

873 Broadway
2nd floor south
New York, N.Y. 10003
May 29, 1970

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND ANTIWAR DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed is a copy of a leaflet put out by the SMC to build the June 19-21 antiwar conference. A leaflet put out by the Cleveland Area Peace Action Council has also been printed and is being mailed out of Cleveland. Either can be reproduced for local distribution.

In the coming weeks we should make a major effort to publicize and build the conference. Copies of the conference leaflets should be sent to expanded local antiwar mailing lists. Travelers should be on the road organizing attendance from outlying areas. Local antiwar committees should start planning transportation.

A second printed edition of the conference call may also be put out. It is still quite important to obtain additional sponsors. The present list of sponsors is impressive enough to make it easy to obtain the names of conference sponsors from a broad range of groups opposed to the war and favoring mass antiwar action. The names of sponsors should be called or sent in to the Cleveland Area Peace Action Council, 2102 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, Ohio 44105. Tel: (216) 621-6516.

This antiwar conference is particularly important. It will be the first major national antiwar conference since the student strike upsurge of May, and the conference discussions will take place in the context of greatly enhanced opportunities for mass antiwar mobilizations. Not only has there been a qualitative leap forward in the political consciousness of the mass of students, but the expansion of the war and the mass student upsurge has also affected other sectors of the population. We should note in particular the signs of greater labor involvement in the antiwar struggle. This is reflected in the conference call, which includes more labor sponsorship than for any previous antiwar conference. The recent issues of the Militant give a general roundup of developments in this area.

This conference, as the call specifically states, is called for the purpose of organizing mass antiwar demonstrations, and not for action of a civil disobedience or confrontationist nature.

The New Mobilization Committee is continuing along the anti-mass-action course that it has been based around after the November 15 march on Washington. The line that the NMC apparatus has projected is that of civil disobedience. Accordingly, the NMC has taken a hostile attitude toward the Cleveland antiwar conference, and at this time is trying to call an antiwar gathering of its own for the purpose of organizing civil disobedience. The breadth of support for this NMC line is very narrow. Whether this projected NMC meeting gets off the ground or not, the Cleveland conference is proceeding as scheduled.

In some areas the CP has been intervening in antiwar organizations to a greater extent than previously. The CP's goal is to divert the antiwar movement away from independent mass action and into support for capitalist candidates in the 1970 elections. In so doing they also attempt to weaken support for our mass action line within the antiwar movement by whatever means they can. In some cases (the NMC and the New York Parade Committee, for example) the CP has been functioning in a temporary bloc with civil disobedience and pacifist forces, and ultra-lefts around the issue of anti-Trotskyism and anti-mass-action. We should be alert to increased intervention by the CP in the antiwar movement. Please send in any information on this to the national office.

The key to the continued projection of mass antiwar action in the immediate period is the success of the Cleveland antiwar conference. Not much time remains to build it. From now until the conference we should go on a campaign basis to ensure its success.

Comradely,

Gus Horowitz

Gus Horowitz
National Antiwar Director
Socialist Workers Party