

Report to the NEC on the Student Mobilization Committee, July 13, '67
by Kipp

During the summer the student antiwar movement has continued to carry on activities around the country. It has been the Student Mobilization Committees and not Vietnam Summer that has done the most to organize antiwar activity throughout the country. The June 23 demonstration in Los Angeles, the referendum activities in the Bay Area, Seattle, Cleveland, and New York, the demonstrations in Houston and Austin, and the work being done by the SMC in Berkeley to form a caravan from the Bay Area to Washington to help build the October 21 action are all examples of activities the YSA and local SMC's have helped to build. They are also a reflection of the continued deepening of the opposition to the war.

October 21 is now only three months away. Propagandistic and organizational efforts must begin now to make this action a success.

The National Mobilization Committee has so far done little to build the October action. This is for two reasons. First, because of the breadth of the coalition and diversity of viewpoints, it is necessarily slow moving. Second, the NMC has been hung up in a number of inconclusive rangles over structure and a number of other proposals. Only now has a committee been set up to start work on the action.

As expected the Student Mobilization Committee is the vehicle through which work has begun. SMC will continue to be the key organization for building the October 21 demonstration during the summer and especially during the fall. The coalition of organizations which make up the SMC has functioned adequately, despite financial and manpower problems.

CP youth -- Since the May 20-21 conference the CP has participated minimally in the SMC. The CP youth leadership has just completed a three week camp where, it can be assumed, the question of the CP's relationship to the antiwar movement was discussed. It is clear that the CP is thinking carefully about the 1968 elections and the effect of their work in the antiwar movement on their electoral goals. Indications now are that they hope to scale down or cancel the fall action and propose major activity around the National Conference for New Politics. There is little support for this position, however, in the SMC at this time.

SDS -- At its recent convention SDS passed a resolution which criticized the concept of marches but left the door open for its chapters to work on the October action. Although the SDS leadership, and our opponents within SDS (PLP and the Draperites) are hostile to the SMC and mass demonstrations, many local chapters continue to favor the big actions and work

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closely with SMC. The SMC has a perspective of involving as many SDS chapters as possible in the SMC effort to build October 21.

There are several areas the Student Mobilization Committee is working in to build October 21 and the SMC itself: The primary task is getting the work going to build the October 21 action on a national scale; organizing the international aspect of the October 21 action, at the same time developing and deepening international consciousness and cooperation in the antiwar movement; helping to develop and deepen the radicalization of high school students and their organization in the antiwar movement; becoming a clearing house for information about antiwar sentiment among GIs; deepening its authority as the national center of student and youth antiwar activity.

The following SMC projects are underway to accomplish these tasks:

1. The July issue of the Student Mobilizer has been printed and is being distributed nationally.
2. The student call to the fall action has been written and will be printed this week.
3. An international letter with a call for actions on October 21 has been sent to 200 people in 50 countries. The French and Canadian leading antiwar committees have already endorsed the call.
4. Posters have been printed advertising the October 21 action and they are being distributed nationally.
5. Buttons have been designed and are being printed.
6. Several brochures are in preparation, including the Vietnamese student appeal to U.S. students, one on GIs, one on high school organizing, one on the antiwar movement around the world, and one on SMC. All the brochures will be designed as builders for October 21.
7. The Berkeley SMC has helped organize a spirited project. On September 10 a bus load of students with literature and a folk-rock band will leave the Bay area and will travel across the country stopping in over 100 cities, building support for October 21, and ending in Washington on October 21.

It is important that we begin now to get the campus, high school, and city-wide antiwar committees geared into building October 21. If we wait until school begins we will only have a month to build a massive action in Washington on October 21. Experience has demonstrated that more time is needed than this.

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The YSA must now consider itself in a campaign to build October 21. There is no contradiction whatsoever between the summer projects and activities that we are engaged in now, and beginning to build October 21. On the contrary the new forces that have been attracted in the local referendums, summer demonstrations, etc. will be an important force for helping to build the Washington action.

The tasks of the YSA are:

1. To educate and explain the importance of building October 21 to the activists in the antiwar committees.
2. Antiwar committees should begin to look into possible modes of and rates for transportation. It is not too early to even set up transportation sub-committees or coordinators for getting people to Washington. A state-wide antiwar convention in Texas that met last weekend already decided to look into transportation to Washington.
3. The antiwar committees should begin ordering hundreds of posters, calls, buttons, etc. from the Student Mobilization Committee immediately.
4. To arrange for regular reports to be sent to the Student Mobilization Committee on local antiwar projects and on the progress toward building October 21. These are extremely important if the Student Mobilizer and the SMC are to accurately reflect their role as the coordinator and organizer of the militant youth wing of the antiwar movement.
5. Regular reports should be sent to the YSA NO on the progress toward building October 21.

Our aim is to build this demonstration as big as possible which means we have to start now.