

DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 9 OF 16

FOLDER 20

IPC NOTES LITERATURE 1973

4/29/73 From Judy Dings

JD, Sam ~~Sark~~ Gaber, FI, DA, Larry Kane
NJW, John + Hattie LaFuge, Ann Adams -
Cardinal LaT. (Living Workshop).
Mich had big rep. + ppl from A².

→ Unity Stmt:

Work around getting funds cut off.
Unified Strategy - as Saigon prisoners. Broad
range of peace orgs have agreed on unified strategy

③ Increasing mil. tempo in VN.

④ Unify largest # of Am. possible. Continuous
actions.

⑤ Continuous work, letter writing. Education -

⑥ Pressure by the ppl on Cong. to end
US aid.

⑦ IRR will based on:

a. Resolutions/pledges - taken to Congressman
↳ Circulated in community

b. Action/days - Christmas / Honica
Spring 3/24/74 or 4/15/74

c. Org. delegates to Saigon to investigate jobs.
sit. Unified resources.

Own styles + sit.

⑧ Indochina work continue tho' not part
of Cong.

a. Friendship solidarity work [M.A. aid]

Art. 21 of Peace Agreement.

Ppl get all upset when talk about
aid to W. VN.

Art 21 reconciliation of ppl DR of W. VN.

b. Universal unconditional amnesty.

⑨ Support the impeachment effort.

Primary focus end US intervention here.

⑩ Watergate war; the roots of crisis is
US counterinsurgency in EC.

b. Pres. failed to put intention

It planning committee to coordinate
it work, ^{program} improve communications
between groups & activists & prepared
to respond to any contingency.

→ Tom Hayden - work for impeachment ~~Whollyheartedly~~

EPC, AFSC, clergy & laity concerned

Episcopal Peace Fellowship

Fellowship of Reconciliation

Indochina Mobil Ed. Project

Internat / Comm. to Free SV Prisoners

Indochina Resource Center

Medical Aid.

PCPJ

SANE

Union of West in USA

War Resisters League

Women's Int'l League for AF Freedom

Women's Strike for Peace.

"Pretty well put together before we got there"
Imperialism & how tied into unity stuff,
not real strong anti-imp. stand.

Larry Kane & JD - not an anti-imperialistic line.

Pts do remember

- ① That the Vietnam War Party was at the 20th Cong.
- ②

135
~~932~~
420
989
108

21
5
105
60
265

To: National IPC Conference
From: California State Committee, LA IPC
written by Allen Imbarrato
Re: Criticisms, Analysis, Suggestions of IPC

1. Prisoner Campaign

During the Prisoner Campaign we have done many kinds of work, such as Congressional pressure, media work (Time magazine, LA Times), and raising the consciousness of the public (film, leaflets, demonstration) We have been far more effective in a short period of time, than ever before. Yet, we are still unable to attain our goal of cutting off aid to the prison and police systems of South Vietnam. At the present many local groups are in a state of confusion, frustration as what to do next.

The situation in the world grows more and more complex and overwhelming, there is a feeling when we go out to stress the importance of the political prisoner issue, that we have been overtaken by other more important events and tendencies in the world, such as Watergate-impeachment, Chile, the Mid-east, the economy. The prisoner issue is difficult to explicate as part of the focal point theory, for unlike the bombing, the state of a large number of political prisoners is not unique to Vietnam. It can be argued that the number of prisoners in proportion to the population is far worse in South Vietnam, and that the public is most informed about Vietnam, thus the US is most vulnerable there. But we must not fall victim to the Nixon doctrine, in the sense that our only "interest" is Vietnamese political prisoners, and that we are not as concerned about prisoners in Chile, Iran, Philippines, ect., for while we are concentrating all our energy on the weakest point of the Nixon Doctrine, Nixon is strengthening his grip on Latin America, Philippines, ect.

So, we must educate the people about the Nixon Doctrine, itself, to give people a tool to understand for themselves the relations, connections, and parallels between Vietnam, Chile, Uruguay, Iran, Israel, ect.. This understanding will give individuals and groups strength to focus on the whole, and to better understand the various parts within it. Otherwise, by focusing on one part as the embodiment of the whole, there is a tendency to distort, skew, narrow your perspective. Where we choose to fight is a strategic focus of our energies, which can only be done accurately after a thorough examination of the whole. A strategic focal point, is fluid; if it becomes fixed, it can mean opening the possibility of being overtaken by other events and forces, that are not included in your view.

2. on Solidarity movements

The Indochina Peace Campaign has found the most effective form for struggling against US Imperialism from within the oppressor country is a solidarity movement. As we act in friendship and solidarity with the oppressed peoples of Indochina, a certain love and mutual respect is built. Our basis of unity is to aid the Indochinese struggle against the forces of US Imperialism, with the notion that we are fighting together against a common enemy. Somehow, we tend to forget that many people are fighting the same enemy in many different ways. We say that because Indochina is the focal point of the struggle of forces of national liberation and US Imperialism, it is their most important place to do work. So we ask many people and groups to do something for Indochina, yet when asked to aid other Solidarity movements such as Chile and the Farmworkers, we respond that we are a single-issue organization. Again we must make a difference in our overall perspective and our strategic focus. We must find a way of contributing to other movements, as we ask them to contribute to ours, otherwise we are acting in an arrogant, sectarian manner.

Solidarity as a basis of unity must extend to solidarity amongst ourselves. The relations of work, friendship, must be filled with respect, love, openness, if we are to successfully unite in a common struggle. We must begin from a base of love within our hearts for ourselves, each other, and Americans as we do for the Vietnamese. Our suffering is not the physical kind of a war, but of the mind and spirit of living in the world's most imperialistic country. The violence that is done by the American military in Vietnam, potentially lies within most Americans minds and spirits. We must see how the hurt and suffering that occurs in interpersonal working relationships is as important a focus of energy to work to overcome as is our work for Vietnam. Otherwise, we can severely affect our ability to work together, as to harm our selves and our work.

