

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

February 10, 1972

TO ALL ORGANIZERS, ANTIWAR DIRECTORS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

The National Student Antiwar conference, sponsored by the SMC, comes at an opportune time. With the recent escalation of the air war and Nixon's presentation of a new phony "peace plan," the war is once again front-page news. Full advantage should be taken of this situation to build the conference into a large, representative gathering of antiwar students. The conference will be key in launching an all-out campaign to build the April 22 demonstrations in New York and Los Angeles.

In building for the conference, the national office of SMC has found that it is possible to get a response from various reformist student formations, and some student groups supporting capitalist "peace" candidates, if they are aggressively approached to become involved in the conference. At the present time the national office of the Youth for McGovern is endorsing the conference and plans to submit a discussion article for the Student Mobilizer. McGovern himself wrote a letter favorable to the upcoming conference at the request of Youth for McGovern. Recently the SMC was invited to send a national representative to an upcoming National Conference of College Young Democrats in Youngstown, Ohio, to speak about the National Student Antiwar Conference and April 22.

At the February 5 National Working Committee meeting of the SMC, held in Washington, D.C., a broad Conference Organizing Committee was set up to coordinate efforts to build and plan the February 26 conference. It includes representatives from the Association of Student Governments (ASG, which has also been very cooperative in building the conference), the National Student Lobby, International Student Movement for the United Nations, Youth for McGovern, and various student government officials from the East Coast.

It is very important that local areas follow up on attempts to involve these broader forces in the conference. Antiwar sentiment is deep among the youth involved in these various formations. We want to take an aggressive attitude in attempting to win them to supporting mass action against the war in the spring. At the same time, if representatives of these forces show up at the conference and attempt to counterpose working for capitalist candidates to the mass antiwar demonstrations, we would welcome the debate as an opportunity to discuss out the most important question facing the student movement in '72. The national response of the various groups outlined should be helpful in involving these forces on a local scale.

CONFERENCE BUILDING ACTIVITIES:

Literature -- A wall poster and sticker are now available for large paste-ups to build the conference. Local transportation information should be stamped onto the poster. In addition, the Student Mobilizer can be used for mass distribution in addition to conference leaflets.

Press -- Where possible, press conferences should be held publicizing the conference, with attempts made to draw in important local endorsers to indicate broad endorsement. Some areas have found that it is particularly helpful to invite, or even hold special press conferences for, the campus and high school press. In addition, many places have found that the press will respond to immediate statements by the antiwar movement on recent developments in the war or the debate around the Nixon 8-point proposal. Such statements should publicize the conference as one of the responses of the antiwar movement.

Finances -- Some areas have found that it is possible to raise money from professors on campus around the recent developments in the war. Utilization of the McGovern letter and the new Student Mobilizer in fund-raising visits may open the door to raising money to finance transportation to the conference.

General -- In the two weeks remaining to build the conference, a general campaign involving campus literature tables, phone calling and campus travelling where possible should help maximize attendance at the conference.

Transportation -- Arrangements for transportation should be finalized if they have not been already, and a final push for selling tickets, etc., should begin.

Attendance at the Conference -- In view of the general political importance of the conference and the indications that most of the political tendencies will show up in force, we are calling for a full mobilization of all younger comrades in the East Coast and Midwest branches and locals. In addition, we will want sizable delegations from all other areas. Regional centers should take responsibility for mobilizing the regional areas they are responsible for.

Comradely,

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