

Report from Atlanta

RYM II parley fails to adopt viable program

By ILLONA STANTON

ATLANTA, Ga.—A national convention of the Revolutionary Youth Movement II was held here Nov. 27-30. RYM II which, like the Weatherman faction and the Worker-Student Alliance faction, considers itself to be the *real* SDS decided to build a "mass anti-imperialist youth movement" which would seek to construct "united fronts" to fight male supremacy, "white skin privilege" and anticommunism. The statement of principles adopted did not characterize RYM II as a socialist youth group.

The convention opened with a women's liberation conference attended by approximately 100 women. However, the day's agenda didn't go quite as expected. RYM II leaders had decided the night before to exclude a number of organizations from attending the conference, including the YSA, SWP, Communist Party, WSA-SDS, the Progressive Labor Party, and the International Socialists (formerly Independent Socialist Clubs). All these organizations were refused entrance on the basis that they disagreed with what the RYM II leaders deemed to be revolutionary policies on "white skin privilege," male supremacy and anticommunism. (A representative of the Weatherman "real" SDS was permitted a ten-minute statement and then left.)

Many of the women attending the first day of the convention felt that such political exclusion was wrong, and they waged a determined fight to reverse the decision made by the RYM II leadership. At one point when the issue was put to a vote, the exclusionary motion carried only by the slim margin of 31-27.

The convention, which drew a total of about 250 people to one session or another, brought together several factions of the RYM II SDS. The faction led by Mike Klonsky and Lynn Wells was the strongest advocate of fighting "white skin privilege" and male supremacy. They also advocated support for

a separate black state in the southern "Black Belt," a theory adopted by the Communist Party in 1928 and then, in the '30s, permitted to die. The Klonsky faction proposed at the beginning of the convention that RYM II be a centralized organization, based on the teachings of Marx, Lenin, Stalin and Mao and that it propagandize for the formation of a party. Many of the RYM II leaders were sporting large-sized Stalin buttons throughout the convention.

Bruce Franklin and Bob Avakian, spokesmen for the Bay Area Revolutionary Union, another faction attending the convention, denied the existence of a "white skin privilege" and in a document they distributed at the convention opposed the orientation of revolutionary youth going into working-class areas telling workers that they are racist and male supremacist. They counterposed to this a strategy of calling on white workers to support the black liberation struggle, especially the Black Panther Party.

The Revolutionary Union argued that RYM II should become a "mass, anti-imperialist youth group" as opposed to an organization which would eventually lead to the formation of a party. Avakian's group received no representation on the RYM II national steering committee, which was elected from the floor at the last session of the convention.

A third group of people attending the convention was composed of those aligned with neither Klonsky nor Avakian and who wanted to make RYM II similar to the old type of SDS, a mass, heterogeneous, "anti-imperialist" youth group. Carl Davidson, Clark Kissinger and Les Coleman lent their support to these views. Towards the end, the Klonsky faction made a compromise with the other groups and agreed to support the formation of a "mass, anti-imperialist youth movement."

Antiwar movement

During discussion of the antiwar movement several criticisms of the organized antiwar movement were ad-



COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY HAILED. RYM II leaders offer Stalin as "revolutionary" model. Shown here at World War II meeting with Roosevelt and Churchill, Stalin initiated Kremlin policy of "peaceful coexistence" with imperialism and beheaded revolutionists and revolutions for the sake of such coexistence.

vanced. At the same time they criticized themselves for not participating in the antiwar movement and decided to enter the Student Mobilization Committee and the New Mobilization Committee to try and convince the antiwar movement to make support to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam a political basis for building the movement. RYM II also wants the antiwar movement to raise demands against "white skin privilege" and male supremacy.

All factions of RYM II criticized the antiwar movement for being "bourgeois." While they repeated their intention to participate in the antiwar movement they did not mention their spring offensive against the war in Vietnam which was agreed on at the Detroit RYM II national committee meeting in September.

Women's liberation

The women's liberation conference on Thursday ended with very little accomplished. Plans were discussed to build a women's liberation group in which RYM II can participate and which will support their political line. They denounced women's liberation groups which include "petty bourgeois and bourgeois" women on the basis that they are anti-working class.

