STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY
702 W. 27th St.
Los Angeles 7, Calif.
SDS REGIONAL CONFERENCE

SDS will hold a regional conference at Camp Calby in the Angeles Forest, December 17-21. The purpose of the conference is both to familiarize people with the political thought and experience of the movement through broad issue-area workshops, and to make serious decisions about local programming in a series of smaller, more specific working groups. A conference call is enclosed which lists the tentative agenda.

The conference is called to provide an opportunity for students, activists, and faculty to assess current projects and plans new ones; to analyze the experiences of the FSM, VDC, SDS articles, and to give people a chance to meet and know one another. Recognizing the value of "play" in the freewheeling society, we are planning movies, entertainment, and plenty of time for other, individual forms of recreation.

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The conference provides an opportunity to discuss in a relaxed atmosphere the relation of individual issues to broader programs of social change, to reassess current projects and plan new ones; to analyze the experiences of the FSM, VDC, SDS articles, etc., and most importantly, to give people a chance to meet and know one another. Recognizing the value of "play" is the free society, we are planning movies, entertainment, and plenty of time for other, individual forms of recreation.

The conference is not restricted to SDS membership, and hopes indeed to attract anyone with an interest in peace, campus, or community issues. However, a special effort is being made to bring people already involved in the movement to the conference. Invitations to participate and panelists or speakers have been sent to Bob Scheer, Herbert Marcuse, D.F. Fleming, Jimmy Garrett, Mike Miller, Saul Landau, Cesar Chavez, Steve Weissman, and the staff of the Oakland community project.

A set of working papers will be prepared for distributions at the conference, although those who register early will receive them during the preceding week. While some of the working papers will be reprints of important or relevant SNCC/SDS articles, everyone is urged to submit papers of their own.

(continued on page two)
Equally important is the task of preparing agendas and topics for the workshops, or since the schedule is flexible, adding new workshops if necessary. Wendell H. Amick of Cal State LA SDS is already working on position papers for the educational reform group. If you are interested in this subject, you should contact him.

Individuals or committees are still needed to deal with the other themes. We really need to establish a conference committee to handle the varied and perplexing problems of planning a large conference. Call the regional office (RI8-9045) if you can help or if you have suggestions on the form and content of the meeting.

Finally, we need help with the following:

1) Volunteers with a station wagon, truck, or large car to transport people to the camp.
2) Volunteers to run the kitchen and prepare meals.
3) Someone with artistic skill to make advertising posters for the conference.
4) A person from each campus or chapter to publicize the meeting and assume responsibility for collecting registration fees and coordinating transportation with the office.
5) PCFP The $7 registration fee is required by the owners of the camp. We don't want to charge more because we want everyone to be able to attend, so we're forced to rely on donated food articles. Noodles, spaghetti, powdered milk, bread, peanut butter, etc.
6) Office volunteers—always needed anyway.

The most important thing, of course, is to attend and to urge your friends to do so. The registration fee will be waived if you are absolutely impoverished, but if you have any means of securing the money short of begging in Pershing Square, please send it as soon as possible so that we can begin to prepare papers for the conference.

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**WHO SHALL MAKE THE DECISIONS?**

"Who shall make the decisions in the factories, offices, and schools in which we spend our working lives? The answer which a democratic socialist gives is that the decisions must be made by the people who spend their working lives in these factories, office, and schools. The decisions must be made by the people whose daily lives are governed by these decisions, either directly or through their representatives. In the final analysis, anyone who sincerely believes in government by the consent of the governed, anyone who believes in the essential values of democracy, must give the same answer."

---Robert Weiss---

**CARL OGLESBY (cont.)**

The decade could actually attempt to go to Vietnam and intervene among the combatants, forcing the US government to either make real concessions for peace or kill U.S. and international students (which, of course, they may be more than happy to do.)

