<u>NBAWADU Conference Report</u>, 4-16-68, by Tony T.

The First National Conference of the National Black Antiwar-Antidraft Union (NBAWADU), was held in New York, April 12-14, and was much larger than expected. Attendance at the working sessions was from 150-200, with a good national distribution of representatives. There were black militants from every major city in the East and Midwest, as well as from smaller cities such as Des Moines, Albany, and Springfield. There were only a couple of delegates from the South and the West Coast. The leadership of SNCC -- James Forman, Stanley Wise, John Wilson, Cleveland Cellers, and Stokely Carmichael -- participated in the conference and took leading roles in the workshops. Only a few CPers and DBCers showed up at the conference and they played no significant role.

While the general tone of the conference was one of ultra-leftism, the general line of the resolutions was to continue actions against the war and the draft. The struggle against the war and the draft was seen in the context of the general struggle of Afro-Americans **against** this system. Much discussion also took place on the general strategy and tactics of the black movement.

The main emphasis of the conference resolutions was on support to draft resistance, either by refusing to go or by finding legal deferments. The conference also decided to reach out to black GIs with propaganda on the war and the Afro-American struggle. Black Antiwar and Antidraft Actions were called for May 19, Malcolm X's birthday, and the possibility of a national black mobilization on August 27 at the United Nations was discussed.

The national leadership of NBAWADU -- Gwen Patton as national secretary and John Wilson as chairman -- was not changed. The "Hell No" newsletter of NBAWADU was stressed as a key in reaching out to black militants and organizations and to building NBAWADU.

The building of May 19 now seems to be the main task in building NBAWADU, reaching new contacts, and solidifying the gains made at this conference.