EVALUATION OF ACTIVITIES, JUNE 15 and 16

Present: Kushner (Peace Council); Dahm (8th Day Center); Dansberry (Ill. Prisoners' Org.); Massey (Workers World); Kaempfe (Campaign for a Democ
Foreign Policy), and 3 representatives of New Chic; African Liberation

June 15th--union, student, church & community org delegation to South Af.
consulate and press conference;
Turnout--pretty good, included Postal union rep, Rogers of Coalt'n of
Black Trade Unionists; SUBS, Church Women United, Chevrier of United
Church of Christ, Dahm, Clery & Laity Concerned, Asen of Chic. Priests,
Dansberry, CDFP, Naimsal, Prof. Dennis Brutus; U of C. Action Comm.;
Steve Biko Memorial Committee. A number of labor and church groups
endorsed without sending anyone; we were very weak on student and com-
munity organization;
Press--no TV, no Sun Times; Trib, city news bureau, Defender & sev'l
radio stations came: WBBM, WLS, WFMT and Defender had coverage; Sun
Times ran an article on Sat that was not bad, but said
unions had endorsed when in most cases only indiv union leaders had
endorsed; and had wanted this to be 1clear.
Organization--Agreed that the conception of a whole week of delegations
had been grandiose; we can't turn out the numbers of groups required.
Next time the request letters should be signed by someone known to the
constituency addressee;
When delegation went up to office, S. Af gave us a paper, prepared the
night before, justifying investments & citing blacks who say they want
them; they wanted to get into a discussion with us, and we were not to-
tally united in stating that we had nothing to discuss (Brutus and Mustin
made very clear statements of rejection, but some people went in & talked.
The press, however, did not pick up w w either our lack of unity on this
or South Africa's alleged willingness to "dialog." Press came up to
consult with us & we had our press conference in consulate lobby.

June 16th--march from South African consulate to State Dept in Federal Bldg
Press--no one came except Tribune; and it ran no story.
Turnout-- around 150;
Police harassment was considerable--stating that we should only mount
signs & banners on cardboard tubes (they did not insist), forbidding use
of bullhorn & threatening to confiscate ours (this led to ours being put
away, while New Chic. ALSC contingent in demo was able to continue
with their less conspicuous one); Kushner said she believed there is a
city ordinance against bullhorns but she'll check; ALSC rep said they
had been told to stop using bullhorns at their Thurs demos outside
First National on Wabash & wondered if a new pattern of harassment.
Organizational problems were also considerable.
1. Lack of bullhorn meant hard to control march, hard to drown out the
Revolutionary Socialist League (RSL) who maneuvered a contingent
into the middle and were chanting "What are we For? Class War. How
is it done? With the gun," and ultimately impossible to hold rally.
2. Harper had been put in charge of marshalling, in spite of her pro-
testations of inexperience, and was not assisted. This led to
arguments when she put ALSC contingent in front (following coal-
tion banner) but Workers World went up to front feeling they had
to be there to protect their two members who carried coalition
banner. No good mechanism for dealing with ALSC's protests; Lack
of experience & decision-making structure also prevented us from
at least isolating RSL at tail end of march (& losing them at traf-
fic lights; there is a difference of opinion over whether one should ask the help
of the cops in isolating such groups, as the cops are usually willing to do).
It was also unclear what our chants were to be, and A.L.S.C. ended up lead-
ing most of them (no quarrel with their chants). Chants on printed sheet not
catchy enough; calling for "South Africa Out of Chicago" may have seemed anti-
African to some passers-by, song too difficult to sing without practice.
3. The rally never took place at all, because of (a) presence of rival A.L.S.C.
group already in the plaza, with own sound system (which we were invited to use,
but declined out of respect for differences between that group and our ally, the
New Chic A.L.S.C. and also questions about other A.L.S.C.'s tactics in setting
up meeting at same time & place, with last-minute invitation to Coalition;
(b) lack of bull-horn
(c) lack of clear decision-making process--people kept waiting for others to take
charge, no way to ask New Chic A.L.S.C for use of their bull-horn, etc.
The New Chicago A.L.S.C. read a statement at this meeting, raising a number of fraternal
criticisms of the action. We hope that a revised version of this statement will be
available for distribution, since they chose not to give the Coalition their first draft,
as discussion revealed that some of the problems had been caused by inexperience and
not by policy. A.L.S.C. letter said they had accepted, although they did not like,
the idea of a weekday demo, the omission of the names of sponsoring organizations from the
leaflet, and the decision to have only one speaker, a Coalition rep, at the rally at the
end of the demo (but with all participating organizations named at that rally). They
were therefore critical of the lack of any rally at all; they also criticised the ap­
parent rivalry which led one contingent to go ahead of their contingent in the line of
march, after Harper had already agreed to let them go first. They were also critical
of the leaflet that called-for-the-demo, since its text was not ready was distributed
at the demo, since its final draft had not been ready at the June 13th meeting, and
its final draft contained a box on Zaire events which they thought was inadequate in
criticising only U.S. involvement and not the Soviet union's. They stressed, however,
that these criticisms were offered in the spirit of building more unity on the good
beginning that the joint demo had provided.
In discussion, the meeting agreed that in future actions we need to be much more or­
ganized and able to work out on-the-spot problems together; also that in uniting with
groups outside the Coalition we need to be clearer on what the points of unity--both
on principles and and on tactics--are to be. More trust needs to be built.
The New Chic. A.L.S.C. also reported on their campaign outside the First National
at Monroe & Wabash, which does seem to be reaching depositors more effectively that
demos at the main bank. They are still examining what is the most effective date &
time to be there; so far Thursdays, 4:30. A large presence once a week seems more
effective than a couple of leafleters every day.
Brief discussion of possible efforts at a city council resolution around banks--at least
a motion to get the city treasurer to divolge which banks the city accounts are in.
A.L.S.C. is to send Coalition info on a Wisconsin campaign for such resolutions.
Ill State legislator Woody Bauman has been trying to get info re Ill. state investments.