Finally, Carl discussed SDS's Third World Research and Information Project which operates out of Ann Arbor and Boston. Recent research around the Dominican intervention has indicated the complicity of important government officials with powerful American sugar interests. Ellsworth Bunker, Jr., our man for peace in Santo Domingo, for instance, is one of the directors of a large sugar company which transferred most of its capital to the Dominican Republic after the revolution in Havana. Then there is Abe Forrest, rhetorician for every Democratic President since Roosevelt, who is one of the heads of the American firm that extracts sucaryl from Dominican sugar. Sound suspicious?

Don't worry. The Los Angeles Times recently carried the results of an LBJ-inspired survey on conflict of interests among top administration officials, which showed that their private interests were perfectly compatible with the functions of the U.S. Government!
Several weeks ago a small group of SDS folk met with Professor Harding of Cal State L.A., to discuss the recent Conference of Socialist Scholars at Columbia University. The conversation began with a discussion of Staughton Lynd’s speech at the conference, which, in essence, called for academics to quit the campus for an activist life in the movement. This was a catalyst for raising a series of questions about the current role of theory and analysis in the movement—the extent to which a commitment to action is balanced by a commitment to thought.

Contemporary social sciences with their pretensions to exactitude and methodology afford a huge body of knowledge to understand miniscule glories of the “system,” but fail to provide much support to those interested in challenging or changing the status quo. Marxism and its ideological variants have traditionally provided the perspective from which American radicals have viewed their society.

But Marxism to many of this radical generation has been discredited as a total world view or precise science. The critical value of the opposition tradition and the importance of Marxist literature are naturally recognized, but alas, the thought of yesteryear is not quite as relevant or convincing as it once seemed.

But where is the new set of concepts, the new understanding of society which might make us see the location of power in political decision-making, or what makes American foreign policy as it is. Sure, we can talk about some questions with reasonable accuracy, and answer others with good guesses, but who’s doing the disciplined work to substantiate those good guesses and provide us with insights into the guts of the system?

A few names are obvious: C. Wright Mills, Herbert Marcuse, Paul Goodman, or maybe SNCC’s Jack Minnis. It is equally obvious that since the university became a cold war institution, its tremendous growth partially financed by defense grants and government contracts, that radical thinkers, ideologies, or researchers were hardly welcomed on campus.

But in 1959 and 1960 two new journals, Studies on the Left and New University Thought, became modest forums for rethinking what the American century might mean. The Port Huron Statement, prepared by an SDS convention in 1965, gave a fresh view of what society might be, built around values of “participatory democracy” and became a founding document of the “New Left.” Recently a number of counter-universities, such as the Free University of New York, the New Left School here in L.A., and the SDS New School in San Francisco have offered versions of “movement” education.

Moreover, during the last year, several groups of SDS people and adults connected with Studies have initiated informal study sessions to consider important problems raised by the movement. Two topics raised at the meeting two weeks ago with Tim Harding, for instance, were: 1) Conflicting political strategies of the movement—coalition vs. counter-politics, non-violent revolution or liberal evolution, etc. 2) The ideology of the cold war—anti-communism, the great “External Threat,” falling dominos, etc. What are the historic roots of the cold war? What role does anti-communism play as an instrument of social control? What perspective can we offer which is cogent enough to lead ordinary people to reject fanatical anti-communism?

Because of the unanimous interest of everyone in the room to continue to meet informally to brainstorm some of these questions, focusing perhaps on a current book or article, it was decided to start a study group such as those which exist in other cities.

The group will meet the second and fourth Saturdays of every month at the SDS office at 8 p.m. Topic this week will probably be the debate between Staughton Lynd and Bayard Rustin over the Vietnam protests, but the conversation is free and open-ended. ‘Coffee and sandwiches will be served.”
There will be a meeting at the SDS office, Monday, November 30, 7:00 P.M., to form an L.A.-at-large chapter. The need for such a chapter springs from the obvious fact that many people are unattached to a particular academic institution because of work or marriage who wanted to be involved in SDS.

