CALL FOR AN ASSEMBLY OF UNREPRESENTED PEOPLE
in Washington, D.C., August 6-9

“I like to believe that the people in the long run are going to do more to promote peace than our governments. I think the people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of their way and let them have it.”
--- President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Aug. 31, 1959

WE DECLARE PEACE

IN MISSISSIPPI and Washington the few make the decisions for the many. Mississippi Negroes are denied the vote; the voice of the thirty per cent of Americans now opposed to the undeclared war in Vietnam is not heeded and all Americans are denied access to facts concerning the true military and political situation. We must make it plain to the Administration that we will not be accomplices to a war that we did not declare. There can be no doubt that the great majority of the people of the world do not approve of the presence of American troops in Vietnam. We who will come to Washington on August 6 through 9 cannot in any sense represent this majority, but we can let our voices be heard in a symbolic Assembly of Unrepresented People to Declare Peace.

AUGUST 6 is the twentieth anniversary of the dropping of the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima;

August 9 the anniversary of the Nagasaki bomb. Therefore, we choose August 6, 7, 8, and 9 for a new attempt to draw together the voices of nonviolent protest in America; not only those who have for so long been calling for an end to the Cold War, but also those whose protests focus on racial injustice, inquiries by Congressional committees, inequities in labor legislation, the mishandling of anti-poverty and welfare funds and the absence of democratic process on the local level. We invite not only those now active in organized protests but ministers, members of the academic community, teachers, women, professional people, students, people from the newly formed community groups in slums and rural areas, industrial workers, anyone who wishes to symbolically withdraw his support from the war and who wishes to explore the possibilities of inter-action inherent in this community of concerned people.

Norma Becker          Stephen Amdur          Sandra Adickes
Bob Swann             Eric Weinberger        Francis H. Mitchell
Donna Allen           Walter M. Tillow       John Porcelli
Bob Parris            Carl Oglesby           William Hartzog
Mel McDonald          Ed Hamlett             Barbara Dening
Carl Bloise           Jeffrey Gordon         Mack Smith
Peter Kellman         Jimmy Garrett          Slaughton Lynd
Barry Weissberg       Courtland Cox          Dennis Sweeney
Dena Clamager         Dave Dellinger         Russ Nixon
Steve Weissman        Ray Raphael            Florence Howe
                                      Paul Lader
Activities of the Four Days

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

August 6: A demonstration at the White House will center around the Declaration of Conscience which has already received over 6,000 signatures; it declares the signers' complete refusal to assist in the carrying out of the war in Vietnam and the Dominican Republic. Those of the signers who can come to Washington will constitute the core of the demon-

stration; non-signers will be welcomed. The Declaration has been sponsored and circulated by the Committee for Nonviolent Action, War Resisters League, Student Peace Union and the Catholic Worker. These groups will therefore have full responsibility for the conduct of this aspect of the four-day assembly. There may be nonviolent civil disobedience by some of the signers.

August 7 and 8 will be the heart of the Assembly of Unrepresented People. They will be devoted to workshops, probably carried out in the open on the grass surrounding the Washington Monument.

PROGRAM WORKSHOPS

August 7: The Assembly will divide itself according to the section of the protest movement which claims the greatest attention of each individual.

There will be groupings of community people and staff who have been working at the local level on organizing the poor to have a voice in the lives of their communities and in the administration of federal anti-poverty funds.

There will be another grouping of people whose interest and work center on the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party's attempt to have Congress unseat the five improperly elected representatives from their state.

There will still be other groupings to discuss the Assembly of Unrepresented People a position to face possible arrest and willing to pledge themselves to nonviolent behavior during the course of the demonstration will assemble and walk toward the Capitol with the intention of convening the Assembly in the chamber of the House of Representatives and thus deny that Congress has the right to declare war in our names. If stopped along the way we will sit down and declare the Assembly of Unrepresented People in session. One of the group will rise and begin to read the Declaration of Peace circulated in the workshops on the 8th. If, as seems likely, the person reading is arrested before the Declaration is fully read, another person will rise and continue reading. The Assembly will be open to the reading of additional declarations of peace that individuals or representatives of organizations may bring with them. We hope that this demonstration will serve as a symbol of the desire of the people of the world to express their opposition to the Vietnam war in a democratic fashion.

To implement this plan, we suggest that one focus for community organization between now and August 6 be discussion of what the government should do in Vietnam. The results of these discussions could be embodied in declarations of peace which representatives would bring to Washington. Some groups, particularly those farthest away from Washington, may want to create assemblies at state capitals and city councils on August 9.

CONSTITUENCY WORKSHOPS

August 8: Vietnam. There will be workshops of teachers, members of the academic community, women, professional people, students, people from local communities, union members and other "constituency groupings" to plan how they can go on in Washington concerning Vietnam, FDP, 14-B, HUAC and community organization. Volunteers are urgently needed. We can probably provide free housing.

Printing by the Grindstone Press.