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November 5, 1970

TO ALL COMRADES

Dear Comrades,

When the October 31 antiwar demonstrations were called, we had two basic objectives: 1) maintaining the example of independent mass antiwar action as contrasted to supporting capitalist candidates in the elections; 2) rebuilding the local antiwar coalitions and the national antiwar coalition, with particular attention paid to the increased opportunities to involve sectors of the labor movement. The October 31 demonstrations were generally successful in both these objectives.

Demonstrations took place in some 40 cities in the United States and Canada, which represented a wider geographical spread than in previous pre-election periods. As we expected, the demonstrations were generally smaller than those last April 15 or October 15, but they were sizable in a number of areas, and in total were the largest actions that have taken place in a pre-election period, a time when sizable sections of the antiwar movement tend to abandon mass action in the streets. In addition, it appears that a militant spirit and sensible tactics prevailed almost everywhere.

These demonstrations took place and were successful in face of the open opposition of those sectors of the old New Move grouped around the ultralefts, the pacifists and the Communist Party. Moreover, some sectors of the trade union bureaucracy and some other groups oriented to capitalist candidates in the elections attempted to have the demonstrations called off. Nevertheless, the forces around NPAC pushed forward with the demonstrations and the base of support for the coalition has been greatly enlarged since it was founded last June. Many important groups and prominent individual antiwar leaders have joined NPAC. The coalition has made real gains in involving new sectors of the labor movement. In the course of building October 31, ongoing Peace Action Coalitions have been formed in the major cities, with the potential for broadening themselves even more and organizing future antiwar actions. All in all, NPAC and the forces allied with it have emerged as the definitive voice of the antiwar movement.

Our next objective in the antiwar movement is to call and build the next mass antiwar demonstration. The success of October 31 indicates that the antiwar movement is in good organizational shape to project a major Spring action. With the elections over

and the continuing deepening of antiwar sentiment, we have the potential to involve large masses in action and increase the involvement of labor, GIs, women and oppressed Third World nationalities, as well as students.

The Spring action will be called at the national convention of the antiwar movement, December 4-5 in Chicago, sponsored by the National Peace Action Coalition. It will be a broad national planning meeting at which all those interested in building the mass actions against the war are welcome and can participate with voice and vote.

We should go on a campaign footing, beginning now, to mobilize antiwar activists to attend this conference. We should aim to involve all groups and individuals associated with the local antiwar coalitions, as well as those forces which will again be interested in mass antiwar action now that the elections are over.

The convention will be held at the Packinghouse Labor Center, 4959 S. Wabash, Chicago. It begins 7:30 PM on Friday, December 4 with keynote speakers and a rally. Plenary sessions will start Saturday morning, December 5. The conference will probably end in the late afternoon on Sunday. As many people as possible should come in time for the Friday evening keynote session, but the publicity should make it clear that people who cannot arrive before Saturday will still be able to attend all plenary sessions. Mass housing and private housing will be available at a slight charge. Convention information numbers are (216) 621-6518 in Cleveland and (312) 922-1068 in Chicago.

The Student Mobilization Committee can play a major role in building the conference. The SMC's should be geared into getting out leaflets, placing ads in the campus press, organizing buses setting up tables to sell tickets and waging an all out campaign in the student movement to build the conference.

We should begin now to mobilize both our own forces and those of the antiwar movement as a whole to build this very important antiwar conference.

Comradely,

Carl Frank

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Gus Horowitz

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National Antiwar Steering Committee