There will also be a regular meeting of the regional steering committee (ugh!) at the SDS office on Friday, December 3, at 7:30. Since this is the last meeting before the December Conference, it is very important that every chapter or campus send at least one representative. Although the conference will probably be the focus of discussion, some decisions must be made about the draft program and the functions of the regional office.

About the office in particular: The regional has acted so far unilaterally on the draft program without a full or adequate discussion among the chapters. This evidences a need for greater participation by other SDS folk in planning office work, and a more dependable method of decision-making. Probably the best solution is assurance that steering committee meetings have regular attendance.

JOBS OR INCOME NOW!

"I am an organizer. I, along with 100 other SDS workers in ten cities, along with SNCC and numerous others, am trying to make strides toward an interracial movement of the poor in America. And although "organizing" people who don't organize themselves is inherently manipulative, it is even more so inherently respectful of man's ultimate dignity. Nothing dehumanizes a man more than the belief that he is alone, that others can't be trusted, that joint activity is not possible. Nothing bears greater dignity than the experience of learning that a democratic movement is possible, that powerlessness is not a sealed fate. And in trying to build an interracial movement of the poor, SDS has not simply found an agency for bringing about social reform; the building of a movement is itself the great-reform for it confers on men the use of their full human potential for cooperation and action."

"It is important, but not all-important, that the program of JOIN (the organization we are building here on Chicago's North Side) be accomplished. It would be wonderful if we could achieve a new society with jobs and economic security for all. But the really important thing is that Jesse Burrows, a former Louisiana sharecropper, unites with Pedro Jimenez, a Mexican laborer with a 14 year old wife, in a common effort to build an organization for full employment. It is the beginning of true community participation when Frank Sanders, a sewer cleaner from Texas, joins with Mae Pulaski, an unemployed mother, in an effort to discover a program to eliminate blight from their neighborhood. Democracy is created slowly, through a long series of individual acts, expressions, commitments."

"How is it that 100 students leave their schools (many permanently) for such a very different environment in an unsure attempt to do what has never been done in America, organize a mass movement of white as well as negro poor? What motivates them to make a transition from student to a jack-of-all-trades in an SDS project (doing everything from mimeographing to writing to marriage counseling to talking politics to leafleting to holding meetings)?"

"SDS was, until one year ago, a student intellectual organization. It had a reputation for attracting the independent and creative thinkers on the student left but not many actors. And this was not a bad thing. SDS managed to create a body of radical literature which now commands considerable respect. Its Port Huron Statement enunciates the aspirations for human freedom and dignity which now motivates its full-time activists: "...we seek the establishment of a democracy of individual participation, governed by two central aims - that the individual share in those social decisions which determine the quality and direction of his life; that society encourage independence among men and provide media for their common participat..."
"But ideas are not real in thought; a commitment to their defense is a precondition of their legitimacy. It was absurd to believe in participatory democracy if you were prepared to ignore the masses of poor and oppressed in this country for whom democratic participation in the decisions which affect their lives is nothing but a cruel hoax."

"So a few students, with more to follow, have left school in search of greater meaning; indeed, of a more complete education. Once every four months or so, however, we leave our ghettos, put on our tennis shoes once again and have a student conference. But someday that transition won't be necessary: the two environments will be merged, not just for students, but for all."

—Richie Rothstein, Chicago

Last February a very unusual conference was held in Cleveland, Ohio—unusual because of its participants, who came from the country's most alienated urban neighborhoods and because of its theme, a national organization of the poor black and white. People came as representatives of "community unions," local political organizations which represented the first stirring of a democratic revolution in the ghetto. There were also some students present at the meeting; they had quit school to work with ERAP, the Economic Research and Action Project of SDS, and lend their abilities to the yet embryonic community unions.

Last week there was a planning meeting of nationwide Community Unions in Princeton, N.J., to plan a week of activity in Washington from January 4 to January 9. A conference will be held in Washington to coincide with the President's State of the Union speech. Its purpose is to 1) demand against local political control on the War on Poverty, 2) call for control by the poor, 3) demand real programs to fight poverty, and 4) protest the existence of poverty in an abundant America.

