

873 Broadway  
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New York, N.Y. 10003

August 21, 1968

TO ALL ORGANIZERS

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed are copies of the initial statements on the Soviet Union's invasion of Czechoslovakia released by the Young Socialist Alliance and the Socialist Workers Party through its presidential candidate Fred Halstead. These statements have been released to the national wire services and the New York press. The statement by Fred Halstead has been mailed out to all areas where there are campaign supporters.

These statements can be used as guidelines for written statements and press conferences by local candidates.

The United Secretariat of the Fourth International has released two statements on Czechoslovakia since the reform movement began. The first statement was dated April 18, 1968, and was entitled "For a Government of Workers Councils in Czechoslovakia." It appeared in full in the May 13 issue of Intercontinental Press. The second statement dated August 1, 1968, appeared with minor deletions in the August 23 issue of the Militant. The August 16, 1968 issue of the Militant featured several articles on the American CP's reaction to the Czechoslovak events and their role in defending the Soviet Stalinist bureaucracy. This material should be useful as background information for the comrades and as a political aid in preparing presentations.

The most important immediate task we have in defense of the Czechoslovak workers and peasants is to explain what has happened in Czechoslovakia through increased sales of the Militant and through public meetings. The invasion of Czechoslovakia will confuse and, to some degree, demoralize young radicals, including militants we collaborate with in the antiwar movement. This confusion will be compounded by the "explanations" of the American Stalinists, the third campers, and the liberal capitalist politicians about what has happened in Czechoslovakia.

This week's issue of the Militant will be a 12-page issue which will carry Fred Halstead's statement, the Young Socialist Alliance statement, analysis of the conjuncture in Czechoslovakia as it is as of this Friday, and an analysis of the position of the American Communist Party.

In the coming issues of the Militant, we will publish new information as it becomes available, all the statements by the Fourth International as they come out, and analysis of all the new conflicts in Czechoslovakia as they develop.

Please let us know your plans for 1) increased sales of the Militant around the Czechoslovak events and 2) a public meeting on Czechoslovakia.

Fraternally,

*Jack Barnes*

Jack Barnes,  
Organization Secretary, SWP

*Charlie Bolduc*

Charlie Bolduc,  
National Organizational Secretary,  
YSA