3. Relations between Resources and Organization

IPC major strength has been its resources, and its major weakness has been the organization of base groups. The power of the organization has lied mostly in the hands of the resource people, for up until now we have operated so "loosely" that there has been no defined decision-making, communication, and accountability structures. The reliance on the resource center to perform organizational and resource production tasks is unrealistic assignment of responsibility to continue in the future. There must be a body, which has assigned duties and is accountable to the IPC membership that can function as a National Committee. And there needs to be specified National coordinators to oversee the organization, to work with a staff, to imploment the decisions of the National Conference and National committee.

The creation of these two bodies will formalize and democratize the organizational functioning of IPC. It will also specify and identify leadership so that people can better understand the Who and How of decision-making. It will also provide a form in which to criticize decisions that are made, which is so difficult to do now, since we operate so informally. The other advantage of such a defined structure is that IPC as an organization will be less vague to new people, and thus will be more willing to join IPC.

4. Need for Political Discussion and Education

If each member of IPC is to understand the importance of doing Indochina work, we need to be constantly discussing the lessons of Vietnam as they apply to new situations of conflict in the world. We must understand US History, and the History of Imperialism if we are to understand the "turning point" nature, of the Indochina War. We need to be able to analyze the world ourselves without becoming isolated or too dependant on experts, as a reaction to our confusion. As critical thinkers we can draw upon the resources of knowledgable people, and integrate their information into our views, but the moment we become mere implomenters of anothers analysis without some understanding of it ourselves, we leave ourselves too open to become confused and frustrated when we encounter difficulty. Thus, each person must engage in study and discussion of the changing world situation in order to do creative, effective work.

This requires some kind of organizational structure and resource production to facilitate such needs. A program of study that includes US History, the History of the Anti-War movement, the economic system, ~~and~~ the history of imperialism, and history of the Indochina War., should be developed and offered to all IPC groups as a suggested study plan. Groups should set aside time in their meetings to carry on political discussions and write them up and distribute to other groups,

5. Solution

The solution is "Peace and Democracy" is the headline in the Focal Point. More and more people are asking, what is the solution, for so many years we have heard what is wrong, and we must fight this and this, but what are we fighting for? Is there time to postpone answering this question? Can we continue to focus all of our efforts to stop evil and suffering in Indochina, when there is so much right here in America? Is our work for Indochina, part of a process to find the answer to our own suffering and struggle for freedom? These questions must be addressed, if we are to see ourselves building a majority movement for peace, as the strategy paper suggests.

What do we mean by Peace? Is it a state of being, the absence of conflict? When will we consider that the War is over in Indochina, and peace has been achieved?

Many people have left politics because it has not provided an answer, only a statement as to what was wrong. Is this a limit of what can be done in a political educative way as IPC does, if so we need to make that clear to ourselves and to others. For false expectations tend to breed cynicism and frustrations that tears down what we can do well. For by understanding our limits, we free ourselves to do better work and achieve our specific goals.

In Solidarity,
Allen S. Brantato

INDOCHINA PEACE CAMPAIGN

Notes from California State Coordinating Committee Meeting

The first California SCC meeting was held Friday, August 31, 1973 in Fresno. Members present were Hank Askin/Santa Barbara, Linda Pascucci/Fresno, Shari Whitehead/San Diego, Alan Imbarrato/Los Angeles, Marin Marcus/Resource Center, Susan Wind/State Coordinator. Representatives not able to come were from Sonoma County and the Bay Area.

The agenda was revised and completed to be as follows:

PRACTICAL BUSINESS:

1. Resource Center Report
2. IPC Tour
3. "Week of Concern"
4. State-wide Demonstration(s)
5. Logistics of National Conference
6. Focal Point
7. Fund-raising/State Budget
8. Newsletter

LONGER DISCUSSION:

1. New Groups
2. Conference Call Strategy Paper
3. Membership and Dues

RESOURCE CENTER REPORT

The proposal from the Santa Barbara state conference to have the Swedish political education book translated has been, for reasons of practicality, modified to be an outline of the manual translated from Swedish to English.

Resources available or coming are:

1. A general IPC brochure being completed. It will list resources, what IPC is, a short history of IPC and IPC strategy. The brochure will be ready by the tour starting date.
2. The next issue of Focal Point will be devoted entirely to a special report on Watergate and the War.
3. The new "Women Under Torture" pamphlet is being printed.
4. 100,000 copies of a four page tabloid pamphlet on Political Prisoners in South Vietnam have just been printed.
5. "Before We Make Them Heroes" has just been revised.
6. A regular issue of Focal Point will be available the week of September 1.
7. "We Accuse", a book by Jean-Pierre Debris and Andre Menros, has been summarized by Alex Knopp and the summary is available.
8. The Conference Call Strategy Paper for the conference in October has been distributed.
9. A leaflet on the film "South Vietnam: A Question of Torture" has been prepared for the tour.
10. A list of activities around "Days of Concern" being planned nationally are available.
11. Memo regarding "Days of Concern" including prayers written especially for the events planned are available from the Resource Center.
12. Posters for "Week of Concern"
13. Memos regarding booking the tour are being distributed.
14. Jane Barton, who worked at the Quang Nai Hospital has excellent slides. Jane Fonda is putting Jane B's slides into the Women's slide show to focus more on political prisoners. Jane B's slides are also useful for a political prisoners slide show.

TOUR

People available for the tour in California are Jean-Pierre Debris, Leonard Weinglass, Tom Hayden, Holly Near. They can be booked between October 18 and November 25 through Carol Kurtz at the Resource Center. Suggestions for other speakers are:

- *Jane Barton (book through AFSC)
- *John Champlin, a physician who has treated prisoners released in South Vietnam (book through Asia News Service or Shari Whitehead)
- *A scientist named Pfeiffer who, along with another person, were the first Americans to go to Quang Tri (book through ANS or Shari)
- *Don Luce (book through AFSC)

WEEK OF CONCERN

It was suggested that if conditions are too difficult, due to the short amount of time available to prepare for the international date for the "Week of Concern" (September 15-22), a similar week could be developed around the tour's appearance in individual communities. If groups choose to utilize the international date, the Swedish model is useful to examine: a few people doing a few things without overextending the capabilities of the chapter.

