

873 Broadway
2nd floor south
New York, N.Y. 10003
May 20, 1970

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND ANTIWAR DIRECTORS

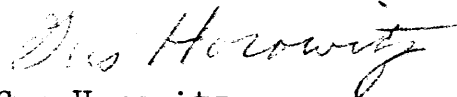
Dear Comrades,

Enclosed is a copy of a call to a national antiwar conference to be hosted by the Cleveland Area Peace Action Council (CAPAC) on June 19-20. This call was issued to a list of key antiwar groups around the country. A second version, which will include additional sponsors, will be issued shortly for wide distribution.

The latest developments in the war and the antiwar movement make this an exceedingly important conference. In the next few weeks we should be promoting this conference within the antiwar movement to insure as large and representative an attendance as possible. More information on what our specific proposals will be for the conference will be forthcoming shortly.

One of the most important immediate tasks we have in relation to the conference is that of obtaining as broad a list of sponsors as possible. It is particularly important to attempt to obtain the endorsements of student strike councils, trade union officials, Third World groups, GI groups, and local antiwar coalitions. The names of any such sponsors should be phoned in to the CAPAC office: (216) 621-6516. There is not much time, so this should be done promptly.

Comradely,



Gus Horowitz
National Antiwar Director
Socialist Workers Party



Susan LaMont
YSA National Secretary

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Cleveland Area Peace Action Council
2102 Euclid Ave., Cleve., O. 44115 Tel: 621-6516

May 11, 1970

Dear Friend,

Enclosed please find a "Call for an Emergency National Conference Against the Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam War" projected for Cleveland, Ohio, on June 19-20. The signing initiators feel that the need for a broad all-inclusive emergency conference in the immediate future is self-evident and that what is necessary now is to proceed with dispatch in the organizing and convening of such a conference.

We very much hope that your organization will endorse the conference and agree to be a co-sponsor. The conference is open to anyone interested in attending and all decisions will be made on the basis of democratic discussion and vote.

In addition, we ask that during the course of the next 10 days you invite key individuals and other organizations in your area to be sponsors of the conference. The names secured should be sent to us no later than May 24 for inclusion in the printed call. The hope is that a broad range of people and organizations will sponsor the conference including many who have not heretofore been identified with the antiwar movement. The top priority is getting TRADE UNIONISTS involved in planning and participating in the conference from the very earliest moment.

In developing this emphasis on reaching broad new forces, especially from the labor movement, we are at the same time extremely anxious that all of the established antiwar organizations and coalitions be integrated in arranging the conference. To allow time for this to develop, we ask that no press conference be called and no press release be issued regarding the conference until May 25, on which date a national press conference will be held and the official announcement made. Between now and May 25, all other avenues of communication should be fully utilized to get the word around about the conference.

The Cleveland Area Peace Action Council is prepared to host the conference and the June 19-20 date was set to coincide with Agnew's June 20 visit to Cleveland. Other sites, however, can certainly be considered. If you have strong feelings on the subject, please let us know.

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The grave responsibility facing the American antiwar movement at this central juncture is to forge the widest possible national unity. This emergency conference can vitally contribute to that objective. We urgently request your help in making the conference an unprecedented success commensurate to the new possibilities and opportunities.

Peace,

CLEVELAND AREA PEACE ACTION COUNCIL

s/Jerry Gordon
Chairman

JG/bh

Enclosure

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CALL FOR AN EMERGENCY NATIONAL CONFERENCE AGAINST THE CAMBODIA-
LAOS-VIETNAM WAR

President Nixon has expanded the war in Southeast Asia against the will of the majority of the American people. His latest reckless move in Cambodia dooms thousands of additional GIs, Cambodians and Vietnamese to death and threatens a confrontation with China. The frenzy and recklessness which now characterize U.S. foreign policy do not preclude the end result of nuclear holocaust.

Nixon has acted against the clearly expressed desires of the American people who want to get out of the war. His order to invade Cambodia was issued without the consent of Congress. It is now perfectly clear that Nixon's real policy is not to withdraw from Southeast Asia but to "win" the illegal, immoral Indochina war.

In this historic crisis for humanity it is imperative that the American antiwar movement be a beacon light for the tens of millions of Americans who will join the struggle to end the war if given leadership. The movement must provide a focus and a form for the expression of the broadest opposition to Nixon's course and for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Southeast Asia. That is the only way to spare the lives involved; to save humanity from the horrors to which Nixon is leading it; to protect the living standards of American workers which are being destroyed by war-inspired inflation; and to achieve a reordering of national priorities away from a war economy. It is imperative -- and at this time it is possible -- that the movement expand to embrace the millions of Americans who have not previously protested. It is imperative and it is also possible that significant elements of such powerful social forces as organized labor be involved and integrated in the antiwar struggle. This is the time for those opponents of the war who understand the importance of immense masses in action, for those who understand the importance of giving form to the majority sentiment against the war, to unify for that task and launch a program of action on which such broad forces can agree.

For these reasons the undersigned issue this call for a NATIONAL EMERGENCY CONFERENCE AGAINST THE CAMBODIA-LAOS-VIETNAM WAR to be held in Cleveland June 19-20, 1970. The Cleveland Area Peace Action Council, which hosted the conferences which gave birth to the largest antiwar demonstrations in American History -- including April 15, 1967 and November 13-15, 1969 -- has agreed to host this conference.

June 20 is the date when Vice President Agnew is speaking in Cleveland at a \$250-a-plate Republican fund-raising dinner. CAPAC is organizing a massive, peaceful demonstration to confront Agnew on this occasion. The conference itself will be an effective answer to Agnew and all participants in the conference will be urged to join the demonstration.

The purpose of the emergency conference is simple and to the point: to plan antiwar demonstrations and other antiwar activities of the most massive kind centering on the crucial issue of withdrawal from the war and conducted in a peaceful and orderly fashion. This is the way to involve immense masses of ordinary people, trade unionists, GIs and their families, students, moderates, liberals and radicals, young and old, and all those who oppose the war regardless of their differences on various other matters.

This conference is not intended to solve or even necessarily discuss all the problems of our crisis-ridden society. It is not a conference to hammer out the strategy or tactics of social revolution or to found a new political party or movement. It is not a conference in competition with any tendency or movement for social change. IT IS A CONFERENCE TO ORGANIZE MASSIVE OPPOSITION TO THE WAR. All those who want to see such opposition organized are welcome to participate regardless of their political ideas or affiliation.

Preliminary List of Sponsors, Individuals and Organizations

- Noam Chomsky, Professor of Linguistics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology*
- Cleveland Area Peace Action Council (CAPAC), Jerry Gordon, chmn.
- Detroit Coalition to End the War Now, James T. Lafferty, Co-Chairman
- Leo Fenster, Secretary, Cleveland District Auto Council, United Auto Workers, AFL-CIO*
- New York Moratorium Committee
- Sam Pollock, President, District Union 427, Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcherworkmen of North America, AFL-CIO*
- Auda Romine, Secretary-Treasurer, Local 500, Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcherworkmen of North America, AFL-CIO*
- Stanley E. Tolliver, Cleveland civil rights attorney and attorney for Ahmed Evans; legal adviser, Operation Black Unity
- Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, Carol Lipman, National Executive Secretary

* Organizations listed for identification purposes only.

Please fill out and mail to CAPAC, 2102 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Oh 44115
(I) (Our organization) agrees to co-sponsor the "Emergency National Conference Against the Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam War."

Name _____ Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____
 Date of Mailing _____

Note: Please attach list of other co-sponsors secured from your area with their names signed by them, their addresses and phone numbers.