

RESOLUTIONS PASSED at the first CONFERENCE of the
NATIONAL BLACK ANTI-WAR ANTI-DRAFT UNION

All resolutions were passed by African consensus, perhaps with suggestions added by the delegates to the Conference.

First National Conference for the
National Black Anti-War Anti-Draft Union
Hotel Diplomat
108 W 43 Street
New York, New York
April 12-14, 1968

John Wilson, NBAWADU Chairman, greeted the Conference delegates on April 12, 1968. He explained the problems in trying to get a hall large enough uptown (Harlem) for the Conference, but was unsuccessful in doing so. No church would allow NBAWADU to use its facilities because of the Easter week-end, and the Harlem YMCA had scheduled a basketball game during the week-end.

As a result the Conference was held in the Hotel Diplomat in downtown Manhattan.

Stokley Carmichael was the first keynote speaker and his emphasis was that we must have undying love for our people if we wish to move our people to the revolutionary stage of our struggle.

Attorney Conrad Lynn and Attorney Howard Moore said that we must use legal and extra-legal means to keep brothers out of the illegal war waged by this country in Vietnam.

Two films were shown: "Guinea Revolution" and "Inside North Vietnam". Both films set the tone of the National Conference on the War and the Draft.

Jim Harvey gave his report on his travels to Stockholm and Prague which discussed issues about the war and the draft with left groups abroad and with representatives from the National Liberation Front of Vietnam.

Other delegates gave regional reports on the floor.

Gwen Patton
National Secretary
Jim Harvey
Co-Chairman
John Wilson
Chairman

Agenda for the Resolutions Committee:

Octavius Rowe--Chairman of the session
(Rowe is NBAWADU Regional Chairman of the Boston Area)

1. Discussion on each resolution from the workshop, but no arguments which may result into negative discussion.
2. Resolutions must be practical, realistic, and programmatic.
3. Let us move to have African consensus on all resolutions.
4. Workshop chairman will explain resolutions from the platform.
5. Workshop chairman is responsible to carry out resolutions.
6. All resolutions are to be communicated to the National Office for implementation and communications.

Resolutions passed in the Regional Chairmen meetings:

There should be regional Chairman meetings at least every two months to find out what is happening in each region as it relates to anti-war anti-draft activities. This first regional meeting will meet in May and tentatively in the Chicago, Illinois area. Each region should send in to the National Office his sites which will facilitate our meeting in his area.

We must recruit national staff and raise funds to pay the staff. We need to do more field organizing to involve more people in the anti-war anti-draft union.

We will select an advisory committee with top names like Ossie Davis who has already registered dissent for the war. This may help with our financial status.

Each member will receive membership cards and he will pledge one dollar (\$1.00) to the organization a month. Each regional office will pledge ten dollars (\$10.00) to the National Office.

There must be a monthly report from the regions for the "Hell No!" newsletter. (Our publication organ)

Each region will send in an emblem for consideration for the National Organization.

Each region will have its own stationery, e.g. CBAWADU (Chicago) or DBAWADU (Detroit).

OUR NEXT NATIONAL ACTIVITY

While people are moving to Chicago for the National Democratic Convention to discuss illusionary politics NAWADU will mobilize a sea of blackness to go to the United Nations on the same days to raise the question of genocide in the black community and will ask the UN to force the United States to sign the Genocidal Pact of 1948. This country has refused to do so for the past twenty years. Also if the white capitalist, racist United States continue to assault the black community we will ask for UN troops to protect our neighborhoods.

At our first organizational meeting we mandated ourselves to join in the efforts with the National Day for Black Unity in the honor of Malcolm X Against the War in Vietnam. Malcolm X's birthday in May 19. We plan to have activity on that day and then a Black Strike on May 20. There will be no work and no school. We hope to coordinate national activity around the two days.

Resolutions from the floor:

Change the name NBAWADU. Argument: We cannot afford to be an anti-war group if we are talking about fighting for our liberation.

Against: We are an anti-war base because only capitalist countries create wars and we are opposed to any war by capitalists. There is a great distinction between a war and a revolution.

NBAWADU now has an identity and that has much to do with its name. The question should have been raised earlier, then NBAWADU buttons would not have been purchased, stationery would not have been purchased, international communications would not have been written, ect.

We are focusing our emphasis on anti-war and anti-draft activities, be that the war is in Africa, Latin America, or in the black community. Usually wars are precipitated by this country and we are definitely against the war policies of this country and its conscription laws.

The resolution was defeated by more than 5/6 of the assembly.

Regional changes:

Herb Parker resigned as regional Chairman and now Willie Louallen is the Regional Chairman of New York City.

Philadelphia changes:

Robert Yusef--Chairman
Andre White--Co-Chairman
Lawrence McKenzie--Co-Chairman

Atlanta:

J.P. Tillman--Chairman
He will get staff from the Atlanta region
8 Raymond St.--Atlanta, Ga. (Regional Office)

Reading, Pennsylvania will get a regional chapter

Pittsburg will get a regional chapter

San Francisco will reorganize their regional chapter

Detroit:

Ron Johnson--Co-Chairman
Phil Garner--" "
Vincent Stuart " "
Judy Watts--Secretary

Chicago:

Camille Landry--Co-Chairman
Mike Simmons----" "

Washington, D.C.