In Los Angeles, IPC has formed a coalition with the Union of Vietnamese and the Bar Sinister to work around the Week of Concern, and it was generally agreed that this opportunity for action was a good one to build bridges with other anti-war groups. Actions can be divided among groups participating in the coalition, such as distributing literature in a comprehensive way, human billboarding in front of federal buildings and other public places depicting situations of torture described in the political prisoners leaflet, work on mass church emphasis around political prisoners (provide information about and names of political prisoners to be used in sermons). One copy of the film "A Question of Torture" is available, so booking should be planned well in advance with the Resource Center.

Valley IPC has been working with a reporter from TIME magazine investigating the Computer Sciences Corporation's involvement with the training of Saigon's police. An article should appear this week or next week in TIME as a result of these efforts. Information received from it could be very useful in "Week of Concern" activities. This will be the first real grasp on U.S. involvement in the prison system in Saigon. It will also graphically reveal how the U.S. maintains the Saigon computer dossier system.

DEMONSTRATION(S)

It appears that the most likely target for demonstrations is the Computer Sciences Corporation. The CSC has offices across the nation and world. IPC chapters in L.A. are planning an event that will tie the CSC back to Watergate and Nixon. Final decisions regarding actions around CSC are pending the outcome of the L.A. event and local responses to the possibilities of independent demonstrations coordinated on a state-wide level or a mass demonstration in California.

Copies of a list of the office locations of the CSC may be obtained from Allen Imbaratto, 2421 Boone Ave., Venice, Ca. 90291. With the national and international presence of CSC it is also possible for us to think of actions on a scale larger than in the state of California.

A good article to prepare people to link CSC with Watergate and Nixon was suggested by L.A. It is by Kirkpatrick Sale and explores the "Yankee Cowboy" theory (the second government behind Nixon) and is found in the New York Review of Books.

LOGISTICS OF THE NATIONAL IPC CONFERENCE

→ The coming conference is going to be a unity conference where different groups come together to plan for fall activities. As many groups as possible will participate, and local chapters are encouraged to invite representatives from organizations that are interested. One estimate for attendance at the conference is 200 people. The SCC discussed how many people from each California chapter would be interested and able to travel to Detroit. We came up with an approximation of ten to twelve people. If travelling by van or car the trip will take about nine days (three to get there, three at the conference, three to get back). There is a possibility that a van will be made available from Santa Barbara, and Hank is confirming that. Marin is checking the costs of renting vans and air fare. I will continue to be a liason for local groups to make sure that every group that wants to and can be represented at the conference is, with a special emphasis on Sonoma County and San Francisco.

FOCAL POINT

The discussion of Focal Point began with a suggestion - from the FP staff for local groups to try hard for subscriptions, send letters of feedback to the staff, and send articles, reports and pictures about local activities. The Resource Center has a dark room now, so undeveloped negatives may be sent.

The Resource Center has a cover letter soliciting subscriptions that can be sent to people who have expressed an interest in FP. The staff also reported that since the amount for the subscription has already been formalized in the cover letters and previous issues of FP, it would not be a good idea to change the amount as was proposed at the Santa Barbara conference.

Local groups, at this time, can be supplied with as many copies as they can use. Discussion at the meeting pointed out that FP is being used internally and as a back-up resource when distributing the Indochina Bulletin.

Valley IPC pointed out that they had thought FP would have much more internal IPC news, and they think that FP has gone more in the direction of the IB. As a result of this criticism, the Committee recommended that the FP staff and the IB staff discuss the problems of duplication of purposes and energies. Local groups should also discuss this problem and give feedback to the Resource Center. We need to decide how the papers are used, for what purposes and do we need both. Should the FP staff plan to produce an issue periodically for mass distribution to take the place of the IB? The FP staff is writing a statement for the SCC on this problem.

FUND-RAISING/STATE BUDGET

Marin reported that the California account dates back to August 1972 when the first and last fund-raiser was conducted for California. Technically, there is \$30 left in the bank, and we are actually in debt for about \$50.

Valley IPC proposed that 10% of the net of all California fund-raising activities go to the state budget, and that a projected state budget be made. Each chapter should then take an equal percentage and be responsible for that. Also, a percentage of the funds raised from the tour in California should go to the projected state budget.

San Diego countered with this proposal: 45% of all funds raised in California should go to local chapters, 10% to the state budget and 45% to the Resource Center.

As discussion rigorously progressed about what to expect for a state budget, we recommended that Marin and I should develop a projected state budget. Then the problem unique to California regarding prohibitive costs of sending representatives to the National conference was talked about, and Linda suggested that the expense could be shared somehow by the national organization. Marin volunteered to check with the Resource Center on that problem/possibility. It was also decided that she should continue as bookkeeper for the state.

We tried to think of ways we could raise money for the state budget outside of local chapter contributions, and decided that we could organize a large event with performers (Bonnie Rait was mentioned specifically). Allen and Marin are investigating the possibilities.

NEWSLETTER

There were three proposals for the newsletter. This report is getting long, so for the sake of the comprehensibility of these notes I'll report on the decision. L.A. IPC will take the initial responsibility for getting the first issue of the newsletter out. That means that they will compile, produce and distribute enough copies of the newsletter for each member in every chapter. It will be produced every six to eight weeks with responsibility rotating after three issues. Santa Barbara will produce it after L.A., then Fresno. City reports for newsletter should be sent to Allen Imbarato on Gestetner mimeo sheets, no longer than two 9x14" stencils.

