

# PROPOSED DRAFT RESISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE SPRING MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE

In discussions with people involved in organizing draft resistance projects, it was concluded that the Mobilization could not directly contribute anything more to the efforts to organize draft age young men than are already being carried out by various groups throughout the country. Furthermore it was conceded that any attempt by the Mobilization to undertake such an effort would simply duplicate the work of groups that are in a position to operate much more effectively.

There was very strong feeling, however, that the Mobilization is in a unique position to fill a very vital gap in this area - that of organizing adult support programs (similar to N.Y.C.'s Support in Action) on a national level. We therefore propose that the Mobilization Committee adopt the following program:

1. Organizing adult support groups in the 24 cities where draft resister groups are already operating - and continuing wherever such groups develop. The specific programs undertaken will be decided by each local adult support group. Actions can range, for example, from public statements of complicity and advocacy to civil disobedience at induction centers.
2. Adopting and circulating the statement urging draft refusal now being circulated by the Inter-University Committee.
3. Maintaining liaison with all draft resistance groups and circulating a monthly newsletter that will keep other segments of the movement informed of the developments in draft resistance and adult support actions throughout the country.
4. Circulating pledge cards, geared toward adults, which would parallel the draft refusal pledge cards being circulated among pre-draft age youth.
5. Seeking out womens' peace organizations and other interested groups for the purpose of trying to organize a Mothers' & Womens' draft resistance project. (Clergy & Laity have already begun to develop such a project within their constituency.)
6. Raising funds to finance the foregoing as well as for subsidizing draft resistance organizers.
7. Seeking out interested lawyers and lawyers' groups to discuss ways of organizing a national legal defense network.
8. Establishing a committee to organize this project which will be initially made up of:

1. Ron Young (FOR)
2. Dee Jacobson (SDS to be verified) Liaison with draft resisters
3. Karl Bissinger )
4. Grace Paley ) Support in Action
5. Keith Lampe )
6. Norma Becker )
7. Bob Zevin -(Inter-University Committee)
8. Tom Hayes or someone from Clergy and Laity Concerned
9. Moxie Schell (SANE)
10. Fred Rosen (N.Y.C. Resistance)
11. Igal Roodenko (War Resisters League)
12. Joe Carnegie (BUAF) to be verified

Draft Resistance programs are operating in the following areas:

San Diego	Austin	Minneapolis
Los Angeles	New Orleans	Madison
Riverside	Iowa	Milwaukee
Bay Area	St. Louis	Gary
Portland	Chicago	Cleveland
Seattle	Lansing	N.Y.C.
Denver	Ann Arbor	Baltimore
Albuquerque	Detroit	Washington, D.C.
		Atlanta

National Organizations working in Draft Resistance:

SDS	CNVA
AFSC	DuBois Clubs
FOR	CCCO
WRL	Inter-University Comm.
SNCC	Mobilization Comm.
CORE	Clergy & Laity Concerned

N.Y.C. Groups in addition to above:

Support in Action  
Black United Action Front

# Can We Stand Idly By?



Increasing numbers of young Americans are convinced that U.S. military intervention in Vietnam is an atrocity against the people of Vietnam. They are refusing to participate in what they regard to be criminal policy of the U.S. government.

By insisting upon the responsibility of each citizen to refuse to obey what he considers to be immoral orders of his government ( a principle accepted by the U.S. at the Nuremberg Trials), thousands of young men are presently subjecting themselves to the risk of 5 years imprisonment, severe disruption of their personal lives and denunciation by the government.

With the proliferation of Draft Resistance Unions and We Won't Go groups on campuses and in communities throughout the nation, the adult community is confronted with a moral and political challenge. Are we to leave the burdens of conscience and risks involved in resisting the draft solely to those young men who happen to be of draft age?

We who are mothers, teachers, clergymen, sisters, wives and the entire adult community must assume direct, personal and collective responsibility for draft resistance.

