

Dear Brother/Sister:

On May 4, 1969 a group of student leaders from the Northeastern U. S. met at the University of Harlem (formerly City College of New York) in an informal session. As a result of this meeting, it was agreed that an emergency student leadership conference should be called for May 30, 1969 here in Harlem.

The purpose of this conference is:

1. To establish a Program of Black Education that will be necessary to our survival as a Black Nation, as opposed to our present status of free-slaves seeking an education to benefit the slave master and his society. We want to establish a program of education that will enable us to obtain the necessities of life: food, clothing, shelter, land self-determination, and self-defense. We have come to recognize that "Black Studies" can be taught only in a Black environment. The white environment, by its very nature, is not conducive to positive Black Studies. If the goal of our education, is the full and complete liberation of our people, this cannot come about sitting in the slave master's house! Would Ho Chi Minh send members of the National Liberation Front to the white house to study Vietnamese history? Of course not. Are we not suffering oppression from the same people who are oppressing the people of Vietnam? As Honorable Elijah Muhammad said, "... Who is going to teach you that knowledge of self? Surely not your slave-master, who blinded you to that knowledge of self. The slave-master will not teach you the knowledge of self, as there would not be a master-slave relationship any longer."
2. We want to discuss at this conference the creation of Black educational institutions within our own communities. For instance, it was suggested that instead of seizing buildings on a white campus, come home and seize or rather "liberate" buildings in our own community, such as empty hotels and tenements and convert them into Black Universities funded from whatever sources necessary. But ultimately, there can be no Black University or any other truly Black institutions that is not completely financed by Black people. To have our own we must support our own!
3. We want to discuss a communications network among all Black student unions and community organizations. This is a critical time in our liberation struggle and good communication is absolutely necessary.
4. We want a Summer Project in the Black Community. It was felt by some Brothers that student leaders need several weeks together this summer to clarify and develop our Program of Education, our Function Unity and Brotherhood.

It should be understood, from the outset, that this conference, by its very goals and structure cannot accomodate intellectualisms or rhetoric. We are not interested in your best speakers, but we are interested in your best minds, for we have found out through painful trials and errors, that they are not necessarily one in the same.

We are not concerned with official designations such as president, chairman, prime-minister, or directors of Black student unions unless these Brothers or Sisters are actually THE leaders and best minds on your campus.

We ask that you send ONLY two delegates and that the persons be aware that what we propose is by no means an ideological rap session, but that we construe this to be a serious first in terms of getting all Black students united to assume their proper places in the leadership of our Struggle for Liberation.

Enclosed, you will find further information about the conference, and an elaboration on the conference subject matter.

There may be some important points we have overlooked. If so, any suggestions are welcome. We look forward to seeing your representative(s) at the conference. For further information call (212) 281-9650 and ask for Lloyd Williams or Mervin Kelly. You may, if need be call collect. All correspondence should be addressed to Student Leadership Conference, c/o Blackfrica Promotions, P.O. Box 1022, Manhattanville Station, New York, N. Y. 10027

Yours in Liberation,

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