Jan Bailey--Co-Chairman
Joe Miles-- " "

Other changes and additions to the structure are forthcoming.

Alternatives to the Draft:

Let it be resolved that we cannot accept the alternative of the system for Black people because this would lead to the death of the revolutionary struggle at home and to ultimate genocide and total annihilation of black people in racist America.

Alternatives: (as recommended by the workshop)

1. Mass refusal to register upon reaching the age of 18 in some organize manner secretly without publicity. (This is illegal--however it is mandatory for survival.)
2. For those 18 year olds that register: be sure to check in Series VIII on form 110 SS and the form sertifying CO status.
3. For those of our brothers who have the leagl expertise (black lawyers) must take the iniative to maipulate the law for the defense of our black brothers. These black lawyers either must perform this duty through the necessity of unifying for the survival of our people or they will suffer political consequences from the black sommunity.
4. Constructive strategy and tactis should be devised by pre-induction draft counselors for the brothers who are going through the inductive process. They must move to the non-cooperative, thus moving to disrupt the process in different methods which will be relevant to the characteristics of regional areas. (In other words each geographical area must know what is necessary to disrupt its local draft board or its court procedures.) The disruptive activity must be conducive to the personality of the brothers involved.
5. Move to help brother Kirkwood Hall in New Jersey with disrupting court procedures in Newark, New Jersey.

The Resolution was passed on African Consensus.

note: Kirkwood Hall went to court to challenge his L-A status. As a result the judge told kirkwood that he should go back to Africa. Kirkwood said he would if the judge would provide the transportation. Court was recessed and has not of the date of this report been recovened. We wish the best of luck to our brother and we are committed to keep jim out of the service.

College and High School Students and the Draft:

Be it resolved that:

1. Form lines of communications between all student groups.
2. Involve itself with every facet of student activity.
3. Distribute all information at this conference (leaflets, ect.) among the participants and to students in their respective areas.
4. Have information disseminated to all groups constantly.
5. Set up speaking engagements for NBAWADU speakers with student groups for educational purposes.
6. Organize around the premise that the military in this nation is a detriment to black people and that resistance is in the interest of the survival of black people.
7. All information concerning counselling and legal facilities be at the disposal of black students.
8. A concerted effort be made to abolish ROTC completely.
9. A concerted effort be made to bridge the gap between high school and college students which create a hinderance to unity.
10. In keeping with brother Carmichael that organizers work with a display of love and brotherhood.

Since this conference John Wilson has travelled to college campuses putting across this idea. Gwen Patton has done likewise and has effectively set up draft counselling areas for the black community in Oberlin, Ohio. Jim Harvey has done likewise in Indianapolis, Indiana. Efforts have been made to strengthen draft counselling in Detroit, and Cleveland.

How to relate the Nature of the War to the Black Community:

10. Win faith of people in revolutionary movement.
11. Most black people do not know what they are fighting for.
12. Brothers and sisters are brainwashed. Give them the straight facts.

BE IT RESOLVED:

Victory for the people in Vietnam is victory for black people in the United States.

Induction centers which have right to send people to Vietnam find out:

1. Who they are--draftees
2. What line of combat
3. How much the soldiers make
4. Where the brothers minds are

Issue of Vietnam war is a question of Blackness

Undesirability of white press. We need a steady stream of information by the black man.

Announcements to black people their identity by gradual steps.

Black people form their own Utopian Society and stop participating in the white man's society.

Black people who are aware: organize where you live or move out of bourgeois neighborhood if organizing seems impossible.

Re-orientation of black soldiers:

Whereas the United States Government is using black men in a racist and imperialist war against our Vietnamese brothers;

Whereas this same government is attempting to recruit black veterans into local police forces and other repressive agencies to destroy the black revolution;

Whereas black army troops will be sent into black communities in the coming months to crush urban rebellions;

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That NBAWADU expedite the organizing of black troops for massive resistance to aggression against our Vietnamese brothers;
2. That local black anti-war groups in cooperation with NBAWADU undertake organizing activities among black soldiers in their off-duty hours for the purpose of creating black consciousness among these troops so that when they leave military they will actively participate in the black liberation struggle and teach their military skills to other members of the black community.
3. That the delegates attending this conference and NBAWADU undertake organizing efforts, including the preparation of leaflets and other suitable materials, for dissemination to black federal troops before or during the time they are sent into black communities urging them to refuse to be used as tools to suppress black insurrections.
4. That specific organizing techniques and suggestions discussed in the workshop on black soldiers be published by NBAWADU and distributed to the delegates attending this conference, and any other black organization or individuals.

