

Basement Flat,
8, Roland Gdns.,
London S.W. 7.
30/4/66

Dear friend,

There will be a meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the campaign at the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation office, 3 & 4, Shavers Place, Haymarket, on Thursday 5th of May, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Shavers Place is almost opposite the Haymarket exit from Piccadilly Tube Station, it is "L"-shaped and 3 & 4 entrance is round the corner.

I must apologise for the short notice but when we came to drawing up a schedule of meetings between now and the conference we found it necessary to have one this coming week.

Among the items to be discussed will be:

- (1) Report of the May Day activities;
- (2) Vietnam Solidarity Bulletin number 3;
- (3) Draft agenda for the conference;
- (4) Report on social;
- (5) Fund for demonstrators;
- (6) Trafalgar Square demonstration May 8th (organised by Ex-Servicemen's Movement for Peace - we have been asked to provide a speaker);
- (7) Y.C.N.D. demonstration on May 14th (we have been asked to participate);
- (8) Report on supporting organisations; and
- (9) Report on conference delegates.

Other items will be added if necessary. I would stress again the necessity for all individual members and representatives of supporting organisation to attend.

Minutes of Preparatory Committee meeting 28/4/66.

C.N.D. MEETING ON "FUTURE POLICIES AND STRATEGIES OF THE PEACE MOVEMENT"

Upon making a request for tickets, we received them by return of post. Our representatives had participated to the extent that the whole discussion revolved around the questions we had raised. Some figures in the C.N.D. establishment, some anti-Communists and pacifists had opposed our argument that the main slogan should be the call for the withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam. On the other hand both platform speakers (Dave McReynolds of the U.S. anti-Vietnam war movement and John Gittings) gave de facto support to our arguments. It was generally felt that our participation had been well worthwhile and that we should take part in the liaison committee C.N.D. was establishing.

SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS

A number of organisations are sending delegates to the conference and the secretary reported that he had asked all of them to act as sponsoring organisations. An Arab organisation which published the journal - in Arabic - Arab Revolution had asked to be a sponsoring organisation. This was enthusiastically agreed. The secretary reported on the position of NALSO.

CONFERENCE DELEGATES

We are getting a steady stream of filled in slips. However, we would have to keep a continuous pressure up to ensure (a) that all the people who had asked to come actually did; and (b) to get as wide a representation as possible. It was reported that we had getting on for 2,000 addresses of organisations and interested individuals. These were to be circulated with an invitation to attend the conference and with the Vietnam Voice. (this has actually been done now - a fantastic amount of work was done on the work party night).

BRITISH VIETNAM COMMITTEE

There was a discussion about the questions raised by problems we had encountered. It was agreed that these were growing pains rather than fundamental political problems. We would endeavour to have the joint discussion with the comrades of the B.V.C. as soon as possible and it was agreed that Reg. Birch participate in these discussions as this could be helpful. It was felt that we should by all means facilitate the participation of the comrades of the B.V.C. in our committee. The point raised about regularising the meetings was a valid one and the following schedule was agreed:

May 5th - May 19th - June 2nd. All at Shavers Place and starting at 7.30. The secretary would send out invitations well in advance.

SPECIAL VIETNAM VOICE

This had been very favourably received and had had some publicity in the national press. The secretary explained that the selection of articles had been based on material already appearing in Labour's Northern Voice and only one or two items had been specially written for the issue.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

It was agreed that this be got out as soon as possible. The secretary would do a draft which he would circulate to committee members before the next meeting which ^{would} approve or modify it. The programme would be out by next week. The secretary would also draw up proposals for what written material should be distributed and discussed at the conference. This too would be ready for the next meeting.

POSITION OF INDIVIDUALS MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Reg. Birch raised the question of his position as not representing an organisation. It was explained when the Preparatory Committee had been first formed a number of individuals had been co-opted on because it was known that they were particularly interested in this question.

FUND FOR DEMONSTRATORS

There had been some confusion on this question. It was not clear as to what fines had been imposed on the people who took part in demonstration led by our banner. The secretary was to contact the people concerned to clarify the position. (since the meeting one of the demonstrators who went to prison for a week has been contacted and he is drawing up a list of people involved and an account of what took place.)