The copy deadline for the first issue is September 20, and it will be distributed one week later. Valley IPC will send out a list of questions to be included in consideration of contributions submitted for the first issue.

If a group agrees on the value of a piece of literature for education and notification of the entire state, it should be sent out from the local chapter or sent to Marin in L.A. for duplication and distribution.

BUSINESS REQUIRING LONGER DISCUSSION:

NEW GROUPS

We all agreed that the idea of travelling has great potential when working with new groups. In particular, we felt that the bay area should be emphasized. It was agreed that Shari and I should share travelling, with Shari concentrating on Southern California for practical reasons. Priorities were decided upon for the travellers:

*Bay Area (IPC contacts have begun working there and need follow-up efforts)

*Sonoma County/Sacramento Area (It is logistically very difficult for Sonoma representatives to participate as much as is necessary in state meetings, and there are several

contacts in Sacramento necessary to follow up)
*Merced/Modesto Area (several people there have expressed an interest in IPC work and are interested in the Tour coming)

CONFERENCE CALL STRATEGY PAPER

Santa Barbara proposed that IPC should nationally consider isolationism how to smash top-downism criticism/self-criticism, RMK-BRJ (how serious we are about actions around it), Watergate and links to U.S. imperialism. Also, that IPC should consider participating in the National Lawyers' Guild suit to invalidate the elections.

San Diego suggested that a four part agenda presented by Carol Kurtz to Shari be modified. At the national conference we need a balanced kind of agenda that will give time to the meaning of focal point. We need to talk about the focal point implications to America (Watergate), programs (Political Prisoners), and organizations. She proposed that the agenda be as follows:

1. Focal point, history of the anti-war movement, Watergate
2. Political Prisoners, Aid to Thieu
3. Organization (membership, dues, leadership, isolationism)

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Everyone generally agreed that the idea of pledges was a good one and that the organization was not ready for dues. In a membership proposal from San Diego, it was decided that if membership is adopted, it would mean that all members would:

1. agree on political principles
2. be involved in unified study groups (re: imperialism, history of Vietnam, history of anti-war movement, etc.)
3. participate in outreach in the streets
4. have an awareness of organizational responsibility, but participation in things like keeping books, - staffing offices, etc. not be a criteria for membership.

These points need a great amount of thought and expansion by each chapter in the newsletter. What do they mean to you and your constituency?

We all thought a good idea for pledges would be to make them in the form of money or skills.

CRITICISM/SELF-CRITICISM/PRAISE

I should have reported a message that Shari had given me about the Conference Call Strategy Paper being prepared in L.A. more clearly to local groups. It would have saved a lot of misunderstandings and confusion in the course of the meeting. Shari mentioned that she should have had more contact with the San Diego chapter while she was travelling in Oregon and the Bay Area, because the San Diego chapter report was not sent to the meeting. We all agreed that Marin's participation in the meeting was very valuable and that she should continue to participate in the State Coordinating Committee meetings.

Next SCC meeting date: October 14, in Fresno because of it's good vibes and central location in the great golden gate state. Guided tours of the foothills and Yosemite are also available upon request.

INDOCHINA PEACE CAMPAIGN

Notes (cont.)

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The meeting was a good start for our new internal structure, but I think we would all agree that the next one should not be another marathon into the dawning hours. There are many proposals that came out of the meeting. Chapters should discuss the report and representatives on the Committee should be prepared to make decisions for actions at the next meeting.

We need your feedback on this meeting in the newsletter! Remember the deadline for copy: SEPTEMBER 20.

Hang in there, ..

Susan

FREE SAIGON'S POLITICAL PRISONERS
SUPPORT THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE VIETNAMESE
STOP AID TO THIEU
IMPLEMENT THE PEACE AGREEMENTS!!!

INDOCHINA PEACE CAMPAIGN

Santa Barbara Chapter/Report for Newsletter
September 1973

1. What does Indochina Solidarity mean to your group in your political work and to individuals in your personal lives? What is your understanding of Indochina as a Focal Point in the struggle for national independence against neo-colonialism?
2. How does our "Solidarity work" for Indochina relate to our own struggle against oppressive forces in the U.S.?

The most sustained and well known struggle against Imperialism has been in Vietnam. It is the one that people know the most about, and has taken on the meaning of an example. - It is where the contradiction between Imperialism and the anti-Imperialist struggle (which includes the struggle for national independence) is the most blatant at this time. Solidarity with this struggle is the only position that we can, or would want to take. It means we have to come to an understanding of that struggle and its importance. Each of us as individuals have an understanding of these things and that brings us together to work in solidarity with the Indochinese struggle. Our solidarity work threatens the establishment and limits their efficacy. This heightens the contradictions (for example their use of increased repression) and thus gives us ways to educate more people, i.e. Watergate, Pentagon Papers, various conspiracy trials, etc. Recognizing that the forces that oppress us are the same that oppress people in Indochina---and seeing the universality of that phenomena (of Imperialism and Neo-colonialism)---helps us to educate people about it. It also gives us the opportunity to use the Indochinese model of struggle in our own lives and political work, i.e. collectivism, criticism and self-criticism, recognizing our real enemies, endurance, perseverance, etc. Solidarity work is essentially positive and so enhances our unity work here, and doesn't turn people off so much as some other movement philosophies might.

3. Constituency work. Young college or post college radicals and old time liberals are our basic constituency. We've found solidarity with women's groups and church groups. No connections as yet with unions or schools, but plan to try to get into high schools this year, by offering our resources to the local teacher's union by means of contact with individual teachers, and by a mailing (to all teachers in the union) of our literature and a letter describing our resources, and offering to speak, etc.

4. War Bulletin and Focal Point. We feel the need for a mass-distribution informational resource, and we have used the Indochina Bulletin effectively as such in the past. The Focal Point does not seem appropriate for mass distribution, but we find it very valuable in terms of internal communication within IPC---in terms of information. We feel both papers are valuable and do not duplicate each other's functions.