It was also agreed that local activity protesting the state of the union for poor people should take place in other cities.

Meanwhile... so far in post-riot Los Angeles, there is little sign that any of the multitude of government or university-sponsored projects in Watts, Pasadena, or Compton will in any way alter the essential poverty or allow for the democratic participation of community people.

Perhaps one encouraging development, however, is the Conference on Jobs and Freedom, being planned for the end of January. It seems important, I think, that SDS people participate in the Conference and also contact other local community groups about possible activity concurrent with the Washington conference. The workshops on community organization during the December retreat would be the ideal place for discussing this. If there is sufficient interest right now, several evenings could be set aside in the next 3 weeks for informal workshops.

For more information about ERAP and the National Community Unions, write or call the regional office—or better yet, subscribe to:

ERAP NEWSLETTER
451 Dudley St.
Boston, Mass. $4.00/year sample free

THE MOVEMENT (Best newspaper in San Francisco, Calif. by SNEC) $1/yr.

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THE DRAFT PROGRAM

A discussion of your rights under the selective service law and legal alternatives to combatant status will take place every Wednesday night at the SDS office, starting December 1, at 8:00.

The enclosed draft leaflets are available from the regional office in quantity. We'd appreciate comments on these particular leaflets or suggestions for others.
DRAFT PROGRAM (cont.)

The last bulletin contained a prospectus for anti-draft activity which is too lengthy to reprint here. Essentially it described draft activity not as a mechanism for provoking a political/legal confrontation with the government (arrests, spectacular trials, etc.), but as a means of expanding the base of the peace movement and putting liberal and religious groups into action.

It proposed that the campus program take the form not only of draft counseling, but of a "freedom draft"—the essence of which is concretizing the "build, don't burn," idea by registering students who want to serve their country in peaceful, non-military projects. A three panelled card, for instance, might be printed which would contain a statement of principle reproduced on all three panels. One panel would be kept by the registrant, another sent to the President or Selective Service, and the third kept by SDS. Registration booths could be set up in conspicuous places on campus, while roving registrars could canvass the dorms. The freedom draft might accomplish three important things: (a) provide conscience-torn students who find it hard to identify with current protest, but who, nevertheless, doubt the morality of the war, with a chance to make an affirmative statement of their feelings. (b) perhaps it might change the postulates of debate from draft-dodgers vs. patriots; to military conscription vs. truly selective service; that SDS doesn't encourage an evasion of service, but rather counterposes a different set of domestic and international priorities and responsibilities. Would provide good opportunity to discuss community projects. (c) chance to begin dialogue with large group of students who would ordinarily shun us.

Swarthmore SDS is going ahead with this idea and is already signing people up. Their Freedom Draft Card reads: "I am willing to work and risk my life for liberty as many citizens have done in Alabama and Mississippi, but I oppose the continuation of the war in Vietnam. It is immoral, illegal, unjust. I want to build, not burn; to heal, not torture; to mend, not kill."

"But the newspaper said SDS had abandoned its draft program." Despite bad reporting, a national membership referendum had actually been conducted with indicated a majority of people opposing a national draft program, although chapters are autonomous and unaffected by the decision. The vote was not over the freedom draft or kindred projects, but concerned a national coordinated program of counseling men wishing to avoid induction. The national office says: "The major reason for the vote was strategic, viz. SDS members wanted to concentrate their fire on the war, and didn't want to divert attention on to the draft."

The Freedom Draft is simply one programmatic notion and should be debated at the next steering committee meeting and at the Dec. conference. Please send any criticisms, suggestions, or alternative proposals so that we can print them in the next bulletin.

SDS VS NORTHROP CORP.

The Riverside chapter of SDS has been staging a vigorous campaign against Northrop's plans to build a new weapon's test area. They managed to introduce the issue into the city council where they supported their case with testimony from faculty and citizens who oppose the proliferation of defense sites all over So Calif. John Bennet of Riverside SDS sends the results:

"Morality has nothing to do with proper land use or this hearing," William Jones, chairman, Riverside Board of Supervisors.