# What Can Adults Do?

There are presently draft resistance movements organized in 20 to 25 cities across the country. Adults can organize vitally important support programs that could encompass any or all of the following suggested actions:

- \* Set up picket lines at the Induction Centers where a draft resister is planning to refuse induction. (Upon his request or approval.)
- \* Attend the court proceedings of draft resisters facing trial - this is important for moral support.
- \* Organize civil disobedience actions at the time draft resisters are being arrested and in the jails if they are imprisoned. (Some people are preparing to handcuff themselves to resisters facing arrest.)
- \* Sign public advocacy and complicity statements urging draft refusal.
- \* Organize "adult cluster groups" of 3 to 5 people who will "adopt" individual draft resisters. Those young men who are new to the anti-war movement will be in particular need of all kinds of human support; housing, counseling, legal advice, financial assistance, etc.
- \* Locate full & part time jobs from sympathetic businessmen, movement organizations, unions, etc. for resisters (particularly from ghetto & poverty areas) who must be employed while their cases are under litigation - which often takes 2 years or more.
- \* Locate parents of 18-20 year olds who would be interested in filing an injunction against the government on the grounds that they are legally responsible for their sons and refuse to let them be drafted.
- \* Organize mass parent correspondence with local draft boards. Parents should state their unwillingness to allow their sons to be drafted and inform draft boards that they (1) refuse to allow their sons to register and/or be drafted, (2) refuse to turn over any communication from the draft board to their sons, and (3) are assuming full responsibility for their actions.
- \* Organize sit-in protests at draft boards and induction centers and engage in other forms of direct resistance to the draft system.
- \* Seek out sympathetic clergy who will allow their churches to be used as sanctuaries by resisters facing arrest.
- \* Organize parent action projects to end high school complicity with the draft. File injunctions against high schools, local school boards, boards of education, to stop them from supplying draft boards with the names and addresses of high school seniors and dropouts. Organize student boycotts (with parental approval) in support of this demand.

- \* Organize parent action projects around military recruiting assemblies in the high schools. Insist that assemblies provide equal time for speakers presenting the conscientious objector and selective objector alternatives to participation in the military.
- \* Raise funds for draft resistance organizers, legal defense, etc.

# National Mobilization Committee Draft Resistance Program

The Mobilization's program is geared toward organizing adults to directly aid draft resisters. We are attempting to establish adult support programs (similar to New York City's Support in Action) on a national level by:

- \* Organizing adult support groups in cities where draft resistance groups are already operating without such support -- and wherever draft resistance develops. Each local group will develop its own program.
- \* Endorsing and circulating the statement advocating draft refusal signed by prominent Americans.
- \* Maintaining liaison with all draft resistance groups and circulating a newsletter that will keep other segments of the peace movement informed of the developments in draft resistance and adult support actions across the country.
- \* Circulating pledge cards geared toward adults, which would parallel the draft resistance pledge cards being circulated among pre-draft and draft age youth.
- \* Seeking out women's peace organizations and other interested groups to organize a mothers' and women's draft resistance project.
- \* Raising funds to finance the foregoing as well as for subsidizing draft resistance organizers.
- \* Seeking out interested lawyers and lawyers groups to discuss ways of organizing a national legal defense network.



For additional information -

National Organizations working on various aspects of draft resistance:

American Friends Service Committee  
15 Rutherford Pl.  
New York City

Resist  
166 Fifth Ave.  
New York City

Catholic Peace Fellowship  
5 Beekman St.  
New York City

Students for a Democratic Society  
1608 West Madison St.  
Chicago, Illinois

Central Committee for Conscientious  
Objectors (CCCO)  
2006 Walnut St.  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Student Mobilization  
17 East 17 St.  
New York City

Clergy & Laymen Concerned About  
Vietnam  
475 Riverside Dr.  
New York City

Student Nonviolent Coordinating  
Committee (SNCC)  
360 Nelson St. SW  
Atlanta, Georgia

Committee for Nonviolent Action  
5 Beekman St.  
New York City

The Resistance  
224 West 4 St.  
New York City

Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)  
200 West 135 St.  
New York City

War Resisters League  
5 Beekman St.  
New York City

Episcopal Peace Fellowship  
229 East 59th St.  
New York City

W.E.B. DuBois Clubs  
862 Sixth Ave.  
New York City

Fellowship of Reconciliation  
Box 271  
Nyack, N.Y.

Youth Against War & Fascism  
58 West 25 St.  
New York City

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#### DRAFT RESISTANCE PROJECT

National Mobilization Committee  
857 Broadway  
New York, N.Y. 10003

- ☐ I am interested in working in an adult support program in my area.  
☐ I would like a speaker to address an interested group in my area.  
☐ Please send me additional information.  
☐ Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help organize draft resistance.

