

Asian Coalition Steering Committee

August 21, 1972

1. In San Francisco and Los Angeles, there are plans for some action when Prime Minister Tanaka comes to the US to meet Nixon. Because of the decision during the steering committee meeting on August 20 to call for moratorium on all activities until we have stabilized ourselves, the Asian Coalition will not plan any action.
2. Achievements and goals of Asian Coalition since the first meeting of the steering committee on May 18
 - a) According to the update of the Position Paper, the steering committee summarized the sentiments of an emergency meeting as follows:
 - 1) Asians must unify around a more militant stand against the war in light of the escalation and inadequacies of past actions.
 - 2) There must be greater cooperation between students and working people on anti-war actions.
 - 3) Asian Coalition must restructure itself into a permanent Asian anti-war group.

Considering the above, a direction had been set by the steering committee for more effective Asian actions against the war. Focus of the activities was to reach a greater number of the American public through various forms of media. Therefore, the formation of a media package to coordinate various talents for various events had been proposed and accepted.

- b) As result of the direction taken, Asian Coalition instigated the creation of AT&T and the Coalition newsletter, as well as the planning and execution of two teach-ins. We also participated in the Third World People's Solidarity Day Conference.
- c) It has been up to the individual groups to do mass media in their own communities. Asian Coalition has supported and will continue to support such works. E.G. the teach-in at the Japanese Christian Church (the August 6 Hiroshima-Nagasaki teach-in in Chinatown was a mass work done by all groups)
- d) All agreed that the goals of the present Steering committee will essentially remain the same as before.
- e) The past approach had been criticized for not reaching people
 - 1) use of teach-in is not always effective. Location of teach-ins in a community does not mean it reaches people
 - 2) we should enforce our original plans for the media pkg.
3. Steering Committee representation
 - a) Groups represented in the present steering committee

Triple A	IWK	AT&T
Filippino Group	Korean Group	
 - b) Groups considered for representation

AAPA	CCNY	FOOD Coop
Women's Group	Health Clinic	
 - c) Criteria for membership for groups and individuals
 - 1) Endorsement of Asian Coalition Position Paper
 - 2) Regular attendance in the meetings

No more than 3 consecutive absence without cause.
If absent more than 3 consecutive times, then the group or individual membership becomes topic on the agenda for discussion.

There had been a long discussion on the topic. Few points made were:

- (1) Asian Coalition cannot sanction because it has no position of strength. It cannot do without member groups
 - (2) What Asian Coalition can give is only as much as the member organizations are willing to put in.
Must discipline groups and individuals or Asian Coalition work cannot be done.
 - 3) Active participation in Coalition activities. Willingness to work. Criteria here should be broad - different ways of participation should be accepted.
 - d) Any interested group or individuals can attend meetings as non-committed observer until they decide to join.
 - e) We should always think of what we can give back to the groups to make the relationship between the group and Coalition reciprocal. Organizations can get support from Coalition on request.
4. Dual sponsorship in activities - Asian Coalition plus an individual member group
- a) IWK sponsored the People's Solidarity Day Conference separately from the Coalition
 - b) Collective group must have rules which all members must adhere to. If individual acts, no point in collective action. Our problem was that we had never set down guidelines.
The following will be the guidelines in the future:
 - 1) Asian Coalition is a coordinating body for activities to which member groups subscribe and coordination is limited to each activity. If Asian Coalition undertakes to coordinate a certain activity (done only if all groups agree), then all groups are to participate as members, not as independents. (Vote Unanimously accepted)
 - 2) Asian Coalition will not take part in any activity in which a member group participates individually (Vote 10-3-1)
 - 3) One function of Asian Coalition is to share relevant information, to get feedback, etc. Therefore Asian Coalition is a forum of exchange between different organizations.
 - c) Our new guidelines could be a model for Third World unity. We could suggest such coordinating bodies for others at the People's Solidarity committee meeting.
 - d) We will send a representative to PSC meeting for the coming week since an activity we undertook as a member has not finished yet. Discussion of future representation to the committee was postponed.
 - e) Some points brought up in the discussion of dual sponsorship.
 - 1) If AC sees itself as coordinator of Asian anti-war activities, then we shouldn't be represented separately. Such separate participation calls AC role into question.
 - 2) Any group that wants to do anti-war activity should bring it back to AC first.
 - 3) AC's function is mass organization. AC cannot coordinate all anti-war activities
 - 4) IWK has slightly different position on war with its Marxist-Leninist Line. At the PSC meeting, difference between AC and IWK showed when proposals for PSC support for different socialist countries was discussed. AC could not support the proposal because there had been no discussion on the matter in the AC itself.
 - 5) AC should not have specific ideology but should be a broad based organization against the war.
 - 6) AC will be organizing among students and drawing on resources of organizations. Organization has certain res-

- possibilities to AC but not necessarily an obligation to do what AC says
- 7) Higher level of struggle not necessarily more constructive
AC should concentrate on low keyed activities in which the same things are said in better ways. AC is most effective among students - that is where we should direct our energies.
 - 8) Since we cannot control ind. groups, we must control AC
Thus AC should not sponsor an action if a member group wants to sponsor individually.
 - 9) It should not be all or nothing, If an org. wants to participate individually, it should present reasons to AC and get feedback
 - 10) Point to remember about PSC conference. The basis of coalition not very clear at times. Thus whenever there is a basis for coalition, that basis should be made explicit so the groups could decide whether to participate or not.
5. For every meeting there will be a chairman and a secretary, both on rotational basis. The secretary will be responsible to have the minutes ready for distribution by the next meeting.
6. Next meeting
- a) Monday, Aug. 28 at Tomie's -- 7:00 P.M.
 - b) Chairman: Yasim
Secretary: Mae
 - c) Agenda -- continuation of the current agenda
7. Be on time to all meetings!

Agenda

1. Goals & Achievements
2. membership of Steering Committee & Representation
3. Audience focus
4. Program of coalition