

Report to the NEC on the Student Mobilization Committee, April 21, 1967

By Doug J.

One of the most significant aspects of the April 15th Mobilization was the outpouring of youth both in San Francisco and New York. The Student Mobilization Committee (SMC) estimates that at least a half million students on 500 campuses participated in Vietnam week, and it was obvious to all in New York and San Francisco on April 15th that a large majority were youth. This response from high school and college students is proof of the deep and widespread youth sentiment against the war. It is also indicated by the fact that dozens of campus newspapers throughout the country gave favorable coverage to the Student Mobilization Committee, the April 15th Mobilization, and the Student Vietnam Week. Some of these newspapers editorially supported the April 15th Mobilization, while others published notices furnishing information about bus transportation, etc.

Besides the quantitative character of the student opposition to the war, there is wide acceptance of the immediate withdrawal position. This has been indicated in several campus referendums against the war, in editorials in campus newspapers and especially by the signs and chants of the youth in the April 15th demonstrations.

The SMC successfully intervened in the favorable objective situation on the campuses and was the organization most responsible for bringing tens of thousands of students to the mobilization. This has put the SMC in the position of having the most authority in the militant youth section of the antiwar movement. It is important that the SMC take advantage of this authority and project itself as the leading student antiwar organization in the country.

At this point it does not look like SDS will come into the SMC on a national scale. Many local chapters, however, will undoubtedly continue to identify with or link up with the SMC and its projects.

The CP youth are reluctantly going along with the continued existence and projected plans of the committee. Their participation at this point is important and we must endeavor to keep them involved.

The May 13-14 SMC conference in Chicago will be an important opportunity to extend and firm up the authority of the SMC. Reports indicate that the conference will be large and, if properly organized, will create enthusiasm for antiwar activity during the summer period.

The national office of the SMC is planning to publish a brochure by the time of the conference as well as a resumé of Vietnam Week. They are urging local groups to prepare (and mimeograph) reports on special projects carried out during Vietnam Week (war crimes hearings, campus referendums, etc.) and proposals for summer projects, to be distributed at the conference.

A suggested list of local summer projects, backed up with an enthusiastic, regular Student Mobilizer is the most likely program of action for the coming period. Pfc. Howard Petrick defense work and city-wide referendums will undoubtedly be key projects. More information on the conference will be sent out soon. Antiwar activists in the East and Mid-west should plan to attend. We have received reports that there will be representation from the West Coast as well.

The immediate tasks of the YSA are:

1. help publicize the conference at as many high schools and colleges as possible and organize buses and carloads of people.
2. encourage local SDSers to participate in the conference.
3. encourage local antiwar committees to write up for distribution at the conference reports on local Vietnam Week activities and summer projects. Also photographs and local leaflets should be brought for display tables.
4. send in regular reports as soon as possible to the YSA NO about local response toward the conference.
5. keep the SMC informed of local antiwar activities and of progress toward building the conference. The SMC has moved. It's present address is: 857 Broadway, New York, N.Y., 10003, tel. (212) 255-1076.