NAME.....PHONE.....

ADDRESS.....

CITY.....STATE.....ZIP.....

## A DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FROM THE DRAFT

"WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT; THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL;" that no man has more right to live than another whatever his supposed cultural, racial, or technological superiority, for each man's life has equal value in the sight of God;

"THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS; THAT AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS;"

That these rights are unalienable, since it is impossible for any government, or any human authority, to prevent a man from trying to stay alive, pursuing happiness, or exercising his liberty unless that man yields them under pressure of "legal" or illegal pressures, threats of punishment, or persecution.

For a man who is truly free cannot be prevented from speaking and acting on the truth as he sees it except by execution. Even in jail such a man is freer than his jailers.

SO I FURTHER DECLARE: THAT THE RIGHT OF ALL MEN NOT TO KILL THEIR NEIGHBOR IS ONE OF THESE MOST SACRED AND UNALIENABLE RIGHTS:

For no authority and no government, however righteous and powerful it claims to be, can force any man to kill another man if that man is not willing, unless he surrenders his conscience and principles.

But the government of the United States since World War II through the Selective Service laws and the regulations of the Armed Forces has repeatedly attempted to deny men the sacred right of conscience--the right not to kill. Further it has involved us in two or more wars in a manner contrary to the nature of a democracy, and contrary to our Constitution. "TO PROVE THIS LET FACTS BE SUBMITTED TO A CANDID WORLD."



The Armed Forces after World War II spent millions of dollars of public money to propagandize the idea of Universal Military Training, later renamed Selective Service at a time when the United States had the only atomic weapons and the greatest military alliance ever seen in the world.

The government of this country under Lyndon Johnson and the Armed Forces has asked the American people to fight, kill, and be killed in a war in which the people had no voice in determining. He has asked and continues to ask us to bomb a foreign country including its capital, to bomb villages which had existed for centuries, to destroy thousands of acres of crops that thousands of these foreign people may starve to death, and worst of all, to burn men, women, and children into a sticky cinder with the substance called napalm.

For contrary to the Constitution this war was begun without the approval of the representatives of the people in Congress. Congress has the sole Constitutional power to initiate a war against a foreign country. Further, to get even a resolution of the Congress, this government concealed the facts of the Tonkin Bay Incident, namely, that the American war ships were supporting aggressive naval operations of South Vietnam off the shore of North Vietnam.

Further, this government had performed many acts to make the North Vietnamese the enemies of our troops. We supported the French attempt to continue their rule over a foreign country with nearly a BILLION DOLLARS against the tradition of our own revolution. We have supported with advice and millions of dollars numerous dictatorial governments in South Vietnam which have not allowed free press, free speech, or the rights of religious minorities. In 1956, contrary to the Geneva Agreement of 1954, we encouraged the Diem dictatorship not to allow the specified free elections--which would have unified this country. (It never was two countries, "North Vietnam" and "South Vietnam," any more than there was ever a "North United States" and a "South United States.")

FOR THESE GRIEVOUS WRONGS WE DECLARE THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES INTOLERABLE AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC. WE THEREFORE DECLARE THAT WE PROCLAIM OUR RIGHT NOT TO KILL PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT NOW AND NEVER HAVE BEEN ENEMIES OF THIS COUNTRY OR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. WE REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS UNPATRIOTIC, UNDEMOCRATIC, AND MOST INHUMAN WAR.

WE HOLD THAT IN THIS AGE OF THERMONUCLEAR AND BIOLOGICAL WAR THAT THE CONTINUED USE OF WARFARE TO SOLVE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DIFFERENCES IS THE UTMOST INSANITY.

We hold that unless the right of free men everywhere not to kill in war is upheld the civilizations of men cannot survive. We held that if Germans of conscience had resisted Hitler by exercising their free speech and freedom not to kill, World War II could have been avoided. We hold that if the TWENTY-FIVE BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR now spent on the War were applied to the problems of poverty, overpopulation, and despair at home and among the vast majority of the world's people, our future and theirs would be much more secure from the threat of war and thermonuclear destruction.