"He has the right to criticize who has the heart to help" Maxim emblazoned on a wall in the hearing room.

Final Score: Northrop - $250,00; Pacifists - not without a valiant effort.

MISC.

Speakers on SDS, the draft, Vietnam, etc. are available from the regional office. Also, there are several meeting rooms in the house useful for meetings - call for.

Mike Davis SDS, 702 W. 27th St.
Margaret Thorpe L.A. 7 748-9015
Are you interested in action and discussion about economic reconversion and automation? About farm labor and the Delano strike?

Are you interested in educational reform? In free speech at universities and junior colleges? In the problems of the high schools? In free university experiments and the university power structure?

Are you concerned about community action? About civil rights? About community organization? About the war on poverty?

Are you concerned about peace and the war in Viet Nam? About the direction of the peace movement? About the effectiveness of protest?

Are you interested in the meaning of the "New Left?" In its politics? In its future and direction?

Then join with people of like concerns and interests at the Students for a Democratic Society Regional Conference, Camp Coila, December 17-20. Discussion and action workshops on the above areas will be held. Prominent speakers and films will be presented in the evenings. Invitations have been sent to Robert Scheer, Herbert Marcuse, Cesar Chavez, Saul Landau, and D.F. Fleming. There will be plenty of relief time from constant meetings for recreation and moonlight walks. Come for a weekend in the Angeles Forest away from the frontlines of social change to discuss and plan for the future.

All are invited to attend--students of universities, junior colleges, and high schools, faculty members, and just plain concerned people. The conference will begin Friday evening and end Tuesday noon. Cost is $1.75 per night or $7.00 for the entire weekend. Payment should be made in advance to Students for a Democratic Society, 702 W. 27th St., Los Angeles 7. Please call R18-9045 for further information. Space is limited to 175 persons, so please make reservations as soon as possible.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Name ____________________________ Phone ____________________________
Address ____________________________
School or occupation ____________________________
I am interested in workshops on ____________________________
I plan to arrive ____________________________ and will leave ____________________________
Enclosed is payment of ____________________________
SDS REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Friday night, December 17

Arrival and registration, followed by party, folk-singing, and movies.

Saturday and Sunday, December 18 and 19

Workshops organized around broad issue areas:

1) Economic action How do defense spending, automation, and poverty relate to our strategy for change? What is the role of the unions and farm labor? The Delano strike, Riverside's conversion work, organization of the unemployed....

2) Community action Interracial movement of the poor or black revolution? What is the SDS/SNCC experience in organizing the rural and the urban poor? Watts, Pasadena project, summer project in Delano, freedom schools....

3) Educational reform What is the "free university? After the FSM, what? Political advocacy at high schools and junior colleges, student unions, counter classes....

4) Peace Whither protest? What are the current strategies of the anti-war movement? Can the left stop the war? SDS draft program, student strike, the Washington convention, Vietnam Day Committee, the condition of the Los Angeles peace community....

5) The Movement Are we radicals, populists, leftists, insurgents, liberals or anarchists? What is the "new left"? What are our attitudes on the need for ideology, coalitions, leadership, or organizational structure? Why SDS? Coalition vs. counter-politics.

Specific action workshops designed to develop programs out of the discussion material and reports

1) Non-violence training
2) Draft program and conscientious objector counsel
3) Community projects—Pasadena and Delano
4) Defense economy in Southern California
5) Junior college reform
6) High school program
7) Structure of Southern California SDS
8) Others spontaneously created by the participants.

Following lunch and dinner there will be several featured speakers and panels dealing with Viet Nam, the meaning of automation, the Delano Strike, politics of the New Left, community organization, university reform, and the peace movement.

Meals will be provided. An authentic movement menu will be featured, including plentiful peanut butter and noodles.
In recent weeks government spokesmen have expressed concern over alleged subversion within the ranks of the peace movement. President Johnson, wondering uncautiously how any citizen could "feel toward his country in a way that is not consistent with the national interest," condemned protest as projecting a false image of "American unity and determination" to the Communists in Hanoi and Peiping.

