

7/2 865-3320 Union

VIETNAM SUMMER
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V I E T N A M S U M M E R

We have marched and protested, written letters and signed petitions. The escalation of the Vietnam War continues. Now we must escalate our opposition: we must reach more people, more quickly and more deeply than we have yet done. This required grass roots action on an entirely new scale.

We believe that large numbers of people -- students, faculty members, housewives, clergy and others -- are prepared to devote time and energy to community organizing against the war, if an effective program can be provided. Hundreds of thousands of Americans can be reached through such organizing, Americans disaffected from the war and from the Johnson Administration, ready to join in anti-war activities -- if they can be brought together and given some serious work to do. We propose to bring them together through a VIETNAM SUMMER, analogous to the Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964.

The objective of VIETNAM SUMMER is to weld the widespread opposition to the war into an organized and active constituency capable of exerting powerful pressure to end the war. VIETNAM SUMMER will inaugurate a massive organizing effort in local communities with a combined program of study and action to strengthen and unify the forces opposing this war. In ghetto areas and among youth of draft age we will undertake a program to activate and give expression to sentiment against the war.

The organizational model suggested for the VIETNAM SUMMER is that of a largely autonomous and discrete program, not tied to (nor in conflict with) the activities of existing organizations, but supported, and where

possible, aided by many different groups. The VIETNAM SUMMER project will have its own staff, do its own publicizing, recruiting and fund-raising, but will seek the active involvement of all major peace, civil rights, student, and church groups, in ways to be worked out with each group separately. Some organizations will assign staff members to work on the VIETNAM SUMMER; others may supply us with lists of supporters and contributors; still others with existing community bases will form the nuclei to which Summer workers will be assigned.

On April 23, Dr. Martin Luther King, Dr. Benjamin Spock, Robert Scheer, Carl Oglesby and other prominent spokesmen held a press conference in Cambridge to announce VIETNAM SUMMER. This press conference received extensive national television and newspaper coverage and marked the beginning of a major publicizing and recruitment effort for VIETNAM SUMMER. Advertisements have been or will be placed in the New York Times, The Nation, The New Republic, The New York Review of Books, The National Guardian, and New Left Notes. In addition, recruitment ads for VIETNAM SUMMER have been sent to every one of the 1,300 college newspapers in the country. Speaking, organizing and recruitment tours are underway in Philadelphia, New York, Cleveland, Columbus, Baltimore, Houston, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Denver, St. Louis and throughout New England. The effort has begun to recruit a minimum of 10,000 workers for VIETNAM SUMMER, primarily from the student population, but also from university and high school faculties, churches, neighborhood organizations and anti-war groups. A network of regional and community field organizers will prepare the initial groundwork for the Summer project and will organize the workers assigned to each community. It is anticipated that projects will be undertaken in some 500 communities.

Participation in VIETNAM SUMMER will take many forms. The majority of participants will be volunteer part-time workers devoting several afternoons or evenings each week to their project. We hope to recruit 2,000 full-time workers, most of whom will be students. These workers will be asked to support themselves wherever possible. For those students requiring full or partial support, several options will be available: community groups will seek out local residents willing to provide room and/or board for student workers; some students will secure full- or part-time jobs in factories, stores, etc. which will provide financial support as well as give the opportunity for organizing work among fellow workers; and some funds will be available to pay a limited number of full-time workers a small salary (about \$25-30 per week).

Each community effort will be independent, with basic decisions about strategy and activities made by the local group, in conjunction with the "indigenous" peace community.

The central office or the regional office of VIETNAM SUMMER will relate to the local groups in six basic ways:

1. To supply a "menu" of suggested activities (together with supporting materials) for the local group, intended to convey possibilities for action as well as an evaluation of how these activities have been found to work in other areas.
2. To train the field organizers and run short-term training institutes for Summer workers.
3. To recruit and assign workers.
4. To evaluate, on a continuing basis, the results of local activities, as an on-going guide and corrective for local projects.

5. To provide continuous national publicity for the VIETNAM SUMMER project as a whole.
6. To raise funds nationally to support local projects (which will, in addition, carry on their own fund-raising activities). Funds will be made available to local projects on the basis of their need for outside support and the project's potential effectiveness.

The Program for VIETNAM SUMMER

Community "teach-outs" Starting with door-to-door canvassing to identify those who oppose the War, "teach-outs" proceed to neighborhood educational meetings and seminars. When a group is ready for action, possibilities include petition campaigns to bring the district Congressman home to hold open hearings on the War or to recall Congressional hawks; public referenda on the War in the 1967 municipal elections; anti-draft activities and distribution of information on conscientious objection; leafletting in public places and door-to-door; ads in local papers and letters to their editors; resolutions against the War by local Democratic and Republican Committees; running candidates in 1967 municipal elections; community speak-outs on the War and panel discussions before local organizations; consumer boycotts of companies which are directly involved in war production; fund raising to aid war victims and send medical supplies to Vietnam.

Selected Projects in Poor and Working Class Communities. Some existing community organizations or Unions might be sympathetic to seeing educational and perhaps action programs tied into their work. In addition, some anti-war projects have been undertaken directly where there was no

local organization. The Summer should also provide opportunities for extensive work in the black ghettos around issues related to the war.

Draft Opposition. The Summer should provide an opportunity for work by the increasing number of students who have conscientiously and increasingly questioned the war. Organizers will locate young people opposed to the war in various communities, and set up education and action programs.

VIETNAM SUMMER Is Underway

-- Three pilot projects for Vietnam Summer involving nearly 200 students, faculty members and local residents, have been organized in the Boston area. In the four precincts that have been canvassed on a door-to-door basis, slightly over 50% of those contacted have signed a petition calling for their Congressman to hold an open hearing on the war, and of these, half have agreed to attend discussion groups on Vietnam. Similar projects have been organized in Washington, Chicago and other major centers.

-- Tens of thousands of dollars have already been raised toward our minimum budget of \$325,000, indicating that with an adequate fund-raising campaign the financial resources needed for the project will be available.

-- VIETNAM SUMMER headquarters have been established in Cambridge, and recruitment and fund-raising materials have begun to flow from this office.

-- Recruitment of national staff (field organizers and office workers) has already begun. Applications for positions in the national and local organizations and offers to do volunteer work are being received in large numbers. We encourage comments and criticisms of this initial draft.

J O I N U S N O W !