

CALL FOR A VIETNAM MORATORIUM \*

Ending the war in Vietnam is the most important task facing the American nation. Over the last few years, millions of Americans have campaigned, protested, and demonstrated against the war. Few now defend the war, yet it continues. Death and destruction are unabated; bombs and fire continue to devastate South Vietnam. Billions of dollars are spent on war while the urgent domestic problems of this country remain unattended. Moreover, the war has had a corrupting influence on every aspect of American life, and much of the national discontent can be traced to its influence.

The discredited policies of the past which have brought about this American tragedy have not been changed. We follow the same military advice which has created a futile and bloody conflict while we cling to the same policies which have caused the Paris negotiations to falter. The token displacement of 25,000 troops over a three month period simply is not the substantial change of policy that is so desperately needed.

Thus it is necessary for all those who desire peace to become active again and help bring pressure to bear on the present Administration.

We call for a periodic moratorium on "business as usual" in order that students, faculty members and concerned citizens can devote time and energy to the important work of taking the issue of peace in Vietnam to the larger community.

If the war continues this fall and there is no firm commitment to American withdrawal or a negotiated settlement on October 15th, participating members of the academic community will spend the entire day organizing against the war and working in the community to get others to join us in an enlarged and lengthened moratorium in November. This process will continue until there is American withdrawal or a negotiated settlement.

We call upon our universities to support the moratorium, and we commit ourselves to organize this effort on our campus and in our community. We ask others to join us.

\* The "Call" has been signed by nearly 300 college student body presidents and campus newspaper editors.

## MORATORIUM STRATEGY

This moratorium for public action would have its largest initial success in the academic community, but should expand rapidly into other segments of the community. Consequently, much of the initial day's efforts will be directed toward increasing participation in the next month's moratorium.

If the October moratorium growing from the academic community is successful, it is reasonable to expect others--high school students, anti-war and civil rights constituencies, entertainment and advertising industry people, some labor union locals, some churches, businessmen, professionals and politicians--to participate in later months.

It is imperative that the announcement of our effort is made in late June or early July to give the President some time to act. Before the proposed moratorium would be activated, the President will have had three months from the announcement of the action and almost one year since his election to begin withdrawal. The American public seems to feel that it is necessary to give him time to act, and this would be sufficient time. Additionally, it is the first date at which it would be possible to mobilize students and faculty.

A token partial withdrawal at any time will not deter the moratorium.

It is important that the rhetoric employed emphasizes the work being done in the larger community and that the moratorium center around the notion of building this base so that others will join the action in ensuing months.

Other anti-war activities (against the draft, ROTC, ABM, CBW, counter-insurgency research, and so on) will, of course, continue; but the focus of this action is the escalating moratorium and community organizing. Since the goal of the action is to get massive and diverse sectors of American society to cease to do "business as usual," it is important to employ actions and rhetoric that will maintain the broadest possible opposition to the war.

The October action must be spent in community work to build a base for the two day moratorium in November. This can be done by going to businesses, homes, factories, high schools and other gathering points in the community and asking people to join the moratorium in following months. A manual of possible activities and organizing tools will be prepared.

It is important that our strength be visible. Thus, a central staging area for workers in the morning, a rally in the evening, or other such activities would be appropriate.

A central office in Washington will assume the responsibility of making initial contact with students and faculty to get them committed to work on the action at the local level. It can also make contacts to elicit support from national organizations and help to coordinate their contributions, prepare an organizing manual, set up the initial announcement and press conference, and help to raise funds.