

Notes for the Cell Meeting, January, 1972

50 Years from Today

In order to think about what we need to do as a cell now, I began to imagine where we hope to be in 50 years. I think that we can hope that women will have taken power in many regions in the US, are governing and beginning to create a new feminist society. We have come to power with the support of many women, lesbian and straight; we have built alliances, in which we are the dominant power, with some minority groups and with a few male groups (especially gay males). We have minimal, but not warring, relations with some other US regions where minority groups have taken power and where the women are advancing rapidly but not yet in total control. (e.g. Chicano nation in Texas and N. M.) There are a few regions (like Florida) where reactionaries have gathered and male supremacy still reigns- they are not strong enough to battle us but are hostile neighbors.

Where we have power and control of the technology, industry, military, schools, media, etc., we are creating socialist, non-racist economies, and have begun the process of building a cooperative society oriented around human need and growth. Although there was much military struggle before we acquired power, some of the industrial and physical development of the country remained intact. So, we are re-building wartorn economies on a new basis with some of the old technology and we have engaged our own scientists and technicians to develop new systems as rapidly as possible. Our regions are linked to each other in mutual relations but not necessarily one country (A Federation of Feminist States - FFS); each area has its own political machinery but all are directed by the local lesbian-feminist party. Many other countries in the world also have strong feminist movements and a few have feminist governments, providing international trade, exchanges of information and techniques, etc.

LONG-TERM TASKS

If we are to be in this or a similar place in 50 years, we have at least two on-going tasks during that time:

1. Vision of a New Society - We must figure out what we want a new society to be like and how it will have to be structured in order to be that way. (e.g. questions of organizing the economy, worker's control, form of government; role of party, of elections, of military, rights of minorities, etc. etc.) At least an initial vision of our objectives.
2. Strategy for Taking Power - Obviously, we must build plans for how we hope to take power, adapt them to new situations, and succeed in taking power, either through bits and pieces or all at once or....

GOALS FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS

As I see it, we have ~~at least~~ at least 4 main goals, discussed in more detail later.

1. Develop Ideology, that gives a feminist analysis of past and present forces in history, provides a vision of the future, and outlines why women can and must do it.
2. Develop Initial Plans for How to Take Power and start processes that lead to this.
3. Develop Party organization, based on ideology and structured to carry out initial plans for taking power.
4. Solidify our Cell discipline and definition so it can carry out above.

1. Develop Ideology. We need a basic ideology that interprets the world, historical forces, objective conditions, future, etc. - very clearly and in such a way as to give women the basis for making a revolution. This means developing all the aspects of our general political rap, such as:
  - a) economics and forces of production
  - b) biological/anthropological history of sexism and relation to other oppressions
  - c) previous women's ideologies, successes and failures
  - d) clearer outline of who the revolutionary agents are and why ( counterpart to workers of world (majority) will make revolution because of their oppression (and resultant consciousness) and their strategic role in production).
  - e) vision of new order-new society that motivates people to follow us and give up old lives and security (counterpart to communism as utopia).

We need to discuss how this ideology will be built and make a strategy for doing it -- research, analysis, inspiration-- what is individual's work and what collective's--how do we structure our work to move on this now..

2. Plans for How to Take Power. This may not be a specific 5 year goal, but it involves basic questions about which we need to make some initial hypothesis--How do we imagine that we will take power? How does this affect the type of groups and party we organize now? What is the role of military in our strategy? What about masses, other women, men? Will we use elections and legal structures? How public and above ground can we be about which things at which times? How do we build hopes, but not illusions before we can deliver goods -- so that we don't let our rhetoric outstrip our development like black panthers did?? What should our program be?

Clearly these are questions that get resolved and change constantly as we go along, but how are we going to determine at least initial expectations upon which to build strategy for next few years?

3. Develop Party. (I am assuming that our political strategy for taking power does require a disciplined party.) We should lay groundwork so that by the end of 5 years, we will have a functioning party. This includes: developing solid cadres with our political direction around the country; determining structures for party decision-making, discipline, training, recruitment, etc.; deciding on role of communications and propaganda at this stage of our development -- is it all selective (e.g. aimed at only those we hope will become party members) or is some selective (e.g. the newspaper) but some developed for mass appeal--; and such practical matters as what we want cadres in other cities to be doing, how they should relate to us in DC, how we get money for party,.....
4. Solidify our Cell. Since we are the leadership at this time, we need to develop more cell discipline, accountability, and methods for decision-making (especially long-term strategy decisions like those above). We should have our oft-mentioned 'mirror' discussions about each person's skills, strengths and weaknesses so we can plan how to utilize these for the strategies we outline for the next 5 years. Then we can assign tasks more clearly and determine what specialists we need in and out of the collective. We desperately need better ways of supporting each other-- both criticism and praise--in the context of our work. As we are clearer about ourselves as a functioning group, we should work out how to relate to cadres in other cities, local DC people who may be a cadre outside of our collective, whether we should stay in DC, go elsewhere, or go out in small groups to help other cities develop, etc.

