

I. During the first part of the meeting we saw the film "Apartheid; 20th Century Slavery".

II. Evaluation of the film and its uses:

Film is dated and obviously too old. The role of U.S. imperialism is not included in the film. Throughout the film, and especially with the quote from U Thant at the end, it gives the idea that the struggle will be essentially a bloody race war. There is no idea that a real struggle is going on now. It seems to say that whites should share the power and that whites should be "convinced" to give up power. Too moralistic. The way the church was depicted was criticized. Film does not give the idea that the roles and relationships in S.A. are purposeful. It implies that reason apartheid should end is because of the potential blood bath. The speech at the end by ANC member which explains that violence must be used when peaceful means have been exhausted is token. The way Blacks are depicted is racist. There is clearly a difference between the UN Committee on Apartheid at the time of this film and the perspective which they hold now - which is more clearly anti-imperialist. The film does not hold your attention and is a very old style of documentary.

It was agreed by the whole group that the film was not only not useful, but bad. In the "Action Guide" it is listed as "excellent". It was decided to send our thoughts on it to David Wiley (Madison Area Committee) who had done the film ratings in the "Guide". Jerry S. volunteered to do this. Linda B. also suggested that the resource committee should try to screen the other films in the "Guide".

III. Discussion of Plans for March 20 mass activity commemorating Sharpeville:

Steering Committee reported their decision that we should hold this event, recommended for March 20, including a film, speaker, cultural event, UPCAAR speaker and refreshments. It should cost money so that it is also a fund raising event.

All suggested the theme of "Sharpeville to Soweto - struggle for liberation." Effects on working class struggle here should be included. All also suggested 2 films: 1) Soweto film, \$20 from the Union Theological Seminary, "There is no Crisis" which is a new 45 minute film including interviews and making references to Sharpeville. 2) "Witnesses: Testimony of Apartheid" which has a re-enactment of Sharpeville and is 30 minutes long. He will find out where to get this film.

Everyone agreed that whichever film we choose should be previewed, but the whole group does not have to do it.

Discussion of the form of the event and its uses:

People brought out the ideas that this is a commemorative event, but can also be seen as publicity, fund-raising, and outreach. Linda reminded us that March 16 "O Povo" is showing.

All said that the National Student Coalition may be holding demonstrations around that time. He also introduced the idea of holding both an indoor event and an outdoor rally that would pinpoint one of the racist institutions in the city and would also give the group visibility. He said it was a way of mobilizing

forces and showing open support for the struggle. There was a lot of discussion around this point, including whether the event should be Sat. or Sun. and whether or not it should be in the evening. Mike S. also said that though ~~the~~ taking the struggle into the street is fundamental, right now UPCAAR does not have a base and that this event should be used to build that base for later demonstrations, like in May.

Decision:

Event will be indoors on March 19. Place should be cheap (preferably free) and accessible. Suggestions were Temple, 1199, YWCA, CA. Program should be that outlined by the steering Committee. Possible speakers could be Bill Sutherland or African speaker. Child-care should be provided. We should get other groups to co-sponsor after the details are worked out. Committee: Ali (chair), Beth, Judy, Emily, Craig, Linda. Linda will see and choose film, with help from committee. Diane volunteered to work on cultural aspect. Other groups will be able to bring literature but there will be no other speakers besides the UPCAAR representative. This committee shall bring disagreements to the steering committee if necessary and after drafting something, that draft will be endorsed by the steering committee. Plans by National group for demo to be investigated and we can possibly plug into that.

IV. Developing ties between UPCAAR and Septa Coalition (Coalition for better transportation in the City - CBTC):

Because of the late hour, the chair noted that we would not be able to have as full a discussion of this as we should have.

Ali announced that the next meeting will be Feb. 10 at Devereaux United Methodist Church, 26th and Allegheny. Discussion will include boycott of new fare; Septa workers fight for new contract; linking the struggle to the overall city crisis. Group has six demands: 1) Restore service; 2) rehire laid off workers; 3) no fare hike; 4) safer and secure vehicles and new vehicles; 5) investigate Septa operations and open their books; 6) change Septa board to include workers, commuters and small businessmen. Membership in the steering committee is by application after participation for 1 month. This has to be ratified by general membership.

It was agreed that Mike S. would continue relating to the CBTC. He said he wanted to go in the context of guidance from this group as representative of UPCAAR. There was discussion around the importance of linking up with this struggle and linking up the struggle around transportation here and in South Africa. We should be participating in BCTC events. Judy mentioned that we could use our phone tree. Emily suggested that the steering committee continue discussion on this agenda item.

*Dina Portnoy*