5. Membership guidelines. S.B.'s most recent discussion on the question of membership resulted in our taking a position against favouring its adoption. We have not had an opportunity to rediscuss it in view of the state's decision, but since the job of the state committee is to synthesize all local positions into a state position, we will support the stated state position keeping in mind the slogan "Implement all State Decisions". The guidelines seem basically sound and we have been moving in that direction anyway.

6. What have we been doing? We have leafletted and raised funds for MAI at a local Fiesta Parade. Visited Congressman's

Teague's administrative assistant and discussed the plight of political prisoners, cutting off aid to Thieu, the Food for Peace Program, support for the Veterans Benefits Bill, etc. He seemed to listen and we gave him a great deal of printed information and talked for a long time. It is really hard to evaluate the effect, but we felt we did a good job, and gave him facts he did not know before. We have continued our political prisoner work by selling bracelets, arranging women's slide show at City College, and selling bracelets there, leafletting at the Joan Baez concert and getting her to announce us, planning for two upcoming tour appearances in Santa Barbara, we drove to L.A. to meet with the Resource Center and see "State of Siege" as a group, and we have been doing a lot of talking and preparation for fall work to begin after the national conference. People's schedules are changing and we're getting our own fall trips together. We plan to prepare unified resources so we all can function as speakers and resource people for our "high school offensive". We want to speak, show films, etc., and to prepare ourselves for this we're writing a booklet which outlines important points to make, with the illustrations included, statistics right there, etc. We will sell political prisoner packets and bracelets on the street and in conjunction with the women's slide show and sell "Women Under Torture". We've established a cooperative literature distribution agreement with the UFW support here. Many of us are also working with the committee to restore democracy in Chile and other community groups. We also plan to show "Post War War" and "A Question of Torture" to selected groups.

7. National Conference. We all want to go, and conceivably could go if we could fly (that's 8 - 10 people). But the Tour will be here Tuesday and the conference begins Friday afternoon which rules out driving and getting there in any kind of shape to participate (and it rules out driving for sure for Fresno who has the tour Wednesday). We can't afford to pay for ourselves, but if there was some money forthcoming from someplace, we would sure try to make up the difference from somewhere!

8. A question that we would like to see answered is "What is your principle or primary problem in your political work?" However, we feel that questions in general should be determined in part by the responses to these questions, and also by what happens at the next State Coordinating Committee meeting and/or the conference, and other events that transpire. We feel that theoretical questions are valuable and necessary, but questions such as the first three in this newsletter are very deep and broad and seem to require a great deal of space, to say nothing of time for discussion in order to respond to them completely. We don't have a great deal of time to go over all the questions, and it seemed we had to choose somewhat between doing other things we'd planned and discussing the newsletter questions as well as we would have liked to. Hence, the somewhat disjointed answers to the more involved questions, and the rather rushed typing job for which we apologize.

Sept. 19, 1973

SAN DIEGO CITY REPORT
FOR CALIF. STATEWIDE NEWSLETTER

As always we are running a little behind "schedule" so we have not had a discussion of the questions sent out by Allen to the chapters for the state newsletter. We can report on our activities and thereby reveal a partial answer to some of the questions, especially the questions about building a base with a certain constituency.

Following the statewide conference in Santa Barbara and the Aug. 15 bombing cutoff, we had a Cambodia Forum at San Diego State University. Paul Rider, of the Pentagon Papers Trial delegation to Indochina, came down from L.A. and spoke. We did a fair amount of publicity including a mailing to over 600 people, radio announcements, and ads and articles in 3 of the local alternative newspapers. Only 20 people came which caused us to reconsider some of our assumptions. Specifically we felt that we could no longer rely on pulling the progressive community together through city-wide events for effective outreach. Rather, we should try to rely on institutions and communities with defined constituencies and programs that we can integrate ourselves into as much as possible.

We continue to leaflet weekly and do so in a variety of communities around the city. There are four main areas we hit every four weeks. We haven't picked one constituency as the key one to work with. We work with all different kinds of people.

Our political education has reached a temporary impasse as we continue to put off our final evaluation of 'The Enemy' by Felix Green. Generally we consider political education one of our strengths and intend to continue with a study program.

Since the state conference we met with one of our congressional representatives, Lionel Van Deerlin, and one of Senator Tunney's aides. We were well armed with information from the Coalition to Stop funding the war and the IPC L.A. Resource Center. Van Deerlin was especially impressed and responded favorably with limited commitments to see that our proposals were given some consideration before the appropriate committees.

As part of the International Week of Concern we have shown the Saigon prisoner film in some classes, and intend to use it again. We have also done some radio tapes on the prisoner situation to be played all week. On Sunday, Sept. 23, we will join AFSC and WILPF in a gathering at the S.D. Zoo, distributing leaflets and talking to people. We will display our new sign which an artist did for us. It is 8' x 3', multi-color enamel on wood and designed for use in the political prisoner campaign. We felt it would be useful to have something large and identifiable with us when we leaflet.

Miracle of miracles, a S.D. Union reporter is working on a story about our IPC group. The Copley press is generally nothing more than a mouthpiece for the Nixon gang so this is a real break. We shouldn't count our chickens before they are hatched but it is something to look forward to.

Re: Focal Point. To solve the need for both a mass and an organizational newspaper why not alternate issues?

Re: state money. We wholeheartedly endorse state comm. proposal: 45% national, 10% state, and 45% local from tour funds.
ready

We are getting for the Debris tour with much excitement!

(P.S. We are looking for
volunteers from the state
to help leaflet & poster the week of Oct. 11)

Hangin' in there,
S.D. IPC

INDOCHINA PEACE CAMPAIGN

Fresno Chapter/Report for Newsletter
September 1973

One of the original goals of the anti-war movement was to eliminate American military influence from Indochina. We are still working for peace in Indochina because of the American supported police and prison systems in Vietnam. We are still working because if the political prisoners in Thieu's jails are not released, if aid to Thieu is not cut off, if the Vietnamese do not have the right to self-determination, if, in short, the peace agreements are not implemented, there is no peace in Indochina, and there is a strong possibility of American military re-intervention. We are still working because we have to finish what is almost done.

