

Report to the NEC on the Student Mobilization Committee — Gus H.

It is not possible at this time to determine exactly what will be the course of the organized antiwar movement especially the Spring Mobilization Committee after the April 15th Mobilization. Nonetheless it is possible to separate out some very definite things upon which we can base a course of action.

First of all, it is clear that Johnson is planning to continue escalating the war as he attempts to get a "victory" in Vietnam before the 1968 elections. Thus the objective base for the antiwar movement, i.e. the deepening of the war, will continue to exist and consequently it can be expected that the general antiwar sentiment in the country will continue to grow also.

Secondly, the preparations for the April 15th Mobilization have served to shake loose new organizations and layers of the population into open antiwar protest activity. The visible impact of the demonstrations themselves can be expected to shake up even more sections of the population and stimulate debates and activities in Negro organizations, college campuses, high schools, the labor movement, the armed forces, etc.

The tremendous response to the Student Mobilization Committee from all over the country is an example of this process. Dozens of high school and college ad hoc committees have been set up to support Vietnam week and help build the April 15th Mobilization. These groups look to the Student Mobilization Committee -- sell its buttons, distribute Mobilizers, and circulate its call.

Third, in addition there are no major elections in 1967 and consequently extremely few immediate opportunities to run "peace" candidates. This fact puts the CP in somewhat of a bind since their major orientation is to channel the militant antiwar protest movement into reformist political activity.

All of these factors provide an excellent basis for the continued existence and authority of the Student Mobilization Committee. At meetings in New York of representatives from the various organizations and individuals active in the Student Mobilization Committee there is general agreement that it should continue. There is particular enthusiasm from independent antiwar activists, high school students, etc. Some of these same elements were very militant when it came to fighting for a Student Mobilization Committee speaker at the April 15th rally in New York. The CP youth leaders in New York also agree with the perspective of continuing the Committee. The support of the Committee by much of their periphery, coupled with their difficulty in coming up with any satisfactory alternatives, may force them into the position of staying in this united front.

SDS on a national level has refused to become part of the Student Mobilization Committee and it appears that they will

continue this orientation. On a local level the Mobilization Committee has received active support from SDS chapters and these ties should be continued and strengthened.

At a meeting of the staff and representatives from participating organizations held on April 5, in New York, it was agreed that the Student Mobilization Committee should call a conference in Chicago on May 13-14. We are pushing for this conference to be as large as possible in order to take advantage of the impact and enthusiasm of the April 15th Mobilization to maximize the authority of the Student Mobilization Committee. This would mean widespread publicity of the conference at the April 15th rally. However, agreement has not been nailed down on this aspect yet.

At the conference itself the perspective we will push is for the Committee to publish a few brochures, attempt to put out the Mobilizer on a regular basis and generally to project itself as the authority for the militant student wing of the antiwar movement.

As far as activities go we will push first and foremost for the Student Committee to wage a campaign around the case of Pfc. Howie Petrick. The opportunities for this case are unlimited and can be expected to be picked up with enthusiasm. Other summer projects can be pushed also, such as film showings for the war crimes tribunals, etc.

We also urge that the Student Mobilization Committee support whatever fall action, if any, the Spring Mobilization Committee decides upon. The existence and authority of the Student Mobilization Committee will give added weight to the militant withdrawal wing of the movement at the post April 15th Spring Mobilization Conference. In the event that the Spring Mobilization Committee does not call a fall action, the Student Committee may have to.

Our major task now is to build the May 13-14 conference and bring as many militants as possible to it.

Further reports on the conference and our participation in it will follow as we get closer to it.

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