Resolution passed by African Consensus: Women must meet the brothers who are returning or who are on leave from the military and to set up Social activities for the brothers. Since the conference "Summer Vietnam" has been set up for people to go to all the bases all over the country for this purpose.

How do we relate to other Movements:

Resolved:

1. Contact all black organizations, local and national, to spread the meaning of our anti-war and anti-draft union. All of these organizations should be placed on mailing list to be informed of NBAWADU's activities.
2. Set up a national coordinating communications network including all other black organizations and religious institutions.
3. Request all organizations to lend financial support to NBAWADU as the organization dealing specifically with the war and the draft.
4. Communicate with international organizations that are opposed to the war.
5. Strengthen ties with Third World inhabitants.

Since the passage of this resolution by African consensus, Jim Foreman who serves as a consultant to NBAWADU is in Stockholm meeting with the National Liberation Front from Vietnam. Jim Harvey and John Wilson have met with members of the NLF also. Judy Watts is now in Puerto Rico as an NBAWADU representative to meet with the people in the Movement for Puerto Rico Independence, an anti-imperialist movement. Henry Brimmer, an NBAWADU representative, has met with students in Latin America and these students endorsed NBAWADU. NBAWADU is in constant communications with students in Japan, Iran, Dominican Republic, and Cuba.

How to relate the nature of the war in the black community:

1. In order to relate to a community you have to be a part of the community, of the people of that community.
2. To get to people let them see what whitey is doing.
3. Youth do not realize the seriousness of problems, break down to parents the situation at hand.
4. How to reach large numbers of people?
5. Revolution takes place on a group of people on their level.
6. Black people during a rebellion lack political direction.
7. Let whitey know that black people do have an identity.
8. Build communications
 - a. School children's mothers
 - b. Talk to people
9. There are two aspects of oppression of black people
 - a. Skin analysis
 - b. Class-aspect--employment--education. Black people are only employed in the United States Army.

Mobilization, Education, Organization

1. Organize around what they are interested in first, then lead into what needs to be done.
2. Lack of commitment--responsibility falls on militants.
3. Alienation of black students to black community--communicate with all brothers.
4. How to relate--appeal on whatever level you can relate to and re-establish old ties.
5. Church groups in community--establish ties with them to oppose the war. This may help to bridge gaps in family on issue of involvement in the war.
6. Community never stagnates--must fit into what they are doing when you go black. Sometimes they are the most ready.
7. Re-evaluate new priorities--start from level of people.
8. Develop programs of flexibility and individualistic approach
9. Is a program necessary? Depends on what we are talking about--cultural--specific point of control is decisive issue--get idea of what is necessary--then how to go about getting organization--does it mean leadership?
10. Organization--a reactant and a stimulate--everyone relates on different levels--role of middle class, black college students, who have different orientation on the need of the black revolution. How do we respond to them?
11. Experimental college--oh high school level to study black culture. This helps to get the brothers in tune. Re-establish social communications with black community and get other black students to this level.
12. Place emphasis on what students can do for survival of all black people. Include younger generation only, and then older ones will come around.
13. Get into community to put fear in them--kill some if you have to--too late for talk for some them.
14. Have to deal with all black people. Control black bourgeoisie on one level or another--emphasize on trying to bring as many brothers as possible.
15. Black people are strategically placed in this country. But we have to take time to get organized and to organize our people. We must keep in communication around the country.
16. Small groups must organize them, move to larger groups to educate.

African Consensus.

Women's Role in the Liberation Struggle:

Here will only be points that were discussed. Forthcoming will be a booklet on each point and how to make the idea programmatic.

1. Survival Kits--first aid for rebellions, contact doctors, ect.
2. Food supplies--powdered and can foods stored.
3. Distribution Centers for food and clothing during a rebellion.
4. Black phone in every community for communications.
5. Wall of Respect in every home.
6. Women must move to house and to feed brothers who are on the run.
7. Mothers must move to disrupt local draft board to keep their sons out of the army.
8. Efforts should be made to contact women who join the military establishment.
9. Move to deal with dope in our communities.
10. Plans to organize to take our children to the Mountain. Land donated to us by Queen Mother Moore.
11. College students when they return to the community must teach our children culture, heritage, and history.
12. Sisters must move to begin draft counselling. We must go to court to support our brothers, raise funds for legal expenses, ect.
13. We must organize other women be it at the grocery store, laundry mat, ect. We must at all times make revolution a part of our everyday lives.
14. Families who have lost sons we must go to the homes to help in any way possible and at the same time talk to the mothers to tell them why their sons were killed in Vietnam or in any war created by this country.
15. There must be more discussion with the brothers and the sisters about the birth control pill, genocide, and sterilization. We must also discuss nation-building in this framework.
16. Sisters must move to become a part of the armed struggle or else be willing to purchase or get the ammunition.

Suggestions: We organize a social activity to greet the brothers when they return from military duty. We must have undying love for the brothers who chose to fight our Vietnamese brothers, but at the same time we must try to make them understand that their battle is at home, their fight is for our liberation here in the United States.

African Consensus.