It is important for us to struggle with other Americans to understand that the Indochinese people are people, not the faceless enemy the successive U.S. administrations would have us believe. As we lessen the divisions between ourselves and the Indochinese people, we can apply valuable insights and practices learned from their examples to our own oppression individually and collectively in the U.S.

Indochina Solidarity means to us that we understand that we can not have a neo-colonialist foreign policy and maintain a democracy at home. Repression is conducted on an ever-increasing scale to individuals through the media, judicial system, etc. We, and thousands more, are made to feel like criminals for holding political beliefs unpopular to the governmental administrations. We hold that the oppression of the Indochinese people depends on the individual and collective repression of every American citizen, and at the same time we find in the Indochinese people inspirational examples of patience, single-mindedness and courage to us as we continue our work. We are also very personally affected by the fact that Vietnamese friends of ours in Fresno are facing serious deportation efforts by the AID for political stances opposing Thieu, hence facing certain imprisonment, torture and possibly death, not only to themselves, but to their families in Saigon as well.

The war in Indochina has proved to be the longest military struggle in the history of the U.S., and has become the focus of all third world struggles against neo-colonialism. -It is the most recent place where people have fought face-to-face with U.S. imperialism, and not just puppets. There were a few people in the Fresno chapter who hold that the outcome will determine the fate of present struggles in Africa, South America, Chile, the Middle East, etc. However, some people felt that the Indochinese struggle is significant now, but were uncertain about the Focal Point theory. They held that two years ago they would have felt comfortable about the theory, but they feel that things have changed. While one person said that if there was a focal point it should be the Middle East, others were not sure that the whole concept of the importance of having a focal point makes sense, and if it does they thought that it is quite possible it would be somewhere else.

It is clear that the Fresno chapter's actual and most successful constituency has been on the state college campus, though we have made some efforts to reach out in the community through joint actions with an Ad Hoc Committee on Vietnam, the Minority Community, leafletting in community traffic areas, political education classes at the public library, showing slide shows in high schools, holding events at the city college.

A few people are making an effort to print bi-lingual literature for the Chicano community and a private high school is encouraging students to work in IPC this year. We have a short range program planned for the state college: Vietnam Vets poetry reading, the Tour, a Vietnamese dinner with poetry and singing, and a benefit concert/dance for IPC. A potential strategy is developing in the Chicano community, beginning with the bi-lingual literature mentioned above.

We consider the Indochina Bulletin to be an objective and thorough news report. The Focal Point we see as an organizations' news link between IPC and other already convinced anti-war groups. We have used the IB for mass distribution, although our ability to distribute them is lessening, due to financial debts we must clear. We have mainly been using them recently for internal political education. FP has been utilized as a back-up resource for the IB when people express interest in activity around Indochina. We encourage the staffs of both publications to meet and discuss the roles and functions of the papers, and then present a statement to the next State Coordinating Committee meeting on October 14.

Our chapter generally agreed that people feel more comfortable coming into a non-membership organization, and that the proposal should be considered a guideline for what we could do at meetings, and how we might operate as a chapter. Several people objected strongly to the whole concept of membership, and a few thought that #1 (ideological agreement) would have to be interpreted broadly. Some thought that point #4 (sharing of organizational tasks) should be clarified.

We are continuing our regular weekly meetings, most times taking care of business matters that arise. We decided to fold our office because it was serving no purpose for us at this time and costing us a lot of money we thought could be better used for materials. We continue to distribute the Indochina Bulletin and have begun distribution of the Focal Point to interested people. We've taken the Indochina Bulletin to the bus depot and large shopping centers through the summer and tried to talk with people and get questions and responses. We received good feedback, but are still wondering about the role of the IB and FP for our chapter. We've also been distributing the political prisoner leaflets around town, most recently at the UFWOC convention held in Fresno, at shopping centers and CSUF now that school has reopened. We have set up a table at CSUF which will operate regularly with literature and stress active involvement in IPC. Plans are being finalized for the Tour. Khai and Phuong (the two Vietnamese students in Fresno facing deportation) need our support critically right now. Their hearing date is coming up in October, and they need as much publicity as possible. Plans include a Vietnamese dinner/poetry reading/singing event following the Tour, where we hope to raise funds for their defense.

One member of our chapter is planning to go to Ohio, and it is possible that a delegation from the private high school (Millbrook) mentioned earlier will attend the conference.

We suggest that individuals attending the conference in Ohio make a report to the state through the next issue of the newsletter. How do chapters relate to the Resource Center? What role do chapters feel they have in the national organization? Who are the IPC policy makers? What role do chapters feel they play in policy making?

Report of the San Fernando Valley IPC

1. The remaining issues for the Peace Movement to work on are aid to their political prisoners, which are part of the general position of Implementing the Peace Agreement. We also feel it is important to "Heal the Wounds" of the War, by contributing to Medical Aid to Indochina, and to "Teach the Lessons of the War"

We understand the struggle in Indochina to be the weakest link in the American Imperial system, thus the most vulnerable to public observation. We feel that what happens in Indochina, significantly affects other struggles for independence around the world, that more and more the only choices that third world countries have is Fascism-Military Dictatorship (Philippines, Uruguay, Chile) or Socialist Revolution (Vietnam, Cambodia, Cuba). The PRG is the most successful progressive to stand up to US Domination, Therefore, to further its goals, furthers the goals of all progressive people.

We feel a need to understand the basis of Imperialism which is Capitalism, so we have a need to study Economics, beginning with Wage, Price, Profit, by Marx.

