Kick-off" money.

I/we would like to contribute some time. Get in touch and put us to work.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to CPRD  
P.O. Box 1240 Peter Stuyvesant Station  
New York, N.Y. 10009

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July 13, 1974

To the Political Committee of the S.W.P.

Dear Comrades,

We are in possession of your letter of July 4 and of the material to which that letter refers. We have considered your request that the proposal for a special world congress should be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the United Secretariat. We concur with that request.

Given the gravity of the situation, we think that an emergency meeting of the United Secretariat is required in the month of August, although the last United Secretariat session had decided to hold the next Un. Sec. meeting only in September. The earliest possible date to have a quorum of Un. Secr. members assembled seems to be August 25-26. We therefore tentatively call the Un. Secr. meeting on these dates, but are willing to consider an earlier date if you should request so and make definite proposals in that respect.

Fraternally yours,  
For the United Secretariat/  
Bureau  
s/Walter

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New York, New York  
July 22, 1974

Walter

Brussels

Dear Walter,

On July 18 we received your letter proposing, in response to our letter of July 5, an "emergency" meeting of the United Secretariat on August 25-26. You indicate that this is "the earliest possible date to have a quorum of the United Secretariat assembled."

As this date is less than two weeks before the regularly scheduled United Secretariat meeting of September 7-8, it seems to us that it would be advisable to maintain the dates of the September meeting. All United Secretariat members have been informed of the September dates for several months, thus assuring maximum attendance at this meeting which will take up our proposal for a special world congress.

Comrade Johnson will be leaving Brussels for New York on July 31. If there are any matters you wish him to convey to us you can contact him before he leaves.

Comradely,  
s/Jack Barnes  
National Secretary  
Socialist Workers Party

*We, residents of the United States, declare our support for the independence of Puerto Rico... & demand a Bi-Centennial Without Colonies!*

# *Rally*

*Madison Square Garden*

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*October 27*

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*All tickets \$3.*



# *United States Colonialism, in Puerto Rico*

## **WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

### **To U.S. Corporations and the U.S. Government:**

- A cheap labor force which can be exploited because the unemployment rate is 30% and workers are legally unprotected.
- A tax-exempt bonanza for U.S. companies with weak anti-pollution laws and no profit restrictions.
- A captive market for U.S. goods, because the U.S. Congress controls all trade and currency.
- A lucrative U.S. tourist industry which brings with it drugs, prostitution and organized crime.
- A steady source of cheap migrant labor for the farms, factories and service industries in the United States.
- A perfect site for U.S. military bases to "assure the political stability" so favorable to





U.S. interests in Latin America and the Caribbean. At present 13% of Puerto Rico's best agricultural land is occupied by U.S. military bases.

- A "showcase for democracy" in which the U.S. has jurisdiction over eighty-five basic areas of Puerto Rican political and economic life including citizenship, migration, currency, postal service, communications and all trade.

### **To Puerto Ricans:**

- Their fertile and beautiful land, exploited and robbed, first by Spain and then by the U.S.

- Vital political and economic decisions made by the U.S. Congress, depriving the nation of its sovereignty.

- Unemployment, low wages, brutally oppressive working and living conditions.

- Massive oil refineries, a proposed superport and strip mining project which threaten to destroy the island's natural resources and make vast areas of the island totally uninhabitable.

- Forced migration to the U.S.—to discrimination in housing, schools, jobs and daily life.

- Over one-third of Puerto Rican women of



child-bearing age have been forcibly sterilized by U.S. drug companies' experimentation and other methods.

### **To the People of the United States:**

- The Puerto Rican peoples' fight is also our fight. U.S. corporations, such as the oil companies and their partners in the government which have colonized the Puerto Rican people, deceive and exploit us everyday.

- Starvation wages for Puerto Ricans on the island and in the U.S. are used as a lever to keep our wages low. In our name big business, the military and the U.S. government oppress an entire people.

- In 1976, the United States will celebrate its 200th anniversary as a nation. It is a farce to celebrate the 1776 revolution against colonialism while denying freedom to another people. We who rejected U.S. domination in Vietnam must join in demanding an end to U.S. domination of the courageous Puerto Rican people. **SUPPORT THE STRUGGLE OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE IN A MASSIVE NATIONAL MOBILIZATION TO MADISON SQUARE GARDEN ON OCTOBER 27, 1974.**

**INDEPENDENCE FOR PUERTO RICO!  
A BI-CENTENNIAL WITHOUT COLONIES!**



The National Board of the Puerto Rican Solidarity Day Committee includes:

Ramon Arbona, Puerto Rican Socialist Party\*  
Ella J. Baker  
Fran Beal, Third World Women's Alliance  
Clyde Bellecourt, American Indian Movement  
Father Phillip Berrigan  
Ben Chavis, National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression  
Noam Chomsky, M.I.T.  
Burt Corona, CASA, Hermandad General de Trabajadores  
David Dellinger, Liberation Magazine  
James Forman  
David Garcia, Priest-in-Charge, St. Mark's Church  
Corky Gonzalez, Crusade for Justice  
Arthur Kinoy Interim Committee for a Mass Party of the People  
Mary Kochiyama, Asian Americans for Action  
Antonio Rodriguez, National Committee to Free Los Tres  
Irwin Silber, Guardian  
Cora Weiss, Women's Strike for Peace

\*Organizations given for identification only  
all labor donated

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I/my organization wish(es) to sponsor the demonstration at Madison Square Garden. Please use my name on your sponsor list.

I/we wish to purchase a block of tickets. Send information.

I/we would like to contribute some time. Get in touch and put us to work.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Local Committee:

The Puerto Rican Solidarity Day Committee  
P.O. Box 319, Cooper Station  
New York, N.Y. 10003  
(212) 673-0540



**madison square garden**

Pennsylvania Plaza, 7th Ave. 31st to 33rd Sts