

National Council for Universal and Unconditional
Amnesty

Minutes of the Steering Committee-- June 28, 1973

The meeting was convened at 10:20 A.M. at the Church Center, U. N. Plaza, New York City. The following members of the steering committee were present: Irma Zigas, WRL-WSP; Bob Musil, CCCO; Walter Collins, SCEF; Henry Schwarzschild, ACLU; Chick Judd, NCC; Dee Knight, Amex; Sandy Rutherford, Vancouver Committee; Ed Damato, VVAW; Jean Friedman, Campaign for Amnesty; Jeff Hayes, Ft. Meade Project; Trudi Young, CALC. Virginia Collins was unable to attend because of problems with her plane tickets, presumably caused by the FBI. George Carrano and a friend from FORA sat in as visitors.

Irma reported on groups that have already endorsed the policy statement and/or sent in seed money. A general discussion followed on how to gain members and who should contact the groups and follow-up on membership. Chick Judd was selected for the task, with help from Irma. Special attention will be paid to a large number of groups who attended the Washington Conference, but have not yet joined NCUUA.

Henry Schwarzschild was chosen to prepare a draft of a brochure to explain NCUUA policy. Irma will send out information to the Lutherans who had difficulty with the statement.

Dee Knight reported on the Toronto Amnesty Conference. A statement demanding implementation of the Cease-Fire Agreements and the release of political prisoners adopted at Toronto was discussed for incorporation into the NCUUA policy statement. A letter from CCWR was read concerning South Vietnamese political prisoners, and attention called to including them in a preamble.

Steering committee members also agreed as a result of a decision at Toronto that all members must maintain contact with and input from other groups relating to their constituencies(categories). The preamble was reworked. (See attached).

Henry Schwarzschild reported on a meeting with foundations in NY to brief them on the amnesty movement. A draft funding proposal for NCUUA was then circulated and discussed.

After lunch, it was decided that the policy statement(See attached) begin with purpose, then categories, and close with war, cease-fire and political prisoners.

A lengthy discussion on program and functions of NCUUA then followed. Trudi talked about amnesty week Oct 14-21. Irma discussed People's Amnesty Campaign. Ed said NCUUA should respond to the needs of local, small organizing groups. Jeff felt this kind of input from the resistance community was important and good. Sandy felt some sort of West Coast presence was necessary. Jean reiterated that NCUUA should provide resources for poorer, decentralized groups away from Eastern money and influence, etc.

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After a few tentative outlines of program and some discussion of the merits of newsprint, Dee Knight listed programs and functions on the blackboard discovered in a secret compartment at the rear of the room. These were as follows:

1. Establish national office/clearing house and staff
2. " network of information
3. Help coordinate working areas of member groups
Discharges; People's Amnesty; Local amnesty and repatriation centers; lobbying; street organizing; families
4. Literature development, leaflets, etc.
5. Speakers Bureau
6. Regional Conferences
7. Nation-wide mobilization, Oct 14-21
8. Media campaign
9. Funding clearinghouse

Implementation was begun by putting office at 339 Lafayette Street, NY. A subcommittee of Trudi, Jeff and Irma was formed to procure(?) a staff person.

A discussion of funding priorities followed. Priorities were tentatively set as office and staff; literature (including free to poorer groups); NCUUA programs and field work.

Jean Friedman explained the difficulties of funding groups far from big money, foundations, etc. She felt it essential that we support grass-roots organizations in some way and spread out resources over the entire movement. A general discussion followed. It was decided that from time to time NCUUA would assist local groups in funding by alerting them to funding possibilities and by co-signing funding proposals. The next meeting was set for August despite some grumbling from the camping crowd.

--Bob Musal

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR UNIVERSAL AND UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY

339 LAFAYETTE STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10012

The purpose of the National Council for Universal and Unconditional Amnesty is to mobilize the American people to work for a universal and unconditional amnesty and to educate them concerning the structures and institutions that created the war in Southeast Asia.

The Council is committed to working for universal and unconditional amnesty for all persons suffering disabilities because of opposition to United States involvement in the war in Southeast Asia, to the draft, and to the military.

Our demand is an immediate amnesty without conditions (such as alternate service) and without case-by-case review for:

- all military resisters (including "deserters") and draft resisters, whether in exile or underground in the U.S.:
- all persons who, because of their opposition to the war and the military, have been administratively punished, convicted by civilian or military courts, or are subject to prosecution: and
- all veterans with less-than honorable discharges.

The war in Southeast Asia is not over. The movement to achieve a universal and unconditional amnesty for American war resisters demands that the U.S. government fully implement the Cease-Fire Agreements and thereby immediately cease all military operations in Southeast Asia, end support of its client governments in Indochina, and insist upon the release of all political prisoners in South Vietnam.