

P.O. Box 471 Cooper Station  
New York, N.Y. 10003

March 17, 1972

TO ALL ORGANIZERS, ANTIWAR DIRECTORS, AND HIGH SCHOOL WORK DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

At the recent SMC conference held in New York, a decision was made to call for a National High School Speakout against the war on April 19. This call for action is an excellent opportunity to give a focus to high school antiwar work this spring.

The SMC is not calling for any one particular form of activity on the 19th such as a strike. Rather, the exact form for this activity has been left up to local areas and may even vary from school to school in a given area. The concept behind the speakout is to use it as the focal date for antiwar activity in the high schools this spring so as to maximize the impact of that activity and to best build the April 22 demonstrations in New York and Los Angeles.

There are many different possibilities for activities on the 19th: organizing teach-ins and assemblies inside schools on that day; arranging for antiwar speakers to address individual classes; organizing final leafleting for April 22; organizing high school antiwar picket lines during the morning followed by other activities during the day; organizing high school antiwar rallies after school hours or, where possible, during school; etc. In addition, direct building activities for April 22 can be organized out of the activities on the 19th. These can include last minute leafleting, signing people up for the buses to New York and Los Angeles and other activities. All of the suggestions above are simply some of the ideas which are possible for the 19th. Locals should now be discussing the kinds of activities which the SMC can carry out on that day. As soon as plans are finalized in local areas, reports should be sent in to the YSA and SWP national offices.

Organizing the April 19 activities may lead to attempts by local school administrators to victimize high school antiwar activists. As always, the SMC must be prepared to defend those students and also be prepared to organize a campaign around the rights of high school students to organize against the war. Important victories for the rights of high school students can be won in this way.

The April 19 activities provide an important vehicle for the SMC to build the April 22 demonstrations. They also provide an important opportunity for the YSA in that they offer a concrete focus for our high school antiwar work which we should take advantage of.

This communication should be shown to comrades involved in antiwar and high school work.

Comradely,

*Geoff Mirelowitz*

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YSA Antiwar Director