

# SDS

Recent ideological stirrings within SDS are having reverberations on the local level. Two now at-large chapters with slightly different structures and objectives have been set up recently in Atlanta; their differences stem largely from the fact that national SDS has undergone rapid changes in the past month and is still in the process of clarifying its new orientation.

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In the past, SDS has been a vaguely left-wing umbrella group of students who "did their own thing" around programs that were only loosely coordinated and often contradictory. But when SDS expelled the Progressive Labor Party at its national convention last month, it reconstituted itself around principles which would provide a political basis for recruiting and excluding members. Now, program is to flow from politics, and the most vocal segments of SDS hope to develop a class analysis of American society which will help them recruit large numbers of working-class youth. This concept is loosely titled the Revolutionary Youth Movement, and is seen as a transitional strategy toward the eventual creation of a working-class revolutionary movement.

At this point many fundamental questions about the new SDS remain unanswered. The group which expelled PL at the convention adopted only two unity principles, dealing with support for national liberation struggles here and abroad:

"1. We support the struggles of the Black and Latin colonies within the U. S. for national liberation, and we recognize those nations' rights to self-determination (including the right to political secession, if they desire it).

"2. We support the struggle for national liberation of the people of South Vietnam, led by the National Liberation Front and the South Vietnamese Provisional Revolutionary Government. We also support the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, led by

President Ho Chi Minh, as well as the Democratic Republic of China, the Peoples' Republics of Korea and Albania, and the Republic of Cuba, all waging fierce struggles against U. S. imperialism. We support the right of all peoples to pick up the gun to free themselves from the brutal rule of U. S. imperialism."

Two amendments were also passed by the convention, opposing male supremacy and anti-communism. However, these were proposed by a minority tendency known as Revolutionary Youth Movement # 2, whose interpretation of these issues is not shared by the Weatherman tendency which captured all three National Officer slots. As a result, the two amendments somehow got lost in the shuffle; when the National Officers later sent a mailing to all SDS members, they neglected to print the amendments.

After the convention expelled PL, Noel Ignatin, a leader of RYM2, proposed a set of five principles for SDS, supporting socialism and armed struggle against imperialism, and opposing anti-communism and male supremacy (for the full text, see the July 5 *Guardian*). After some debate, the convention voted to submit these principles to the membership for consideration during the summer, and to reopen the question of their adoption at the fall National Council meeting.

It is not clear how chapters are to interpret the two principles already adopted. Some argue that SDS will only expel those who, like PL, obstruct the organization in practice as well as with words. Others would apply the principles more strictly as a test of anyone holding or seeking membership. The same question arises in connection with the adoption of any additional principles, nationally or by chapters.

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The recent series of city SDS meetings, aimed at creating a citywide structure for SDS, began even before the convention. They have been attended by

Georgia State and Emory chapters, but also some national SDS members who have been unaffiliated locally.

The group which initiated these meetings recently adopted a modified version of Ignatin's five principles as its basis for membership, and named itself the Atlanta Revolutionary Youth Movement. While it plans internal education sessions, it has also sketched a program of action based on white working-class organizing and mass antiwar demonstrations around the actions called by national SDS for September. It has opened an office and a movement printshop in Little Five Points.

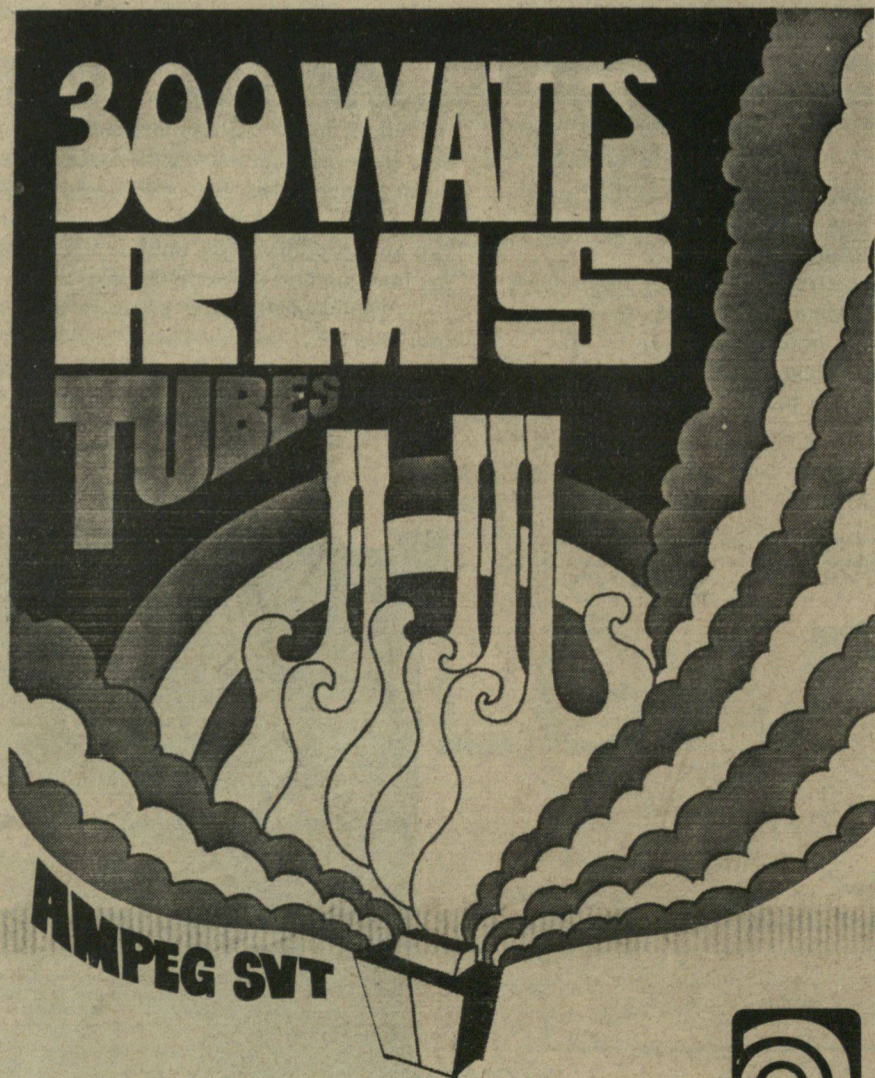
Other Atlanta SDS members objected to the ARYM's adoption of membership principles which are more restrictive than the two adopted by SDS nationally. They felt that in Atlanta, where SDS has been relatively inactive until now, people need more time to develop their politics and should be able to do so within the whole range now permitted by the national organization. They have formed a chapter calling itself the Atlanta Movement for a Democratic Society, and have begun a study group which will explore, from a variety of viewpoints, basic Marxist concepts and their application to contemporary American capitalism. The study group will meet at members' houses and is open to anyone willing to keep up with the agreed-upon readings. AMDS also hopes to join with ARYM in action programs, especially the antiwar demonstrations, and may develop an action project of its own.

For more information about AMDS, write Box 7946, Station C, Atlanta, Georgia 30309.

—barbara joye

Hard on the heels of the revelation that American GI's were participating in Spanish "maneuvers" despite denials by the U.S. government, comes the revelation that the U.S. entered into a secret pact with Thailand in 1965 *without even informing Congress!* Even under pressure from Sen. Fulbright, the administration has refused to divulge the contents of the treaty, other than to state that it relates to the specifics of American military commitments to Thailand in case of unspecified emergencies. Details of troops and supplies have been worked out. The schedule of the next Vietnam, in short, has all been worked out in advance.

—ted brodek



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