

W/11-11

27 August 71

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SITUATION INFORMATION REPORT

CALENDAR OF TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Asterisked items are either reported for the first time, or contain additions or changes to previously reported activities.

Several hundred activists of various May Day Collectives met at Atlanta in mid-August. The gathering of the groups had been announced many weeks prior, and the announced purpose of the Atlanta session was to formulate and co-ordinate plans for antiwar demonstrations in the fall.

This conference, participated in by extremely radical and unpredictable activists, was perhaps more chaotic than any preceding session of similar organizations in recent history. In the early days of the conference, a women's collective factionalized over a very basic issue. One faction maintained a philosophy of government reform, and the other proposed abandoning this strategy and held that changes should occur through revolutions and that preparations for revolution should be organized now in the form of a people's army.

Before any fall plans could be discussed, the May Day Conference was taken over by male and female homosexuals. The remaining sessions were devoted to debates on sexism and how best to bring to the surface the "gayness in all of us." The thrust of the homosexual participants (estimated between one third and one half of those attending) were such arguments as, "you can't fight imperialism until sexism has been conquered," and the philosophy that gayness is anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist. The argument goes that "gayness is non-competitive and loving while capitalism is competitive and hateful."

As all other radical conferences break into workshops and study groups, the May Day assemblage also adopted this course. The categories, however, instead of being war oriented or welfare oriented, divided into such categories as "gay women," "gay men," "straight women," and "straight men." An example of the purpose of the workshop entitled

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"straight men" was how best the participants could prove to their homosexual brothers and sisters by their practice, in the next several days that they were "struggling with their sexism."

One of the meeting places during the May Day week in Atlanta was the church of Ralph Abernathy. It was reportedly at this site that Abernathy, addressing an evening session, was hissed and booed for mentioning the names of former Senator Eugene McCarthy and Daniel Ellsberg (who are regarded as hopeless liberals). This expression of disapproval was followed by a black homosexual participant's denunciation of the reaction to Abernathy as "racist." This participant walked out and was followed by the remainder of the homosexual men in attendance. These actions led in turn to one outburst after another, and the evening ended in chaos.

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P.C. New 19 Aug 71*

Finally, toward the end of the week's activities, a workshop was called simply to inform participants of various fall antiwar proposals. Only about 80 persons showed up, and after some objections that only 20 women and four homosexuals were present, the conference had its first discussion on the antiwar struggle. What emerged from the discussion were two outlines for fall action. The first, termed the "New York City Give the Man a Heart Attack proposal," called for civil disobedience to shut down the New York stock exchange on November 8. This proposal additionally called for participation along with the National Peace Action Coalition and the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice in a mass march at New York on November 6. Also included in this proposal was a call for smaller disruptive actions against "racist and sexist" targets in New York on November 5.

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The alternate proposal expressed more of a trend than a firm plan. Basically, the advocates of the second alternative sought a regional and local emphasis rather than a National May Day action. In effect, it would cast May Day groups in the role of endorsing PCPJ actions and call for May Day adherents to participate in PCPJ actions as contingents. Both proposals were formulated to encompass illegal, civil disobedience and reject the mass mobilization tactics of the NPAC as non-productive. Neither proposal received clear endorsement, and implementation of various ideas was left up to regions involved.

One well-informed radical left-wing observer, SDS founder Carl Davidson, writing in the independent radical newspaper, the Guardian, concluded that the Atlanta conference marked a political crisis within the

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white radical youth movement. Davidson's view was that organizationally and in the area of leadership, the May Day Movement was in serious trouble. Not only was the conference hamstrung repeatedly by anarchism, but little in the way of new ideas was presented. The meeting itself was unrepresentative in that at least one third were homosexuals, all but six were white, and very few were students. It is further Davidson's view that critical to the May Day future was the absence at Atlanta of several of its key leaders of spring protest activities. Rennie Davis, the generally recognized national May Day leader, and his chief lieutenant, John Froines, were not in attendance and their virtual boycott of this meeting leads to speculation that plans are under way to simply let the organization die out.

*Davidson 25 Aug 71*

Although the date has not been set, it is presently planned that another meeting of the May Day Collectives will be held in New York in September.

*D.C. News 19 Aug 71*

For practical purposes the meaning of the May Day Conference fiasco at Atlanta indicates at this time that disruptive activities staged in Washington last May third will probably not re-occur this fall. It can be expected that the May Day Collective enthusiasm will not be sustained without the charisma of Rennie Davis and others. Other factors, such as a reduction in even a semblance of national direction as well as planning and implementation being left to regional collectives, strongly indicate not only a lack of strategy but a lack of intention to stage another May third.

Plans of the Socialist Workers Party dominated National Coalition are also not yet firm for fall. It seems at this point, however, that they, too, will not attempt to match their success of last spring in one giant assembly but rather will elect to stage more modest antiwar demonstrations in a number of locations next time. In short, the present signal is for the pressure to be off Washington this autumn.

It is believed that the next several months will also see some drift in radical activities away from the Vietnamese War. The unaffiliated radical leftists, as well as the Communist Party USA dominated People's Coalition for Peace and Justice and the pro-Maoist Progressive Labor Party, already adhere to a multi-issue tactic. As the war dies out, the Trotskyite Socialist Workers Party will be faced with either a shift to other radical causes celebre or face extinction. It is quite likely that the Trotskyites, as the war continues to wind down, will jump on the President's recently-implemented economic policy in order to try once

again the wooing of American labor. A second fertile field for cultivation in the general strategy of revolutionaries is likely to be in the field of welfare. Since the war as a single topic will be difficult for the Trotskyites to follow, there will probably occur some modifications in their single-issue tactic.

