

Antiwar Report by Gus Horowitz and Helen Meyers, National Antiwar Steering Committee, March 17, 1970

According to the information we have received in the YSA and SWP National Offices, all major areas have made their plans for mass antiwar demonstrations on April 15 (or April 18 in some places). There are now only four weeks to go. The time problem is therefore very pressing, making it imperative that a maximum campaign effort be made to build the largest possible actions. In order to campaign effectively in building these actions, The Militant and The Young Socialist Organizer need regular reports from the field sent in as soon as possible.

The SMC National Office has now put out most of its scheduled promotional material for the demonstrations, including buttons, bumper stickers, The Student Mobilizer, leaflets and posters. This material has either arrived in or is enroute to local areas now. Some additional material will be forthcoming.

Local SMC meetings have generally been fairly large and representative, indicative of the continued interest in the SMC after the SMC national conference. The SMC national steering committee meeting, held on March 8, was attended by 140 SMCers representing 60 high schools and colleges. Minutes of this meeting have been mailed to all those on the SMC national key list (generally one representative from each SMC chapter). The Militant, March 20, has a report on this meeting and the decisions made at it.

One of the important points made at the SMC steering committee was that there is a serious financial problem facing the SMC National Office right now. A considerable amount of money is needed in order for the SMC National Office to continue to undertake the organizing responsibilities that it has outlined for April 15. We should try to convince the SMC chapters to take advantage of the opportunities that exist in the local areas to raise money for the SMC National Office. First, all literature bills should be paid promptly and in full - this is not a large amount for any local area, but it amounts to a considerable total for the SMC National Office. Second, the names of potentially large donors should be forwarded to the SMC National Office, which will then try to arrange fund-raising meetings with them (these could also be set up in local areas, and the SMC N.O. will send someone to them).

In some areas recently our political opponents have intervened heavily in SMC meetings, though generally not as SMC activists on a day-to-day basis. The following organizations, for example, intervened in an SMC regional meeting in New York on March 14: WSA-SDS and PL; Young Workers Liberation League (CP youth); International Socialists; Workers League; Spartacists League (Robertsonites); SDS Labor Committee (Marcus group). In other areas RYM has intervened. Boston, Austin, Chicago and Philadelphia have also reported interventions of some of these opponents into antiwar meetings.

This intervention by our opponents is to be expected after the SMC conference which showed the SMC's size and breadth. We should anticipate that it will be a regular feature of SMC meetings from now on. We must therefore prepare our own intervention adequately for any SMC or other general antiwar coalition meetings and take care to encourage the widest participation at these meetings by antiwar activists. Adequate political discussion of all issues that will be arising is necessary, both for our own preparation and in convincing the antiwar activists of our political proposals.

The most serious intervention by any of our opponents so far has come from PL, which mobilized considerably for antiwar meetings in Boston and New York, and to a lesser extent in Chicago. Their aim was to wreck the SMC and the antiwar coalitions as they have existed. The YWLL has intervened less extensively, but in a manner that left open the possibility that they may be considering intervening regularly as SMC members.

Enclosed are copies of the proposals distributed at the New York SMC meeting by the YWLL, Workers League, International Socialists and excerpts from a longer PL proposal distributed in the name of the WSA-SDS. The general content and some specifics of these proposals have been raised in other areas.

Through adequate political and organizational preparations we should be able to register the same type of decisive success over these opponents as at the national SMC conference. In addition, we may have the opportunity to reach some of the ranks of the WSA-SDS and the YWLL.

SDS Regional Interim Committee Proposal for the New York  
Regional Conference of SMC

Tens of millions of people in the U.S. oppose the war and want the U.S. to get out NOW. The November demonstration in Washington D.C. was a reflection that more people than ever before want to fight against the war. All this, even though politicians and the press have tried to fool us into thinking the war is almost over; that negotiations will end with a speedy withdrawal, and so on.

And still the war continues. Demonstrations every 6 months of hundreds of thousands of people haven't ended the war. One reason that the demonstrations haven't ended the war is that the leadership of these demonstrations have consistently tried to push liberal politicians (such as McGovern and Lindsay) as the people who not only have the desire to end the war, but who have the ability to attract many more people to the antiwar movement. We think that the leadership of the antiwar movement (including the SMC leadership) is wrong on both counts....

This means there is only one way we can build the antiwar movement. We must put forward an anti-imperialist perspective on the war, relating the super-exploitation of the Vietnamese to the exploitation of the American people. We must build a movement which relates to working people, especially Black people, and direct it against the whole U.S. ruling class, including liberal imperialists like Lindsay, McGovern and Cyrus Eaton.

To implement this we call for the following:

- (1) That SMC demand "U.S. Get Out of Vietnam Now! No Negotiations " in order to expose the U.S. government's strategy of trying to maintain a foothold in Vietnam through a "negotiated" settlement.
- (2) That SMC exclude all liberal politicians and corporate industrialists from their antiwar rallies.
- (3) That SMC sponsor a march to and demonstration at Gracie Mansion following the Bryant Park rally on April 15 around the following demands:
  - "U.S. Get Out of Vietnam Now! No Negotiations!"
  - " No 'Loosening' of the Rent Control Laws!"
  - " Free the Panther 21!"

