

MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE SECRETARIAT

Seminar on Apartheid:

United Nations International Seminar on Apartheid to be held in Brazil. We discussed this meeting in terms of our own desires to initiate an effective propaganda project against South Africa and how such a project would relate to other groups in the world, especially the African groups with which we have begun to establish some relationship. The discussion was prompted by the receipt of a letter (see end of report) from the Pan Africanist Congress, a group in exile from South Africa (operating out of Cairo) who have communicated with us several times in the past and have expressed a desire to become involved in cooperative actions. It was decided that we should seek available funds to send a representative to the meeting.

Meeting with the Messenger:

On the Sunday following the August meeting of the Central Committee, two members of the secretariat, by prior arrangement, visited with Elijah Muhammed in Chicago, Illinois. The meeting turned out to be a casual chat with Muhammed and Ali, resulting in full stomachs for those who attended.

There was, however, some discussion of the draft program--what the Muslims have been doing and what SNCC is planning to do. Some questions regarding a "joint" campaign in this regard were raised. The possibility of a national tour of the ghettos by Ali and Carmichael was thrown out in the form of a proposal and the program secretary was given the responsibility of follow-up. (This would be specifically in reference to the anti-draft program that was adopted at the last meeting and was discussed with Simmons and Fox.)

Arkansas:

The question of what precisely the situation in Arkansas is was raised. Since neither member of the secretariat could answer, the executive secretary was asked to make an inquiry as to what the situation in Little Rock (James Jones) was and specifically to write a letter to William Hansen in an effort to ascertain his role in the state.

Freedom Singers:

Cordell Reagan, Marshall Jones, and Chico Neblett are still on the SNCC staff although they are not functioning in the capacity as SNCC Freedom Singers. They are, in fact, doing nothing that is in any way related to SNCC (that we are aware of). Chuck Neblett and Marshall Jones have been removed at their own request. The chairman, who assumed the responsibility for the Freedom Singers will send each of them a letter asking that they state their intentions regarding SNCC staff.

August 16th-Demonstration in Washington:

Members of the Viet Nam Day Committee from Berkeley were summoned to appear before the House-UnAmerican Activities Committee (HUAC) on August 16th. Viet Nam Day Committees and Anti-War groups across the country decided to hold protest demonstrations during the hearings and asked if SNCC would add it's name to the list of groups protesting HUAC's actions. The secretariat decided that our name could be added to the list in view of our own position and since doing so did not mean that we had to mobilize people to join the demonstrations.

Salaries:

There were very strong feelings that many staff people who are married, especially those with dependents would have to leave the organization to become gainfully employed if something isn't done to insure continuous income for them. In this regard, it was decided that a list of such persons should be drawn up and a memo sent to the staff regarding their need to be paid consistently.

August 13, 1966

(Re: Seminar on Apartheid)

Pan Africanist Congress (South Africa)

Das Es Salaam, Tanzania

Africa

Dear Brothers:

Your letter expressing solidarity with the struggle of Black People in this country was enthusiastically received by our organization. We too feel very strongly that the distance between us must be

bridged by cooperative actions and mutual understanding of common objectives.

Unfortunately, because of our present financial situation, we had not planned to send a representative to Brazil; however, the prospect of the meeting you propose provides additional incentive for us to try and obtain the necessary funds. At any rate, Stokely will be in New York (at our N. Y. office) just prior to the meeting. He can be contacted by phone at YU 9-1313. If you are unable to reach him there, you should place a collect call to 688-0331 in Atlanta, Georgia. Assuming that you are going directly to the meeting in Brazil, we look forward to greeting you around September 6th or 7th.

The enclosed information give you some idea of the opposition that has developed in this country. The outward manifestations of racism are no longer restricted to the bigots in the South but are a part of a national policy spearheaded by the Johnson Administration.

We anxiously await our meeting. Until then we remain,

Yours for Black Power

The Secretariat

Ruby Doris Robinson, Exec. Sec.

Stokely Carmichael, Chairman

Cleveland Sellers, Program Sec.