

3/18/74

TO: Interim Committee  
FROM: W.N.Y. District Committee

RE: BLACK WOMEN'S UNITED FRONT

COMRADES,

We would like to begin with a self-criticism for our slowness in submitting the BWUF report, especially considering the immediacy of the situation in which we find ourselves. Our slowness stems from certain right tendencies of passivity, and re-enforces the need to consistently fight on two fronts at all times.

We have had changing views on whether or not to participate in the B.W.U.F. or not and what should be the character of that participation. After some discussion and debate we now think it is correct to do some kind of work with the B.W.U.F. In this regard we want to criticize the position we put forth in the report to do no work at all. In conjunction with this we want to criticize of the D.C. resolution on mass work during this period which did include any work, either ideological or political, around the women question.

It is our view, that both of these errors stem from a tendency in the organization which

the women question and women's struggle. There has been no internal study or discussion around this question since that period. The work in BWUF is the first time, at least on a national level, that work has been initiated in this area since that period. We think this tendency sprang from a poor theoretical understanding of the question, as well as a tendency we have had in the past to treat ~~our~~ our primary tasks as our exclusive tasks, and to belittle or ignore important secondary tasks, ~~and to be~~ a left error.

We agree with the N.C.C. that in all three areas laid out, struggle is on the rise in general. We feel that women's struggle, and the repression of women's rights is also on the rise. (Equal Rights Amendment, law in Hawaii of mandatory sterilization after the second child, growing anti-abortion sentiment with conviction of Black Doctor in Boston, etc.) All signal greater repression of women's rights, not mention old standard problems of pay, day care, etc, which in light of the current crisis are at best standing still and at worst becoming even greater. The BWUF is itself a sign of the growing awareness among women of the need to struggle around their particular problems.

We think that work around the women question should be included for work  during this period. We feel that directly related to our ability to carry out this and all the other tasks is correct use of cadre, and employing them to plan and carry out work in the ideological, political and organizational spheres.

Suggestions -

- (1) That a work team be established to study and further develop our line on the women question, as was proposed earlier by The I.C.
- (2) Continue to participate in BWUF, on a minimal basis. Should work on the Task Force, and participate in at least one city, if not two. Our line will develop in the course of practice as well as through study, sum-up, and investigation.

Internally we need to begin to struggle and reach unity around:

- (1) Question of whether or not to participate.
- (2) Composition of BWUF, and what is a correct policy in regards to other nationalities and mex.

(3) Character of BWUF, is it necessary for us to be anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist?

In The BWUF (assuming we reach unity on the question of participation)  
we need to struggle around:

- (1) Composition of BWUF
- (2) Character of BWUF
- (3) Concept of United Front
- (4) Current structure

~~These~~ These are our initial ideas on the question. We encourage further debate and discussion around this question in order to deepen our own as well as everyone else's understanding of the importance of this question and its relationship to our other tasks.

In Revolutionary Struggle,  
W.N.Y. District Committee