Although the attacks were directed toward the peace movement as a whole, the anti-draft program of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) was singled out as "a blow aimed at the government, both directly and indirectly."

The press gave vivid portraits of "draft dodgers, card burners, and cowards" unconcerned with the lives of their friends dying in Vietnam. But is this an accurate picture of the nation-wide opposition of thousands of young men to the draft? What program does SDS and other groups offer which excites such apprehension?

THE SDS IDEA

The SDS idea is simple: democracy works only when people participate in making decisions which affect their lives. The big decisions - like whether our country should involve itself in disastrous military adventures or allocate millions to weapons while domestic priorities are neglected.

The war in Southeast Asia is one of those decisions which drastically affects the lives of millions of ordinary people, yet which one of us ever voted for its continuation? At what level of policy formulation was the war ever opened to full and public debate?

SDS believes that it is at the level of personal confrontation with the process of militarization - the draft - that individual dissent must become vocal.

THE DRAFT

The draft has never been popular in this country. It is an authoritarian institution which conscripts the right of the individual to an independent moral decision. Youth are inducted to fight a war which they may neither support nor even understand. The military power of the American government rests not on patriotism from below but on coercion from above. It rests not on cooperation, but acquiescence. Many American men serve in the Armed Forces, not because they desire to, but because they believe they cannot avoid combatant service. Yet they go.
The Selective Service cannot tolerate dissent to the equity of its methods or the morality of its aims.

That is why SDS feels the imperative need to awaken discussion among draft-aged high school and college students about the dubious morality of the Vietnam war, enabling them to decide what course of action best fits their understanding of American democracy when the inevitable call from the Selective Service arrives.

"BUILD, DON'T BURN"

The issue is not the evasion of service, but the opposition of voluntary participation in programs of construction to forced conscription for the purposes of destruction. This generation has shown its courage and willingness to serve in building democracy in Mississippi and Alabama. Hundreds of students have left school to work on SNCC and SDS community projects in the poorest areas of the North and South, living on subsistence salaries and risking the violence of racism. They share a belief that the "Great Society" must be constructed on a foundation of peace and justice, not wanton violence.

If you disagree with America's perilous policies in Vietnam, if you would rather build than burn—then join with us in protest of the draft and the war machine it represents. Explore the alternative of conscientious objection and creative civilian service. If you feel a responsibility to make democracy a reality, examine the programs of VISTA or the community action projects of SNCC and SDS.

Look at the faces of the victims of poverty and war—then make your decision.

FOR INFORMATION ON DRAFT ALTERNATIVES, CONTACT:

Students for a Democratic Society
702 W. 27th St.
Los Angeles, California 90007
R18-9045
WALK FOR PEACE IN VIETNAM

On Saturday, November 27th, thousands of Americans will show their concern over the continued escalation of the war in Vietnam by joining the national March on Washington for Peace in Vietnam.

This March on Washington is sponsored by the following prominent individuals:

Saul Bellow
Louis J. Braun
National Chairman,
Campus ADA
Alexander Calder
Dr. Edwin Dahlberg
Minister in Residence
Crozer Theological Seminary
Ossie Davis
Ruby Dee
Dr. Morton Deutsch
Prof. of Psychology and Education
Teachers College, Columbia Univ.
Prof. Joseph M. Duffy, Jr.
Department of English
University of Notre Dame
James Farmer
National Director, CORE
Jules Feiffer
Dr. Bernard Feld
President, Council for a Livable World
Prof. D. F. Fleming
Emeritus Prof. of Intl. Relations,
Vanderbilt University
Dr. Erich Fromm
William Gibson
Patrick E. Gorman
Secretary-Treasurer,
Amalgamated Meat Cutters, AFL-CIO
Edward P. Gottlieb
National Chairman,
War Resisters League
Dana McLean Greeley
President, Unitarian Universalist Association
Michael Harrington
John Hersey
Prof. H. Stuart Hughes
Department of History,
Harvard University
Co-Chairman,
SANE
Dr. Dorothy Hutchinson
International President,
Women's International League
For Peace and Freedom
Prof. Herbert C. Kelman
Psychology Department,
University of Michigan
Stewart Meacham
Peace Secretary,
American Friends Service Committee
Affiliations listed for identification only

