

MINUTES: Asian/Pacific Islanders Against the War Feb. 11, 1991
Co-Chairs: Kazu Iijima and Alex Hing Minutes: Amy Chen

Introductions. We thanked Hae Jung Park, from DCTV who provided the space and taped the meeting!

1. Evaluation of Jan. 19 and 26 Marches: Yuri Kochiyama and Kazu Iijima organized an Asian bus to the March on Washington (Jan. 19). It was exciting to have different Asian nationalities and age groups involved (7 - 75 yrs.). Good feeling of unity. Marched with other Filipino and Korean contingents in D.C. Realized we could get several buses in the future. 100,000 people total.

Jan. 26 - est. 250,000 people - 11 student and 25 labor buses!
Inspirational.

2. The Ad Hoc Asian Committee Ag. Persian Gulf was formed by Bill and Yuri Kochiyama, Kazu Iijima, June Kushino, Sybil Wong, Steve DeCastro, Thi Pham, Suki Ports, Eric Hill, Eleanor Kagiwara, Xuan Tao Nguyen, others.

3. Finance: Our treasurer, Bill Kochiyama gave the financial report acknowledging the people who provided seed money and donations. The balance of our funds after the bus, posters, mailings and leaflet expenses was \$386. We passed the hat around for more money and received \$85.86 plus two tokens. Our total cash balance is \$474.16.

4. Statement of Purpose:

We arrived at a five point principles of unity listed below with some discussion of the following.

Are we opposed to the invasion of Kuwait? The Coalition (Jan. 19) was against US intervention but did not condemn Iraq. Are we against global military intervention or U.S. intervention? Do we emphasize this point and is this an issue people will support? Do we make a distinction between military and other forms of intervention?

What was the real reason for this war?

What kind of perspectives can we bring to these issues as Asians?

Do we support Palestinian homelands? The rebuttal was we do not support homelands, we can support a state for Palestinians.

Discuss numbers of Filipinos in the Middle East, the Subic Naval base, etc.

If we call for an immediate ceasefire, do we call for Iraq to withdraw? The U.S. to withdraw? What type of a settlement do we support?

Do we support the self determination for the Kuwaiti people? Do we link this to Palestine, to the experience in the Philippines, Korea, etc.

We had a consensus on the following points and voted on the asterisked points:

1. Stop the War, Call for immediate ceasefire*

2. Call for a negotiated settlement; peaceful resolution of the war supporting an International peace conference to address all conflicts in the Middle East.

3. Oppose the racist nature of the war - committing genocide ag. Iraq and Kuwait, disproportionate numbers of third world people (Asians)

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Principles of Unity (cont.)

3. fighting the war, attacks against Arab Americans in the U.S.
4. Redirect military expenditures for the war to prevent domestic cutbacks in education, healthcare, AIDS, jobs, etc.
5. End U.S. intervention; end global militarization.**
6. Oppose reintroduction of the draft.

**We voted on Point 5 as follows:

- (1) End US intervention - 18 votes
- (2) End global militarization - 0
- (3) End US intervention and end militarization globally - 20 votes

We discussed tabling this point to gain a consensus. We defeated tabling because it was clear there was a majority ag. US intervention. We voted between the different emphases of US intervention and global militarization, implicitly condemning all military aggression. We decided we could support an end to U.S. intervention; and militarization globally.

*We voted to table our discussion of the Point 1 calling for immediate ceasefire. We did not have time to address the issues of US and Iraq withdrawal nor interpretations of the causes of the war. We thought a teach-in would help to clarify our thoughts about this.

5. We decided against being a coalition or committee, we are Asian/Pacific Islanders Against the War!

6. We need a teach-in. We wanted to focus the group's energies on that and then come up with a structure, plan of action and activities. A small group will write our statement of purpose based on the above points. Everyone is invited to the Coordinating Committee meeting at Local 65 - 13 Astor Place, 6:30pm, on Wed., Feb. 20. A sign up list was passed around for Research and Information, Media, and Teach In committees.

The next Asian/Pacific Islanders Against the War meeting is on February 27, 6:30pm, DCTV.

Help organize the Teach In for Asians!