2. As citizens of the World's most oppressive country, we all share some responsibility, and benefit from this position. Our freedoms and standard of living come as the fruit of the American Empire. We are oppressors to the majority of the world's people in some way. Therefore, as part of freeing ourselves from our oppressor role, it is proper to support the struggles for national independence. The proper relation is one of solidarity. Conversely, we are oppressed and exploited by the same government and system as the movement we are in solidarity with. And so a weakening of this system, ultimately is also to our advantage also. Ultimately is the keyword, for in the immediate sense, what is lost abroad is taken from the people in the US. Often, it is said, that Capitalism is the basis of Imperialism, and therefore working class struggles is Focal Point. We feel there is a vast difference in the degree of oppression and exploitation, between a country such as Vietnam in which Genocide, Ecocide, and Cultural destruction are practiced, and the conditions of workers in the United States.

We generally recommend that IPC needs to integrate and unite with all forms of anti-imperialist struggles, i.e. women's movement, labor movements, third world movements.

3. We tend to have the most success with middle class middle age liberals, high school students and college students, and young working people (emphasis on social workers, and teachers) We have a beginning strategy to concentrate on building bases in church community, and in high schools with both students and teachers.

4. We recommend that some kind of merge take place between the Focal Point and the Indochina Bulletin. We feel the cost and energy of putting out two national anti-war newspapers is too much, at least for us to buy and distribute. We like the direct news from AIG, yet we feel the IB is too narrow in its focus, and sometimes can be viewed as propaganda from Hanoi. We like the analysis, tone, look of the Focal Point, it is more interesting than the IB. It should be more able to be used for mass distribution. However, the FP, lacks the straight news of the IB, perhaps this is where a good merging could occur.

5. The idea of a set procedure for membership raised several fears, of IPC becoming "too tight", of power and authority in IPC. There was a feeling of a need to more clearly state what it means to be part of an IPC group and to do IPC work, especially to give new people an idea of what is involved, time, responsibility, ideology. Also it is important for every member to have a good understanding of the organization and its issues in order to represent its views on the street, or in a public presentation.

We felt strongly in the preservation of group autonomy, and organization flexibility.

So to suggest that general guidelines of what it means to be a part of IPC that include, points of unity-agreement, a commitment to do out reach work, to share organizational responsibilities, to engage in study.

6. Our main activities have been Congressional visitation, a fund raiser, a tour event, and leafleting and showing the film at Cal State Northridge. The report on our Congressional meeting was mailed out previously. The Tour event, was with Debrics, Tom and the film. It was aimed at the Church community, was cosponsored by the Valley Interfaith Council (a liberal body of most denominations) They sent out a mailing to 250 clergy in the Valley. We only finalized plans for the event 10 days before it happened, so the expectation was a small, beginning event for a Fall Campaign that would reach into the Church-Temple community. About 50 people attended, \$60 was raised, and several good new contacts were made. The other events will be described in supplementary reports.

Our plan for the Fall to concentrate on the Political prisoners issue in mainly high school, churches, and colleges.

7. There is a desire of 3 people to go. One person would have to fly in order to attend.

8. Suggested question for next newsletter- How are decisions made in IPC? Where is the power? How Should decision-making be done?

CITY REPORT---DOWNEY IPC

The start of school and new jobs has taken a minor toll on Downey IPC, but we're still hanging in there. People in our chapter go to Cal State Long Beach, Cal State Dominguez and Long Beach City college. and/or work full time as mothers, a L.V.N., waitresses, a crafts teacher and a lifeguard at a neuro-psychiatric hospital and a hospital librarian.

Our first project after the state conference was selling political prisoners bracelets at the Joan Baez concert in Long Beach. Several other IPC people showed up (mostly from the L.A. area) and distributed Political Prisoner leaflets. The reception to the leaflets was very good. The success of our bracelet campaign was definitely minimal. We sold only \$48 worth of bracelets. We asked for a \$1 for a bracelet and packet. In the future we will ask for 25¢ or whatever a person can afford. (A percentage of our fund-raising now goes to Phyllis, because we feel there's a need for a full-time coordinator in L.A.)

Downey invited Jane Fonda to speak at our community outreach meeting on Aug. 28. Our turn-out was surprisingly good considering space and geography. Approximately 30 people came. The group was diverse--students and working people aged 15 to 60. We were pleased with how the people reacted to Jane and her info. People came with beliefs that they questioned at the end of the meeting. We had planned a slide show for the people who had come, but due to misunderstandings within our own group, the follow-up calls were made late and no one showed up. We're now contacting these people about the Week of Concern and the Demonstration.

In the last month, our major work has been on the demonstration at CSC. We leafleted campuses and movie lines for the demonstration. We also wrote a letter to the employees of CSC explaining the reason for the demonstration and that the demo was not an attack on the employees. We see this leaflet as having major importance. CSC employees were remarkably receptive. (not everyone of course) Many people came out of the building to get the leaflet. We also were told by an employee that CSC had posted an answer to our charges in the elevators. We feel that if we had not communicated with the employees, that they would not have understood the reason for the demonstration and would have reacted negatively to it. We acted on the belief that they probably didn't know what their company was responsible for. They are not our enemies and with information they may make some changes. This kind of approach has been lacking in the anti-war movement and we believe should be made a major emphasis in future work.

In the next six weeks we plan to emphasize congressional pressure work. One of our members was part of a delegation to see Congressman Bell and appointments have been made with the Aides of Anderson (who discovered the Tiger Cages) and Housner. We will give them our information packet, which has extensive documentation, and list of ideas for legislation and publicity around the political prisoner issue that we would like to see them implement. We plan to book the slide show and political prisoner film on campuses and in a Unitarian Church in Long Beach. There we hope to encourage people to pressure their congresspeople.

Solidarity,

Downey IPC

- We are including our leaflet to the employees of CSC.

IPC

17404 john r.

detroit mich 48203



October, 1973

Dear Friends,

While the Middle-east, Chile and war criminal Richard Nixon's domestic crisis dominate the front pages, we know that you are aware that the outcome of events in Indo-China will have a profound effect on the entire world and national situation. The Vietnamese struggle we believe, remains critical to the entire power of U.S. Imperialism at home and abroad.

