



sds

**National
Office**

Monday, June 23, 1969

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

By now the news of the Chicago convention has probably reached most of you. This letter is to let you know that despite any news you may hear to the contrary, SDS still lives and the national office is functioning as usual. New national officers have been elected and a program of mass action through the summer and fall has been planned. The national officers are: National Secretary, Mark Rudd, New York; Inter-organizational Secretary, Jeff Jones, San Francisco; Educational Secretary, Bill Ayers, Detroit. NIC members are: Mike Klonsky; Bernardine Dohrn; Bob Avakian, San Francisco; Noel Ignatin, Chicago; Howie Machtinger, Chicago; Barbara Riley, New York; Linda Evans, Detroit; Corky Benedict, Cleveland.

There is one important thing that has changed. The Progressive Labor Party faction (PLP) has been kicked out of SDS. To understand why, you must go back a few months to the National Council meetings at Ann Arbor and Austin where the transformation of SDS into a truly revolutionary youth organization began to take place. At these NC's, the membership began to lay out principles of struggle and unity for the first time. We made it very clear to everyone that SDS both in theory and practice has allied itself with the struggles of oppressed peoples throughout the world. On campuses throughout the country, an anti-imperialist movement has been built in support of the struggles for self-determination being carried on by the Vietnamese led by the National Liberation Front as well as the struggles of the colonially oppressed black people of America. Our program saw the need to win the masses of Americans to the anti-imperialist movement if a revolution was to be built within the mother country of America.

While SDS tried to go to the people and win support for the Vietnamese, the Black Panther Party, the movement of workers in the factories and shops throughout this country as well as the struggle of GI's and young people around the world, PL's practice ran completely counter to these principles. As the power structure waged a vicious attack on the Panthers, so did PL, printing lies and slander, going so far as to call the Black Panther Party "racists in reverse", the same line that the power structure along with such labor sell-outs as Walter Reuther have.

While SDS was trying to win the masses of working people to support of the Vietnamese fight for self-determination and attempting to rebuild a militant movement against the war, PL was leading an attack on the NL F, accusing it of "selling-out" the struggle. Ho Chi Minh, the hero of the Vietnamese struggle for forty years was called "traitor" in the pages of PL magazine.

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