

"U of T Coalition Against the Columbus Project"
November 20, 1991 Meeting

Present: Darren Gowlett (Student Christian Movement), Dave McKee (Student Christian Movement), David Soffe (International Socialists among others), John Valleau (Science for Peace), Lennox J. Cadore (OPIRG), Susan Sakamoto (OPIRG), Susan Krajnc (Science for Peace).

After a quick check-in/introduction, Lennox gave an outline of where things are currently at regarding the University of Toronto (i.e. SAC and other campus groups have condemned the project; the University has deferred a decision until "next year"; a contact person is Dr. Ernie Seaquist, Astronomy Dept, 884-2672).

Goals/Strategy

DS: To be most effective, we should work out a strategy regarding the U of T position--not to try to oppose the University of Arizona decision as well.

There was general agreement to this.

DS: pushing administration on this matter, leafletting, contacting the unions, and a demonstration in the next term would be a successful strategy

JV: Science for Peace is a registered charitable organization so it cannot be in any politicking campaigns. SFP could, however, carry on an informal inquiry and this could have its own kind of weight. But we need to find out where things stand in the university--this is not entirely clear--and to act quickly--get the university scared of the project before it is committed to it.

DS: We might want to do a petition addressed to a particular person in the administration.

DM: informed us of the Student Christian Movement's meeting with Peter Munch. Mr. Munch said: the university is not considering the project; he wouldn't make public the information the university has received; there wasn't any proposal from the University of Arizona.

JV: That's good for us because there is nothing informal in front of the university Research Board.

Mr. Keffer is on the Research Board and would be the key person at this stage to target (before a recommendation goes to the Governing Council).

JV: First thing we have to do is to have good/detailed information (i.e. who has approved of the project and who has not).

DS: To get started on press release for campus newspapers and NOW magazine. To get a committee to look over the information we have so at the next meeting we can start drafting a news release and letter.

Next Meeting: Wednesday November 27, 1991 at 5:30 p.m.

Check-out

Lennox got the information he needed from this meeting--how to proceed.

SK likes the idea of a demonstration since the one by ACT for Disarmament made news in the campus newspapers.

DS some important U of T groups missing from this meeting and we need to do outreach to them.

SS has graduate students contacts in Anthropology will pursue.

JV expressed again that for legal reasons Science for Peace cannot do any politiking

DM relieved different groups are involved in this issue. He is also a member in the Chaplains Assoc. and may have some influence there.

Information gathering group--DM, LC, SK--to meet Thursday November 21, 1991 after 2 p.m.

Meeting started at 5 p.m. and adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Minutes recorded by SK.

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