Student Conference

(From the newspaper *Palante,* 16 October 1970, volume 2, number 13)

The first National Puerto Rican Student Conference was held on September 22 and 23 at Columbia University. The conference marks the first time since Puerto Ricans were brought to this country that we got together on a national scale to intensify the struggle for the education and liberation of our people.

Over 1000 Boricuas, mostly students, came from all over the united states and Puerto Rico to attend the meeting called for by the YOUNG LORDS PARTY and the Puerto Rican Student Union. The conference had two main purposes: to organize Liberate Puerto Rico Now Committees all over the u.s. and Puerto Rico; and to plan for a massive demonstration at the UN on October 30, 1970.

The conference was both an opportunity to organize and an opportunity to learn. Workshops were held dealing with: revolutionary Puerto Rican history and culture; the role of women in the revolution; high school students, college students; Latin American and Latin unity; the military and the draft; political prisoners; Third World unity; education and the media; and socialism. The people in some workshops came out with specific recommendations for organizing in their areas. The high school workshop, for example, decided that all high school groups would support any high school struggle in the city. They also recommended that our people stop pledging allegiance to the amerikkkan flag and only salute the Puerto Rican or Black Liberation flags.

Representative from various revolutionary groups spoke at the conference: MPI, the Chicano movement, FERD (Frente de Estudiantes Revolucionarios Dominicanos), FUPI, PRSU, I Wor Kuen, and the YOUNG LORDS PARTY.

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Liberate Puerto Rico Now Committees were set up around the country to publicize the fact that Puerto Rico is a colony of the united states and is controlled economically, politically, and culturally by amerikkka. The Committees will be organizing for the October 30th action at the UN to demand independence for our homeland.

We feel that the Student Conference was a first step in bringing together our people to begin our fight for the right to determine our own destinies. But it was only the first step. We still have much work and a long struggle before us. Unidos Venceremos.

Ministry of Information YOUNG LORDS PARTY