

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
December 28, 1972

TO ALL BRANCH ORGANIZERS AND ANTIWAR DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

Report on January 20 Demonstrations

This brief report is to bring you up to date on the situation concerning the response to Washington's latest aggression in Vietnam.

The terror bombing of North Vietnam and the breaking off of the Paris negotiations have shocked many who feel that they were once again betrayed and lied to by the Administration with its October promise that "peace is at hand." This has produced a renewed--and at the present time, growing--potential for mass action against the war. Of course, how large the antiwar response becomes in the period immediately ahead depends in part on what happens in Vietnam and in regard to the negotiations. But if the U.S. continues on its present course of greatly intensifying the military pressure on the Vietnamese, we can expect a powerful antiwar response.

In this situation, NPAC and the SMC have called for emergency demonstrations on Inauguration Day, January 20, in Washington and other cities. On the East Coast and Detroit and Cleveland, demonstrators will be going to Washington, with appropriate local send-off rallies or other related local events, depending upon the conditions in each area. Other cities will be holding their own actions on January 20. At this point, support for the January 20 action is broadening significantly, and it has received publicity in the press.

NPAC representatives have met with representatives of the PCPJ with the hope of gaining their support for the January 20 actions. The position taken by NPAC, a position supported by the SWP, is that all forces willing to demonstrate against the war on January 20 should do so in a united demonstration, with all demonstrators free to advance their own slogans. To help facilitate this united-front-type approach, NPAC proposed that the Washington demonstration be organized under the slogan of "End the War Now," with the PCPJ and others who agree with them putting forth their "Sign Now" demand through their speakers at the rally and their banners, etc., and with NPAC doing the same with its "Out Now" demand. This proposal has apparently been accepted by the PCPJ, although their support has not yet been finally agreed to or formally announced.

Within the context of supporting united-front-type demonstrations on January 20, the SWP will be explaining why the demand for immediate and unconditional withdrawal by the U.S. from Southeast Asia is the principled and correct demand, and will urge antiwar activists to support this demand in the demonstrations. At the same time we will continue to polemicize against demands such as "Sign Now," referring to the "9-point agreement," that violate the principle of self-determination for the Vietnamese.

The SWP should be mobilized in each area to help build the January 20 actions. By vigorously stepping forward to provide leadership in showing how to repond to Washinton's new escalation of the war, we will confirm once again our position as the most consistant antiwar fighters. Each area must make whatever readjustments in assignments are necessary to carry out this work.

In the new situation, the antiwar coalitions we support and are part of, NPAC and SMC, have much better opportunities to raise money. Fund raising must be organized. We should urge the coalitions in each area to project activities and staff, etc., to accomplish the tasks before them in organizing the January 20 demonstrations, but within a realistic budget. Much work can be done by volunteers, and free or cheap office space can be found in many areas.

Broad meetings of the antiwar coalitions should be organized, drawing in as many forces as possible, to build the January 20 actions. Press conferences should be held in each area, announcing the plans of the local antiwar forces. So far, such press conferences where they have been held have been well covered by the press.

The SMC should be ready to organize for January 20 as schools open. Meetings should be organized in as many schools as possible, but to do this quickly and effectively, the remaining holiday period should be used by the local SMC's to reorganize so that they are ready to go into action as the schools open.

We will be better able to judge the depth of student antiwar response when schools open, and in the coming few weeks, the general response. Undoubtedly we will have to make adjustments in our plans in view of the situation as it develops. Branches should keep in close touch with the National Office both to report on developments in their area and to keep abreast of national developments.

Comradely,

Wendy Reissner

Wendy Reissner
Antiwar Director

Barry Sheppard

Barry Sheppard
National Organization
Secretary