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To All Organizers, NCers, and At-Largers

Dear Comrades,

The GI-Civilian Antiwar Action Conference and the SMC conference proposed antiwar actions on Easter Sunday, April 6, in 7 regional centers: Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Austin, and Seattle. These will be GI marches supported by mass participation of civilians demanding that the troops be brought home now. The SMC aims especially at mobilizing both high school youth and GIs.

The GI-Civilian conference was broadly endorsed and, in spite of terrible weather, was attended by about 300 people, including a significant representation of the adult antiwar coalition and the antiwar GIs. Sid Peck, Sid Lens, Leroy Wolins and others attended and participated. 30 GIs attended from 15 bases and 14 different organizations or GI newspapers. Every GI organization or newspaper of significance was there.

The conference call to action has quickly received support. In Los Angeles, the Peace Action Council has endorsed the action, as has the Chicago Peace Council and the Cleveland Peace Action Council. In Atlanta, a new coalition has been formed to build April 6. We have not yet received word from San Francisco and Austin.

In New York, most of the antiwar forces are involved in preparations for the Inauguration weekend action, January 18-20. The Parade Committee will discuss April 6 after the Washington Inauguration action. The Inauguration action, while originally conceived of by the Dellinger-Davis leadership as an extension of National Mobe's course over the past period, is now being presented in a different light. Realizing its own weakness and lack of support, the Mobe has made a number of concessions to the right, including emphasizing the "confrontation" angle; and it has also made concessions to the left, including the rehiring of Fred Halstead by the Parade Committee, and a renewed emphasis on the war as the central issue in the Inauguration action, and the necessity to involve GIs in the demonstrations.

Many individuals and organizations are presently looking for a means of protesting the continuation of the war, and this Washington action therefore is receiving increased support - certainly greater support than the National Mobe's November election protest had.

The Saturday, January 18, section of the action will be an all-day workshop conference and teach-in. We anticipate that the April 6th action will be discussed.

Our job now is to accelerate as much as possible concrete action in organizing the April 6th demonstrations. Building April 6th is our answer in action to the idea that "the war is over." We point to the facts of continued casualties and destruction and call for support to the GI-called Easter Sunday mass actions. To groups like SDS, turning away from antiwar action, we answer by explaining the obligation to help defend the Vietnamese revolution.

Timing is of the essence in the various regions. The key to success is moving ahead in the regional centers and in every area to make the development of April 6th a force that cannot be ignored or opposed by any section of the antiwar movement. The national office of the Student Mobilization Committee has now sent out its initial mailing, and shortly will publish a Mobilizer, a button, and a poster. The first issue of the GI Press Service is being prepared.

The national antiwar steering committee has sent a letter out to the target cities outlining their immediate tasks, and it is important for every area to begin immediately on these:

1. Secure the endorsement of April 6th by the leading antiwar coalition in each area.
2. Obtain the widest possible sponsorship of the action. We should approach professors, clergy, civil liberties groups, black power groups, etc. Through obtaining this sponsorship, local coalitions can be broadened significantly.
3. Communication networks between the target cities and every antiwar group in the entire region involved should be set up, and regular contact maintained. Leaflets reflecting the extent of support from the whole region should be circulated as quickly as possible.
4. SMC and SMC-type groups should be organized or revitalized on campuses and high schools. These groups can be oriented towards organizing for April 6th, and involved in building actions between now and then. Efforts should also be made to involve other campus groups in preparation for April 6th.
5. An estimated \$20,000 at the minimum will be required by the national office of the SMC alone to build this action. Each committee and local group must try to meet its share of this amount.

6. Every local must take steps to free an experienced comrade to take charge of our April 6th activity. In areas where local coalitions are relatively strong, we will want to supply staff personnel.

A more complete report on our perspectives for the period between now and April 6th will be prepared immediately after the Inauguration Day demonstrations in Washington.

Comradely,

Lew Jones

Lew Jones, for the National
Antiwar Steering Committee