These demands should be put forward to help build the antiwar movement because they expose the liberal politicians' mis-leadership of the antiwar movement at the same time that they unite Black and white working people and students in their common interests.

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## For Mass Labor Action Against War

With the Pathet Lao regaining the Plain of Jars from Royal Lao-tian-CIA trained troops, U.S. imperialism faces both an offensive by the Laotian and Vietnamese workers and peasants, and an offensive at home. The American working class in the army and on the job is on the offensive against the attacks on their wages, jobs and working conditions.

Vietnam is the key to the international situation. It is the sharpest expression of the class struggle. Vietnam is not an isolated mistake or an example of "immoral" foreign policy. It is the touchstone of world imperialism in its war against the working class internationally. It is also the touchstone for the working class internationally, as the defense of the Vietnamese Revolution requires the defeat of imperialism at home. This is made clear by the stepped up war in Laos, as well as the increased attacks on the working class at home: anti-strike legislation against strikers, the jailing of striking Newark teachers, the murders and trials of black militants, the massive racist campaign launched by Nixon. A victory for the NLF and the Pathet Lao is a victory for the American working class; a victory for the American working class is a victory for the NLF and the Pathet Lao.

The only way forward in the struggle against the war is the fight to mobilize the American working class, both on April 15th, and for a massive labor rally in Washington against the war on Memorial Day around the demands:

- \* Immediate Withdrawal of All U.S. Troops From Vietnam and Laos!
- \* Against Inflation and Unemployment--For the Wage Offensive and the 30 Hour Week at 40 Hours Pay!
- \* Against Racism--Jobs for All!
- \* Build a Labor Party!

(Proposal submitted by the Workers League.)

## Motions on the April Action

1) That the SMC raise the following demands and slogans in leaflets, on banners, and from the platform if an SMC representative gets to speak at any mass rally:

**IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL FROM VIETNAM AND ALL OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES**

**CONVERSION OF THE ARMS INDUSTRY: production for people's needs not war; END TAXES ON WORKING PEOPLE, tax the rich, the corporations and banks. JOBS FOR ALL: equal access to all jobs and equal pay for equal work for blacks and women; No wage controls and unemployment; STOP THE REPRESSION OF THE MOVEMENT, FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS. NO SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN WAR PARTIES: BUILD A MOVEMENT FOR A PARTY OF WORKING PEOPLE.**

2) That the SMC oppose the invitation of any politicians who do not clearly and unequivocally stand and work for immediate withdrawal from Vietnam to speak on the platform of any antiwar rallies it participates in.

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3) That representatives of the SMC, when speaking at mass rallies or demonstrations, include in their presentations, clear statements of opposition to the so-called "Congressional Strategy" associated with the Moratorium, and being proposed for the antiwar movement by twin-party liberals.

(Proposal submitted by the International Socialists.)

### Build a Strong Antiwar Movement - Fight Against Racism and Repression

The struggle against racism and repression is an integral part of the antiwar movement. The war in Vietnam is clearly a racist war being fought by black, Latin and working people in general. The highest casualty rates are experienced by minority people. The U.S. imperialist army thrives upon racism. Minority soldiers, in many instances, have to fight to keep the Confederate flag off the front lines. Many Blacks and Latins are subject to barbaric treatment in the stockades - often leading to death or mutilation. It is precisely because of racism that the U.S. generals are able to hype the soldiers into committing atrocities such as MyLai and SongMy. Moreover, the budget cuts caused by the war affect all Americans, but the non-white communities are hit the sharpest. Racism not only perpetrates the war but divides the American working class and prevents a strong, broad-based, multi-racial antiwar movement. This is exemplified by the SMC's national convention which had less than 100 non-white people out of 4000. This is due to the Young Socialist Alliance, in leadership of the National committee, because of their refusal to link up the imperialism abroad with the racism at home. There is no difference between the slaughter of Vietnamese in Vietnam and the slaughter of the Black Panthers in Racist America. Moreover, it is not just the Black liberation movement that is being repressed. It is all progressive forces speaking out for the rights of the people. (i.e.: the Conspiracy 8, etc.)

**FOR THE STRONGEST, MOST RELEVANT, MOST EFFECTIVE ANTIWAR MOVEMENT POSSIBLE -- RACISM AND REPRESSION MUST BE FOUGHT!!**

In the interest of the strongest possible SMC we call on the adoption of the following program be adopted along with a strong program against the war.

I--The struggle against racism and repression at home is key to ending the war in Vietnam (and all of South East Asia)

II--That the antiwar movement's first line of defense against repression is the defense of the Black Panther Party.

III--That SMC must see as a major task the recruitment of Black and Latin people (who are already unanimously opposed to the war) to the antiwar movement.

IV--That it is the role of the SMC to expose the inhumane treatment of antiwar GIs in the Armed Forces, and the racist and barbaric torture of Black and Latin GIs in the stockades.

V- That the SMC must expose the racism behind the atrocities like MyLai and SongMy.

(Proposed by the student branch of the Young Workers Liberation League)