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September 25, 1972

TO ALL BRANCH ORGANIZERS, ANTIWAR DIRECTORS AND NC MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

Initial reports from around the country indicate that the campaign to build the fall antiwar actions is off to a good start. A number of areas report large SMC meetings with the opening of school. Despite the difficulties engendered by the capitalist election campaign, new opportunities exist for strengthening NPAC and SMC. Given daily press coverage of the U.S. government's terror bombing of Vietnam, it is possible to convince many individuals and some organizations that it is necessary for them to participate in antiwar actions regardless of their attitude toward the election campaign. Use of the many educational materials now available on the nature of the war, throughout the antiwar movement, will be helpful in this process.

All areas should now be concretizing their plans for October 26 and November 18. In doing so it is important to keep in mind that November 18 is the focus date for mass demonstrations and rallies. October 26 was projected by the NPAC conference as a time for evening picket lines to help build November 18. The November 18 date should be prominently featured on all materials.

The major focus of the PCPJ this fall is the Indochina Peace Campaign (IPC). The IPC is functioning out of the national PCPJ office and is the group that is sponsoring the Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden tours. The stated purpose of these tours is to visit the seven "swing states" that will be crucial to the McGovern campaign, and also to generate support for the 7-Point Peace Proposal of the PRG. While some of the literature that the IPC puts out states that it is non-partisan, some is openly for McGovern. Fonda speaks openly for McGovern in all of her speeches.

In New York, Fonda's meetings have drawn up to 4,000. NPAC and SMC will want to relate to these meetings wherever they occur. In a number of areas SMCs have requested to cosponsor campus meetings for Fonda and have SMC speakers or announcements made at the meeting. So far, the IPC has taken a totally sectarian attitude by refusing to cooperate with NPAC or SMC. However by attending the Fonda meetings with literature on the fall actions and intervening in the discussion periods, NPAC and SMC have been able to attract people around the fall dates.

Recently Fonda and Hayden have been pushing a new date for a fall action -- October 14. An October 14 Coalition was initiated by some of the ultraleft groups in the Bay Area that were involved in the April 22 Coalition which called the April 22, 1972, march in San Francisco. The CP is also now heavily involved in the October 14 Coalition in the Bay Area. October 14 has been projected as a day of local mass peaceful demonstrations around two themes: Dump Nixon and Support the 7-Point Peace Proposal. At its first meeting, the Bay Area October 14 Coalition voted to exclude any group that does

not support the 7-Point Peace Proposal of the PRG. So far October 14 formations, initiated by ultraleft groups, have also appeared in New York and Portland. The PCPJ affiliates in New York and Los Angeles are supporting October 14. With Fonda and Hayden pushing this date we can expect that it will come up in other areas. NPAC and SMC are relating to this development by sending representatives to meetings called to discuss October 14. While NPAC and SMC do not take a position of opposing any mass peaceful demonstrations against the war, they have pointed out that the political line projected by these groups excludes people from participating to build the most massive actions possible. Most importantly, NPAC and SMC are pushing for unity around the October 26 and November 18 actions which were called out of the mass decision-making conference this summer. Where October 14 actions take place we can expect that NPAC and SMC will be present with the demand of "Out Now," and literature building October 26 and November 18.

The existence of the new date of October 14 underlines the necessity of stepping up the work to establish the dates of October 26 and November 18. Wide distribution of local materials on the actions and a well organized endorser drive should facilitate this.

Branches should have received by now the communication put out by the YSA antiwar director on the SMC and its campaign for the fall. Close attention should be paid to the opportunities that Fred Lovgren's national tour provides for building the SMC.

The next NPAC steering committee meeting will be held October 8 (the day after the SMC steering committee meeting) at Boston University College of Liberal Arts auditorium. Howard Zinn will give a brief keynote speech. Comrades attending the meeting should meet at the Boston branch headquarters (655 Atlantic Avenue) at 10:00 AM sharp.

Branch organizers should see that antiwar fraction minutes start coming into the national office on a regular basis, and that reports on the results of the NPAC regional conferences are sent in.

Comradely,

Wendy Reissner

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SWP Antiwar Director