

PO Box 471 Cooper Station
New York, New York 10003

May 3, 1967

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear _____,

Enclosed you will find recent communications from the Student Mobilization Committee (SMC) on the upcoming May 13-14 conference. As you will note the conference promises to be one of the most important yet held in the antiwar movement.

Through its activities prior to, during, and after Vietnam week the SMC has acquired a politically significant authority in the student movement. Scores of radical youth look to it as the leader of antiwar activity in the United States. The May 13-14 conference will play a big role in determining how well the SMC can take advantage of the almost overwhelming opportunities in the youth and student arena.

There are several things the SMC should decide at the conference if it is to continue its present course. In outline form they are:

1. Reaffirm its position of withdrawal, and at the same time continue to involve more and more sections of the student radicals on a non-exclusive basis.
2. Strengthen the staff, publications, and functioning of the national office in order to take advantage of the growing sentiment. A regular, lively Mobilizer is an important ingredient.
3. Set a date for a national mass protest against the war in the fall of 1967, which can be made as a proposal to the Spring Mobilization Committee conference on May 20-21.
4. Set up an authoritative and representative national steering body.

Along these lines a position paper will be presented on the need for a fall action. The fall action workshop will be chaired by Kipp Dawson. It is important that antiwar activists begin to discuss the need for such action so that the discussion at the conference can be fruitful and decisive, and based on sentiment in local areas.

Other position papers, or reports, are being prepared in some local areas on their activity in Vietnam week. For instance, Detroit will prepare a report on their war crimes tribunal. Other areas are urged to do the same.

The Howard Petrick defense committee anticipates that a new fact sheet, a pamphlet containing an interview, and a button will be prepared in time for the conference.

It is possible and likely that a dispute will occur at the conference over the question of structure. The CP wants to establish a policy-making body of a small size that would have representation from many groups which have not been active in the movement (such as several religious groups) and minimal (if any) representation from the radical groups. This proposal does not represent the actual forces in the SMC and its past practice. The alternate proposal is that a national steering body be set up with representation from national organizations and local areas. The second proposal is more representative of the coalition, provides for involving new groups, gives local areas a say in making decisions, and is more democratic. The CP seems adamant on their proposal, but it is doubtful it will get much support at the conference. It is important that local areas discuss this question and come to the conference prepared to state their position.

As outlined in the National Executive Committee report of April 21, 1967 the participation of all youth active in the April 15 events will help set a correct line for the SMC. All YSA antiwar activists in each area should mobilize these youth to the conference. Locals should mobilize. Please let the YSA NO and Chicago know who will be attending from your local. The address for Chicago is Debs Hall, 302 S. Canal St., Chicago, Illinois, 60606.

The conference will be held at the University of Chicago on Saturday and Sunday, May 13-14. A Continuations Committee meeting will also be held on Friday, May 12. It is anticipated that 350-500 will attend. Chicago thinks it may have difficulty providing private housing for the entire attendance. Thus, YSAers who can afford cheap hotel accommodations should consider making the expense.

We will meet at 9:00 AM, Saturday, May 13 at Debs Hall, 302 S. Canal St., Chicago. Please have housing accommodations taken care of by that time, so that we can maximize the time available for the meeting.

Finally, those who qualify for the Continuations Committee (local coordinators or elected representatives from each area) should plan to attend the Continuations Committee meeting on Friday, May 12. These representatives should meet on Friday at 6:00 PM at 302 S. Canal.

See you in Chicago.

Comradely


Lew Jones

National Chairman