Arthur Miller
Uri Miller
Rabbi, Beth Jacob Congregation
Baltimore, Maryland
Carl Oglesby
President, Students for a Democratic Society
Robert Osborn
Tony Randall
Prof. Anatol Rapoport
Mental Health Research Institute
University of Michigan
Rev. Peter J. Riga
Department of Theology,
University of Notre Dame
Bayard Rustin
Albert B. Sabin, M.D.
Distinguished Service Prof. of Research Pediatrics, The Children's Hospital Research Foundation, Cincinnati
Benjamin Spock, M.D.
Co-Chairman,
SANE
Norman Thomas
Mrs. Dagmar Wilson
Women Strike for Peace

In Los Angeles, we will join hands with our fellow Americans who march in Washington, D.C. by holding our own Walk for Peace in Vietnam.

Saturday, November 27th
12:00 noon — Walk starts at Pershing Square
2:30 P.M. — Walk ends with program at MacArthur Park

WILL YOU JOIN US?

Sponsored by: Emergency Council on the Crisis in American Foreign Policy

(Clip and Mail)

Emergency Council
Box 24863
Los Angeles, California 90024

☐ I will be on the local Walk for Peace in Vietnam.
☐ Please send me _________ copies of this Call for my friends.
☐ Enclosed is my contribution to help pay the costs of the Walk for Peace.

Name.................................................................Phone...........................................
Address.............................................................City............................................
WALK FOR PEACE IN VIETNAM

To our concerned fellow Americans:

The soldiers in Vietnam are our sons, brothers, neighbors and countrymen — and they are yours. We feel deep sorrow as we see thousands more young men being sent to Vietnam to kill and maim, to be killed and maimed. Our sorrow is all the more intense because we see no gain from this war.

We fear continued escalation of the war will lead, at best, to decades of American military involvement in Vietnam or, at worst, to massive land war with China or even a nuclear holocaust.

We see a growing victimization of the Vietnamese people. We do not believe friends can be made with bombs and napalm, nor free and independent nations built by a steady succession of military tyrants.

We believe our government’s commitment to end racial injustice and poverty at home will be hopelessly crippled. Thousands more young men, who could be engaged in constructive projects, will be drafted and millions more tax dollars, needed to help build the Great Society, will go for destruction.

We believe in the right of the American people to determine their own future through the democratic process. Yet we are rushing headlong into a wider war and this great life-and-death issue has not even been debated in Congress.

We fear our most precious American right — the right to disagree — will be one of the great casualties of this conflict if political leaders and others continue to foster intolerance of dissent by their intemperate attacks on those who disagree with our present Vietnam policy.

We agree with the President when he says this conflict must eventually be ended at the conference table. But we do not believe our government has explored all possible actions that might bring about negotiations now, not after thousands more die. We urge immediate all-out efforts for peace and suggest our government:

Seek United Nations assistance for a cease-fire
Halt the introduction of additional troops
Stop the bombing of North Vietnam
Agree to negotiate with all parties — including the National Liberation Front
Reaffirm support for the principles of the 1954 Geneva Accords — eventual withdrawal of all foreign military forces, prohibition of military alliances, peaceful reunification of Vietnam, and self-determination for the Vietnamese people.

Because it is ordinary citizens who are called on to fight and die, we believe it is up to ordinary citizens — it is up to us — to urge our government to act now for peace.

WILL YOU JOIN US?

Saturday, November 27th
12:00 noon — Walk starts at Pershing Square
2:30 P.M. — Walk ends with program at MacArthur Park

Sponsored by: Emergency Council on the Crisis in American Foreign Policy
Box 24863, Los Angeles, California 90024