On the last page, there is a projected timeline with my initial suggestions for strategy and tactics to implement goals 1,3,and 4.

Before stopping, I want to say a word about Method. I have used the basic form of determining long-term objectives, short-term goals, strategy and tactics for those goals, and a timeline for when to do what as my approach to what we need to do. Personally, I find this method helpful. Soon we should discuss what are helpful ways to organize our thoughts and work as a group so we can agree on some methods together. From my previous experience with groups (especially at the Ecumenical Institute, a highly structured group where I spent a summer), I have found that method really does affect the work done, and if agreed upon by all, structures can help everyone participate more and have more control over decisions. I would like to discuss this and know what others have thought and/or experienced.

Finally.....obviously the ideas on these pages are not all my originals. Since I have been in several good discussions about cell, strategy, etc. lately, I thought it might help to try to pull some of it together and write it down. In particular, different parts of this came from discussions with people at my house, Rita at IPS, and the China Study group.

*Charlotte*

p.s.. I didn't know how to approach strategy for goal 2 - plan for how we expect to take power; also I did not say much about programs in the usual sense -- skills centers, food coops, demonstrations, etc. because I was not sure if or how they fit into the next 5 years.

5 year Timeline

goals	1972	'73	'74	'75	'76 (In-time for the Bicentennial Celebration of American Revolution".)
IDEOLOGY	<p>Write up analysis we have in more detail.</p> <p>Develop plan for work in areas that are lacking--decide what they are, who will work on, and how.</p> <p>Recruit women to help us, in or out of collective, in certain areas.</p>	<p>Continue writing up new ideas.</p> <p>Depth research done in certain areas.</p> <p>Circulate papers that begin probing and try out new ideas -- among key people in other cities, but not for public distribution.</p>	<p>v continue as in '73</p>	<p>Write Ideological Manifesto for our Party and circulate among developed cadres and key individuals around the country for refinement.</p> <p>Continue research and probing of new areas--always revealed as we go along.</p>	<p>Publish Basic Ideological Manifesto.</p> <p>Continue new areas, etc.</p>
PARTY	<p>Decide on key people in about 5-10 cities for intensive work over year and especially in summer (maybe have spend a month with us)</p> <p>Continue disseminating ideas through <u>Furies</u>, <u>motive</u> to locate larger circle of contacts and begin moving people some.</p>	<p>Hold small gathering of key people (summer month or conference or) to give fuller training and work on plans for starting groups in other cities.</p> <p>Circulate private papers on questions of party and ideology to key people.</p> <p>Continue <u>Furies</u> as more general introduction.</p>	<p>Hold first formal national gathering of delegates from cadres in 10 or so cities where contacts have solid groups -- to exchange ideas, experiences, plans...</p> <p>Locate and train key contacts in at least 10 more cities.</p> <p>Continue private papers and <u>the Furies</u></p>	<p>Write and circulate National Party manual on organization plans and structures for refinement by cadres.</p> <p>Hold small national gathering of delegates to work out final draft of papers and plan for founding convention of party.</p> <p>Continue training new contacts, <u>Furies</u>, papers, etc.</p>	<p>Hold founding convention for Lesbian-Feminist Party with delegates from places where we have solid cadres under our direction (hopefully at least 40-50 cities)</p> <p>Continue all things mentioned before! and start implementing new strategies for power!.....</p>
CELL	<p>Work out clearer cell discipline and methods of work. Determine each person's skills, functions, specialties.</p> <p>Determine how to work with and train key contacts from other cities and DC. (summer?)</p>	<p>Develop full scale summer training program.....</p> <p>Decide about form of DC cadre (is it us or others...)</p> <p>Decide whether to send some of us to other cities or countries and begin to do it.....</p>	<p>Carry out plans above....</p> <p>Work out relations to other cadres....</p> <p>Keep moving and handling whatever comes up.....</p> <p>Change these plans constantly as we go along.....</p>		

HAVE FUN SO WE DO NOT GO MAD IN MALE SUPREMACIST, HETEROSEXUAL AMERIKA....