

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF A RESOLUTION FOR ACTION, NATIONAL CONVENTION  
OF THE U.S. ANTIWAR MOVEMENT, CHICAGO, DECEMBER 4-6, 1970

Nixon's piecemeal withdrawal policy cannot obscure the fact that his basic intent is the same as always: to achieve a military victory in Southeast Asia.

Nixon's propaganda machine unceasingly attempts to persuade the American people that the war is ending, that all the troops will be home soon and that a generation of peace lies ahead. Life itself, aided by an active and effective antiwar movement, will shortly expose this demagoguery. The illusions about Nixon will be dispelled in the same way that the illusions about Johnson were dispelled: by the people seeing that the words of peace are accompanied by the deeds of war. War weariness will mount as the economic vise of high prices and high unemployment continues to squeeze the people beyond endurance, and toleration of the "gradual withdrawal" policy will end. The demand for immediate withdrawal may well be adopted by the overwhelming majority of people within a short time. The results of the Detroit, San Francisco, and Marin County, California referenda of November 3 suggest the possibilities.

If Nixon is permitted to stretch out the period for his declared policy of withdrawing all troops, a crisis of major proportions looms ahead. Once the fat is removed from the U.S. military presence, which may finally occur in 1971, the moment of truth will arrive. If Nixon then puts a stop to withdrawals in order to preserve the South Vietnam military dictatorship, his true intentions will be clearly exposed and the basis laid for an astronomical growth of "out now" sentiment. If to avoid this and acting under pressure, Nixon continues the periodic withdrawals, the people of South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos will promptly put an end to the domestic tyrannies which have been imposed upon them by U.S. colonialism.

Whatever the future course of events, the demand of the U.S. antiwar movement must remain at all times crystal clear: for the immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of all U.S. military forces from Southeast Asia.

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The Selective Service Act expires on June 30, 1971. Nixon has already repudiated his pre-election promise to end the draft. He seeks its extension for another two years.

The reason is obvious. Senator Stennis, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has already said, "As long as we're in that war there will have to be a renewal of the Selective Service Act and it will have to be used." This is pointed up by the statistic recently cited in Life magazine that 90% of the troops in combat in Vietnam are draftees. Even the "lifers" and West Pointers are using their influence to stay out of the shooting. The administration has concluded that the draft is to the war what the heart is to the human body: unless troops are forcibly pumped into Indochina, U.S. military intervention there will fail. Not enough young

Americans will voluntarily jeopardize their lives in pursuit of a war which they oppose.

The antiwar movement must campaign for an end to the draft, seeking to unite the young generation, and particularly those sectors especially victimized by the draft, i.e., working class and Third World youths, their parents, trade unionists, and all others who can be moved into action. Whether the opposition to the draft stems from opposition to the war or from the conviction that the draft is an unconstitutional form of involuntary servitude, the crucial thing is that a strong movement be built to prevent its perpetuation.

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The danger of new U.S. military intervention in the affairs of other countries is ever present whenever the so-called "interests" of the U.S. are threatened.

The U.S. antiwar movement properly focuses on the demand for immediate withdrawal from Southeast Asia. But the movement must respond to any move by Nixon to send U.S. troops into other countries as well. The demand must be: No More Vietnams! Demonstrations will be called to oppose any move by the U.S. government to create new Vietnams, such as in the Middle East or Latin America.

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General perspective:

The long-run perspective of the antiwar movement is clear. Through the referenda the "great silent majority" has spoken and they have spoken against the war. Our job is to concentrate on organizing that majority antiwar sentiment into mass action. Though of modest proportions, the Oct. 31 and other recent antiwar actions contained key new elements. The massive mobilization of Chicano communities in the Chicano moratoriums shows the importance of the Third World peoples in the U.S. in the struggle to end the war. In addition, the Chicano contingents were among the most dynamic on October 31. The Oct. 31 actions had more trade union speakers and union support than any previous national antiwar actions. The success that the antiwar movement had in involving trade unionists in the Oct. 31 actions gives an indication of the possibilities that exist for this spring. Many national and international unions, including the UAW, Teamsters, Meatcutters, Oil and Chemical Workers, AFSCME, Longshoremen and Warehousemen, Retail & Department Store, Musicians, Textile workers and Clothing workers, have taken strong stands against the war, their involvement in antiwar activities is now key. Increasing numbers of workers understand that the problems of inflation and unemployment will grow worse as the war continues, and are being stirred to action. The antiwar issue serves a unifying and focal role in the general situation in this country. Once again the job of the antiwar movement is to concentrate on organizing the majority sentiment

against the war into mass action.

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PROPOSAL FOR ACTION:

1. The week of \_\_\_\_\_ will be designated National Peace Action Week.
2. The central demand shall be: Immediate withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Southeast Asia. The demand to "end the draft now" must have special prominence.
3. Local and regional activities will be organized during the first days of the week as determined by the area Peace Action Coalitions.
4. The week will culminate in massive peaceful orderly national demonstrations in \_\_\_\_\_ on Saturday \_\_\_\_\_.
5. In the event of any escalation of the war prior to the scheduled demonstrations or in the event of a new military intervention into the affairs of other countries, the antiwar movement will organize an appropriate response.
6. As part of an intensive nationwide effort to galvanize the maximum numbers of people into action against the war and the draft during National Peace Action Week, a number of meetings and conferences will be organized during January and February of 1971.

These will include:

- A. A National Womens' gathering.
- B. A National Trade Union gathering.
- C. A National Third World gathering.
- D. Local, state, and regional conferences convened by area peace action coalitions.

The purposes of these conferences is to unite antiwar forces in the country, including broad new groupings, in support of the actions planned for the spring.