

Asian Americans for Action
c/o Lynne Iijima
601 West 110th Street
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New York, New York 10025

Sept. 15, 1969

Michael Yasukawa
Concerned Asian Americans
1325 West Winona
Chicago, Ill. 60640

Dear Mike:

Thanks for your reply. Please tell us a little more about your group and keep us informed of your activities, as we'd like to know what other groups are doing.

AAA was formed in May and has anywhere from 25-35 people, with a hard core of about 15. Ages range from high school kids to Nisei adults, and the composition is Chinese and Japanese so far, altho' we'd welcome Asians of other descent too (at present, we're trying to recruit some Indian students). Since we have adults as well as students in our group, we are not primarily campus-oriented (some of us are also in Columbia Univ. AAPA so we have close ties with the only other Asian group in the city), but try to work on an international, national and local level. On the local level, a problem arises as there is no Japanese community (in physical sense) with whom we can try to communicate, so the only place we can work is in Chinatown. There, things are very tense and reactionary, the best hope being with the young kids and some of the more "enlightened" adults in the community. Some of us have been working as individuals (tutoring, recreational work with kids, etc.) and so are gradually making some good contacts.

At present, besides working locally in Chinatown, we're concentrating on the issue of the repeal of U.S.-Japan Security Treaty and return of Okinawa to Japan. In August, we organized with help from another group a demonstration on Hiroshima Day and we will probably participate in a mass teach-in and demonstration against U.S. imperialism in Asia to be held in Wash. D.C. in November, to coincide with Sato's visit to the U.S.

We try to keep up correspondence with all the Asian groups on the west coast (we'll be sending a few representatives out there this weekend to participate in the Asian American Studies Conference) and we also correspond with a group in Canada.

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Since most of us have never tried to organize a group like this before, we are also trying to get ourselves together, trying to learn, absorb, etc. We have a study group, a Cantonese language class, research articles for our newsletter, and invite people active in Chinatown or others who are politically active to come and rap in our educational forums.

Will continue to send you future issues of our newsletter as well as other materials we put out. Hope to hear from you again.

Sincerely,

Lynne Iijima.
Secretary

Asian Americans for Action