THEREFORE LET THE WORLD TAKE NOTICE THAT WE WILL WORK NIGHT AND DAY AND FIGHT WITH EVERY MEANS AVAILABLE EXCEPT VIOLENCE TO END THE DOMINATION OF THIS COUNTRY AND OUR FOREIGN POLICY BY ANTI-DEMOCRATIC FORCES AND RESTORE IT TO ITS CONSTITUTIONAL AND TRADITIONAL PRINCIPLES THAT THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD MAY ONCE AGAIN LOOK UPON US AND OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AS A BEACON FOR FREEDOM, TOLERANCE, AND SANITY.

LET THE WORLD NOTE ALSO THAT WE WILL DEFEND THE UNALIENABLE RIGHT OF ALL MEN NOT TO KILL WHEN ORDERED BY GOVERNMENTS THAT MAKE A CONTINUAL PRACTICE OF MAKING WAR.

Submitted by Phil Ackerman



"Instead of thinking myself free'd from all civil obligation by this mark of Confidence, I shall constantly bear in mind that as the Sword was the last resort for the preservation of our Liberties so it ought to be the first thing laid aside when those Liberties are firmly established." George Washington

CONGRESS FLATLY REJECTS THE PENTAGON'S PLAN  
FOR "UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING"

1947

Congressmen are not men who like to be pushed around.

A Congressional Subcommittee wrote:

"It has become apparent to your committee that Government propaganda is designed, in most instances, to make the individual believe he is thinking for himself. In reality, Government propaganda distorts facts, with such authority that persons become prejudiced or biased in the direction which Government propagandists wish to lead national thinking.

"Your committee, therefore, reports its firm conviction that, on the basis of the evidence at hand, the War Department, its personnel, and civilian employees have gone beyond the limits of their proper duty of providing factual information to the people and the Congress and have engaged in propaganda supported by taxpayers' money to influence legislation now pending before the Congress."

The Committee found that the Pentagon had used the numerous military news bureaus to influence the public press, radio, and television; set up a special camp at Fort Knox to show visiting civic leaders, whom the Secretary of War had invited at public expense, how wonderful it would be to be a draftee under Universal Military Training; that they had gimmicked radio and TV panels by having officers in civilian dress feed questions to those in uniform on the panel at the proper moment; that they had hired a member of the board of the Girl Scouts of America, who sent letters to Girl Scout leaders all over the country to "use their influence with any organization with which" they were connected to secure the showing of the film, A PLAN FOR PEACE, described by the Congressional Committee as "a propaganda film in support of Universal Military Training."

1948

Colonel Neblett of the Air Force Legislative-liaison Office, who had served in the two world wars, became concerned when he learned of the Pentagon's ultimate goal of a 10,000,000 man army including women draftees, wrote:

"When the bill did not pass, the Pentagon was thrown into complete confusion.

The military forces had been illegally demobilized; drafting men under the Selective

Service Act of 1940 had been terminated March 31, 1947; very few men had enlisted; and the lower ranks of Army, Navy, and Air had run down so low that we had a professional officers' corps with appropriate staffs and clerks, but few privates and seamen.

"The Pentagon turned on the heat. The huge professional officers' corps was converted into a propaganda organization, the like of which the world had never seen. Generals and admirals, colonels and captains, spoke throughout the land at every meeting to which they could wrangle an invitation. Reams of statements of generals and admirals for press and radio were ground out for them, civilian publicity experts, employed at the Pentagon, and several hundreds of headquarters, camps, posts and stations of Army, Navy, and Air throughout the nation. The Pentagon line was that we were living in a state of undeclared emergency; that war with Russia was just around the corner; and that the safety of the nation was dependent upon the speedy rebuilding of the lower ranks of Army, Navy, and Air with the Pentagon form of UMI."

To all these techniques, the technique of the Atomic War Scare was added. Generals were proclaiming that World War III would come through air, and that the enemy wouldn't give us a chance to counter-attack like last time, but would blow us all to bits with one atomic attack. This was all very interesting since we were the only country that had any Nuclear Weapons and the Russians weren't supposed to get them for another ten years. (The solution to this repeated and repeated non-existent problem of the threat of instant incineration: why draft hundreds of thousands into the army so they could watch the bombs fall on them.) Colonel Neblett said, "I know from my own knowledge of the men who worked up the fear campaign that they do not believe what they say. . . ."

Congress in 1948 passed the first true peacetime draft, exactly as the Pentagon had written it.

Reference: Fred Cook, The Warfare State, 1962.

Washington Mobilization to End the War in Vietnam, P. O. Box 3001, 387-7374