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N. Cent - DP Conf

REGIONAL STRATEGIES  
AGAINST  
THE DEATH PENALTY

February 10, 11, 1978  
Kansas City, Missouri

SUMMARY OF PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT ON CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP

In follow-up to the conference it is of highest priority that a mechanism be established to assist and strengthen the organization of state-wide coalitions against the death penalty in the states of Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri and Nebraska.

Such a mechanism (perhaps a "desk", perhaps an organizational structure) would have as a primary function the encouragement of and technical assistance to organizing efforts in each state. This could take place in states where such efforts are not already under way within the next three to four months, with a goal of large state-wide conferences by the end of 1978. Technical assistance will be in the form of consultants on organizing from national organizations or from within the region. Consultation will take place on invitation from the state involved and with the expectation that the state would meet a significant portion (if not all) of the expenses.

Beyond facilitating consultation, the regional desk or organization could have a number of additional functions:

- identify religious and other groups within the region with official anti-death penalty positions;
- identify principal organizations within the region that might be expected to be amenable to participation in a coalition;
- identify principal groups with ties to inner-cities in this region;
- service regional communications network, especially in relation to scheduled executions;
- assume functional relationships between state coalitions and the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty;
- promote efforts at national legislation to end the death penalty and oppose efforts to re-establish the death penalty for federal offenses.

The group accepted the appointment of a group which is given the mandate to implement the above plan. That group consists of:

- Marie Carl - AFSC, Des Moines, Iowa
- Frank Chapman - National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, St. Louis, Missouri
- Jim Joy - ACLU, Denver, Colorado
- Forrest Swall - University of Kansas, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee [In absentia - acceptance pending]

The group will meet on March 24 in the Greater Kansas City Area for the purpose of developing 'first-step' action proposals to implement the Conference Agreement.