

# U.S. - CHINA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION FACES NEW TASKS

The U.S.-China People's Friendship Association (USCPFA) is preparing to hold its fourth national convention in Atlanta, Georgia, on September 3 and 4.

The convention, expected to draw about 700 participants, takes place in the wake of earth-shaking events in China which have excited great interest among the American people. It will also follow closely on U.S. Secretary of State Vance's trip to Peking and his talks with Chinese leaders on the subject of normalizing U.S.-China relations.

One of the most important topics of discussion at the convention will be the need for the Association to do extensive education among the American people on the present situation in China, particularly the successful struggle against the "gang of four," the appointment of Chairman Hua Kuo-feng and the reinstatement of Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping.

A number of local USCPFA chapters have already taken initiative in sponsoring speakers and educational meetings to explain the current situation in China.

But members have been critical of the fact that the Association's national magazine, *New China*, has failed to print a single article about the struggle against the "gang" or in support of the present leadership of the People's Republic. Thus, a nationally-coordinated campaign aimed at answering people's questions about China has been lacking. This has undermined the USCPFA's work of building friendship through mutual understanding.

As a broad-based organization with outreach to every sector of the American population, the USCPFA has the ability to widely disseminate information and promote mutual exchange between the Chinese and American people. In addition to providing information and education on the present situation in People's China, the Association has been conducting a mass campaign to promote the normalization of relations between the two countries.

Big successes were scored in this campaign last week as the Association sponsored two normalization demonstrations on the East and the West Coasts coinciding with Vance's departure for China.

Over 200 people joined the picket line outside the White House as Association spokesmen delivered petitions with

10,000 signatures. They called for an end to U.S. diplomatic recognition of the Taiwan regime, withdrawal of U.S. troops from Taiwan, and abrogation of the U.S.-Taiwan mutual defense treaty.

The normalization campaign will also assume a central role at the convention. In educational and workshop discussions, participants will lay further plans for continuing the campaign and broadening its outreach.

In workshops and during the convention plenary, several resolutions will be introduced to further develop the already established emphasis on outreach to workers and minorities. In the last year, important gains have been made in drawing greater numbers of working-class and minority people into Association activities, including trips to China.

New resolutions include proposals for local associations to set up special organizing groups in working-class and minority communities, as well as for the development of literature especially aimed at working-class people.

The mass character of the China friendship movement is reflected in the featured speakers who will address the convention. A keynote address will be delivered by Robert Williams, a Black civil rights leader from North Carolina who led an armed self-defense movement there in the early 1960s. Williams, who just returned from a visit to China, was forced to leave the U.S. to escape a racist frame-up. He spent several years of his exile in China, where he was warmly received by Chairman Mao Tsetung on several occasions.

Other speakers at the convention include Maggie Kuhn, Gray Panthers activist; Dr. Howard Manley, former president of Spellman College who recently returned from a fact-finding tour to China to learn about China's legal system; Wally Hollander, a rank-and-file worker from Boston who has been active in fighting against U.S. companies "running away" to Taiwan; and Joan Hinton Engst, an American who spent several years working in a Chinese commune.

Anyone interested in attending the convention or receiving further information can contact the USCPFA National Convention Committee by writing: *National Convention, P.O. Box 54664, Atlanta, Ga. 30308 or call (404)-523-6078.*