\*19-29 August, Fort Collins, Colorado

The annual National Student Congress of the National Student Association will take place during this period at Colorado State University. Approximately 1,000 student government leaders, representing over 400 colleges and universities, will be in attendance to determine National Student Association policy for the coming year and elect national officers (the term of radical David Ifshin of Potomac, Maryland, is now up, and Ifshin will be replaced by another student radical). Workshops have been scheduled on such topics as student legal rights, sexism, ecology, student power, racism, voter registration and educational reform. While in session, conferees will hear speeches by such national figures as Doctor Daniel Ellsberg, Senator Birch Bayh, Senator George McGovern, Representative Paul McCloskey, antiwar-baby doctor Benjamin Spock, self-admitted revolutionary communist David Dellinger, and National Welfare Rights Organization leader George Wiley.

*D.C. News 18 Aug. 71*

\*27 August, Washington, D. C.

At the Atlanta conference of May Day Collectives, a circular was distributed publicizing a planned peoples' protest march to the Department of Labor on the above date to demand jobs and training for blind people. The march is scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Lincoln Memorial. No more than a handful of participants, if any, is expected to participate.

*FBI IN 40742700 23 Aug*

\*27 August - 3 September, Washington, D. C.

The Washington Area GI Collective (David E. Jones, co-ordinator) has requested a permit for the GI Collective to conduct demonstrations in Lafayette Park daily on the above dates. The purpose of the demonstrations is to show the lack of GI rights and to propose ways to improve this condition.

*FBI IN 404123-12 Aug 71*

\*28 August, Washington, D. C. and New York

The Progressive Labor Party and its youth group, Students For a Democratic Society - Worker Student Alliance, will hold demonstrations in the above cities (and perhaps elsewhere) to demonstrate their disapproval of high unemployment. These demonstrations will probably also attack President Nixon's new economic policy. At Washington, participants will march from 14th Street and Columbia Road to a rally site at

*FBI IN 404123-16 Aug 71*

18th Street and Columbia Road. The New York demonstration will be held in South Brooklyn, and in addition to unemployment will also protest police brutality and racism.

*FBI IN 404123-18 Aug 71*

\*28-29 August, Los Angeles, California

The National Chicano Movement is planning demonstration activities on the above dates to commemorate the first anniversary of riots at Los Angeles in which Mexican-American newsman, Reuben Salazar was killed.

*Weekly Incident Rpt 12 Aug 71*

\*1-6 September, Waterloo, Quebec, Canada

A summer camp, under the sponsorship of the United States Committee to Aid the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam, will be held at Waterloo on the above dates. The organizer of the camp is a group known as the Association of Vietnamese Patriots. The purposes of the summer camp are reportedly to encourage closer contacts between the Vietnamese living in Canada and activists in the United States antiwar movement, to exchange political viewpoints, to help bring antiwar movements closer together, and to co-ordinate joint efforts to bring the Vietnamese War to an end.

*FBI IN 402309-16 Aug 71*

\*9 September, Washington, D.C.

Right-wing fundamentalist preacher Doctor Carl McIntire, self-appointed national chairman of the U.S. March For Victory Committee, an organization which has protested past conduct of the war in Vietnam, has requested a permit to demonstrate at the White House on the above date to protest the President's proposed trip to China. Plans for the demonstration include a ping-pong table being set up for the Nationalist Chinese table tennis team. McIntire also plans a demonstration in Washington on UN Day (23 Oct.), but details are sketchy at this time.

*FBI IN 404123-18 Aug 71*

9-12 September, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

The Lehigh Valley Chapter of Vietnam Veterans Against the War has announced a march from Bethlehem to the Pennsylvania State Capitol on the above dates. On the twelfth, a rally is scheduled at the capitol to protest continued U.S. presence in Vietnam.

*FBI IN 380464-11 July 71*

\*10-12 September, Wimberly, Texas

The American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker group that has been active in antiwar activities for years, is sponsoring a conference on the above dates at the John Knox Ranch. The conferees will discuss federal tax resistance, protest against grand jury actions, and plan for fall demonstrations activities in Washington.

*FBI IN 402309-16 Aug 71*

\*18 September, Dayton, Ohio

The Dayton Peoples' Coalition for Peace and Justice has scheduled a protest against the President when he arrives at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to dedicate an Air Force Museum. The Dayton Peoples' Coalition will protest the air war and massive killings and deaths in Vietnam. No additional details of this demonstration are presently known.

*FBI IN 344801 - 5 Aug 71*

\*27 September, San Raphael, California

On July 27 Angela Davis officially pleaded not guilty to all charges of kidnapping and conspiracy in connection with the courthouse shootout last year. A trial date of 27 September has been set by Judge Richard E. Arnason. The judge advised that the trial date was "firm," but he would consider a delay if the defense could prove a need for more time.

*Doc 1081 28 July 71  
Daily World 28 July 71*

\*6 November, Nationwide

The National Peace Action Coalition steering committee conference was held at Cleveland in mid-August. This conference directed its attention to the topic of a successful antiwar campaign this fall. Conference leaders discussed the need for minimizing the success of all demonstrations being planned by May Day Collectives. Conferees expressed the opinion that should May Day Collectives meet with success in their fall demonstrations, it would siphon off enthusiasm and support for planned NPAC demonstrations on November 6. There was some expression by conferees that a need for unity with the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice was required for a successful fall antiwar campaign. Reportedly, regional conferences to be held in the weeks ahead will plan the various demonstrations scheduled around the country.

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SOURCE: News and Government Media

RELIABILITY: Probably True