In order to be effective in the women's liberation struggle, RYM said, women must first fight against "white skin privilege." The so-called united front of women that they propose will exclude all those who do not yet see the need for an "anti-imperialist" movement. The predominant slogan heard at the conference was "Fight male supremacy" and there was much criticism of male supremacy within their own ranks. However, there were few concrete suggestions about the programs and demands necessary to wage a successful fight against male supremacy.

Several times during the convention the women's caucus met and presented proposals to the convention as a whole. One of these proposals was that women be given a majority of the representation on all committees set up by RYM II. The women's caucus threatened to walk out and form their own anti-imperialist women's organization unless their demands were met. This proposal along with the others was accepted.

Black liberation

The convention was divided over the question of black liberation. Klonsky's faction proposed as a strategy to fight national oppression of blacks that all revolutionaries should renounce their "white-skin privilege" and educate the white working class to do the same. They never explained what steps a white

person must take to renounce "white-skin privilege," but the essence of their position is that the primary responsibility for racist oppression in the U.S. rests with those whites who fail to renounce their special privileges. There was no written proposal for any action.

Although the faction of RYM II grouped around Lynn Wells and Mike Klonsky advocates the "black belt theory" [i.e., setting aside a section of the deep South to become an independent country for Afro-Americans], there was no attempt to defend it on the floor of the convention. Strong objections were raised to it by Bob Avakian and Charles Fulwood, a black militant from Gainesville, Fla., and the majority of people attending the convention appeared to be opposed to it. Parallel to the black belt theory, a "red belt theory" was also proposed by some—i.e., setting aside some specified area of the country for American Indians. There were no concrete proposals about supporting the right of Afro-Americans to self-determination, nor was there any discussion centered around the demand that the black struggle has raised in the last few years for black control of the black community, black control of black schools, etc.

The closing session of the convention nominated and elected the national committee members of RYM II. Those elected were Lynn Wells, Atlanta; Steve Farrar, Gainesville; Jim Goodman, Ft. Benning; Brydon Gordon, North Carolina; Helen Felhorst, Baltimore; Pat Burton, Los Angeles; Donna Duke, North Carolina; Mary Ravitz, Detroit; Ellen Kehr, Chicago; and Sue Manniker, New Orleans.

Since the split in SDS last spring, some campus activists have looked to RYM II as being the formation from which an effective SDS might be reconstituted as counterposed to the lunacy of the Weathermen and the dead-end sectarianism and factionalism of the WSA-SDS. The failure of the RYM II conference to elaborate anything remotely resembling a program that relates in a meaningful way to the newly radicalizing youth should make clear that there was little reality to such hopes.

Despite the fact that the YSA was excluded from observing the convention, over \$170 of Merit literature was sold at a Young Socialist movement center set up in the student union at Emory University where the convention was held. A number of students attending the convention expressed interest in attending the Young Socialist national convention to take place at the end of December in Minneapolis.

Detroiters protest against moves to extradite Williams

By JOHN HAWKINS

DETROIT—Robert F. Williams, president of the Republic of New Africa, appeared in circuit court Nov. 26 in the first of a series of hearings to determine whether the temporary injunction on his extradition to North Carolina will be made permanent.

Since 1961 Williams has been under indictment in that state on a frame-up charge of kidnapping. He returned here in September after spending eight years as a political exile in Cuba and China. The decision to extradite Williams was handed down by Michigan Governor William Milliken.

More than 200 people, mostly black college and high school students, turned out to demonstrate their support of Williams during the hearing. Several high schools in the city were partially shut by student strikes in Williams' defense. The demonstration was organized by the Committee to Aid the Defense of Robert F. Williams, a coalition of three groups in the Detroit black community: the League of Revolutionary Black Workers, the Republic of New Africa,

and the All African Peoples Union.

The defense committee has initiated a petition drive in an effort to present to the governor the signatures of those who oppose the extradition. Plans are being made also to continue and enlarge the demonstrations and to expand the defense on a national and international basis if necessary.

Later in the day Williams spoke to a meeting of over 300 at Wayne State University, sponsored by the New University Conference, the Student Mobilization Committee, the Black Student Alliance and the Young Socialist Alliance. After reviewing the history of his movement in North Carolina and the nature of the frame-up charges, Williams answered questions on his case, on his experiences during his eight-year exile, and on perspectives for the black struggle and revolution in the United States.

Contributions to the defense can be mailed to Committee to Aid the Defense of Robert F. Williams, Linwood Station, Box 666, Detroit, Michigan 48206.