The Vietnamese struggle therefore is our struggle. The present U.S. policy of sabotaging the January agreement through massive military and economic aid to Thieu and his imprisonment of thousands of political prisoners requires that we do as much as possible to support the the Vietnamese struggle to implement the accords.

Conditions have never been more favorable. The Nixon administration, largely as result of the Indo-China caused Watergate crisis is more unpopular, divided and weak than ever before. (Enclosed you will find a leaflet about a forthcoming talk by Leonard Weinglass, attorneyth for Daniel Ellsberg, Tony Russo and the Chicago Eight and a recent visitor to Hanoi who will elaborate on the Indo-China/Watergate relationship.)

In addition, the pressure of Third World countries meeting at the recent Conference of Non-Aligned Nations in Algiers was successful in forcing a change of the Soviet Unions position on Cambodia. They have increased their support for the legitimate Cambodia regime whose head of state is Norodom Sihanouk and reduced their support for the U.S. installed dictator Lon Nol.

In order to take advantage of these opportunities, there are many impending meetings, action programs and other things to do.

On Tuesday, October 30, the Northwest Women for Peace will sponsor an activity calling attention to the continued imprisonment of South Vietnamese political prisoners. Beginning at Noon at Kennedy Square, there will be a mock tiger cage. Also IPC tour member Jean Pierre Debris, a Frenchman imprisoned in Sigon for two years will be present. We urge you all to attend.

Northwest Women, and others, were also instrumental in recently persuading Channel 56 to tape a one hour special program which included the powerful film "A Question of Torture". Crucial and well documented information, systematically denied the American people is presented. Now however, the highest officials of Channel 56 have refused to air the program. They claim that it is too controversial and "biased" for public viewing, despite the fact that they themselves selected an Air Force Colonel who appears on the program to present the "other side".

The shows producer, Andy Driscoll, needs our support in his efforts to get the program shown. Public T.V. is supposed to be controversial and responsive to community groups. We urge that you write letters and make telephone calls as individuals and if possible as representatives of churches and organizations demanding that the program, "Viet Nam: Prisons of the South" be shown immediately.

Letters or calls should be directed at James M. Christianson, General Manager; Jack Costello, Production Director and Jerry Trainor, program director. Channel 56 is at 7441 Second Ave. 48202. Telephone 873-7200.

In the Congressional arena, things are promising, although the Abourezk ammendment of which Tom, Jane, and others on the IPC tour spoke was defeated. There is a solid and growing Congressional bloc opposing funding for Thieu and there are important things that can be done immediately to intensify pressure on Congress.

In particular, Congressman Broomfield from the 19th Congressional District is a member of the conference committee which is to resolve differences between the Senate and House versions of the foriegn aid appropriations bill. The Senate version is better in that it calls for only a \$376 million appropriation for Thieu as opposed to the \$632 million which Nixon requested and the House approved. In addition, the Senate bill provides that Thieu's police could no longer be trained in the U.S. or elsewhere. Also, it provides that it is the sense of Congress that the U.S. should not furnish military assistance to any country not complying with the January 27 peace agreement and that it is the sense of Congress that "The President should deny economic or military aid to the government of any foriegn country which imprisons its citizens for political purposes." The latter provision although powerless, would presumably apply to U.S. policy in Chile, Greece, South Africa and elsewhere in addition to Viet Nam.

Letters, telegrams, delegations and other pressures on Broomfield could be extremely helpful in the favorable resolution of the differences in the bills. Broomfield has gradually in recent years become slightly more responsive to the overwhelming anti-war sentiment in his district and therefore it is possible to make a difference in this case.

Whatever the outcome of the conference committees negotiations, another Abourezk type ammendment will be introduced shortly by representative Roybal of California (largely as the result of IPC pressure from his own district). All Congressional representatives should be urged to support this and any other such legislation. We will try to keep you posted about specific details as they become available. The sending of prisoner bracelets to Congress people, suggesting that they wear them also, is considered a good tactic by staff people at the Coalition to Stop Funding War in Washington.

The Michigan Medical Aid Committee is the state office of Medical Aid to Indo-China (MAI)---the national organizations which has raised millions of dollars for the purchase of medical supplies and equipment for Indo-China.

Michigan Medical Aid, now a year and a half old, continues to raise funds for Indo-China and is exploring the possibility of setting up channels for the delivery of medical supplies and equipment to liberation struggles in Southern Africa and Latin America. In addition, it is preparing a health and safety pamphlet which will provide an analysis of the health care delivery system in Viet Nam and our own health care system--how it operates and why. It will also include a section on basic health care information and occupational health and safety.

Films, slide shows, speakers and literature are available on request. For more information write or call Michigan Medical Aid Committee, 16408 Hamilton; Highland Park, Michigan 48203. Telephone 341-7466. Checks or money orders should be made out to Michigan Medical Aid Committee.

Indo-China: A National Planning Conference will be held Oct. 26-28 in Dayton, Ohio. Its purpose will be to plan a continuing educational and action national campaign to free the political prisoners and stop aid to Thieu and Lon Nol. More than 15 national organizations are supporting the IPC called conference. About 16 people from Detroit and others from Ann Arbor are planning to attend. Groups represented will include: Clergy and Laity Concerned, Northwest Women, the Living Worship Community, The Alliance, Medical Aid for Indo-China, the Motor City Labor League as well as IPC. A complete report will be made upon our return.

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Finally, more IPC literature is available through the office. We have received more of Holly Near's album (cost \$3.50) and a few more prisoner bracelets. We expect to get a large supply from a local source shortly. Call us at 867-2917 if you need materials or information about films and speakers. There may still be some openings in Jean Pierre Debris Oct 30-31 schedule. If you know of a school, church, press interview or other audience, call us to find out.

In the struggle,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank H. Joyce". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Frank H. Joyce
for IPC