

The rape of Vietnam continues. Berkeley is an occupied city. Our government is developing missiles to protect missiles. Our cities are decaying; our atmosphere fills with pollutants. And our corporations and military are preparing for more Vietnams--in Thailand, Guatemala, and Watts.

At times like this it seems as if most important decisions are made in Washington, Sacramento, or on Wall Street. Not knowing what we can do, we shake our heads, shrug our shoulders, and go about our business.

But recently many of us have begun to realize that we can act to reverse these trends. The Wars in Vietnam and Berkeley do not merely originate in Sacramento and Washington. The strategies and the hardware for these conflicts come from various institutions and industries across the country. The Stanford Research Institute is a leader amongst these institutions. Through contracts to government and industry, SRI helps to involve and envelop us in costly, new conflicts, often merely to protect the interests of the class which runs SRI.

Many years ago SRI researchers devised the "strategic hamlet" program for Vietnam, with an assurance that this would help secure an early victory. Other researchers offered land reform packages which were supposed to do the same. Some researchers plotted bombing runs, improved systems for spraying crop-killers and defoliants, and tested the use of tear gas for combat. Vietnam work continues, but relatively new projects which focus on "early victories" in Thailand and Berkeley have appeared in the SRI program. SRI researchers study the Thai people and student disorders at home, while their colleagues develop new weaponry to deal with both. Many others work on the ABM.

We have a responsibility to redirect our nation's resources. The scientific capabilities of an institution like SRI can be used to further peace and social justice. Some of SRI's research already contributes to the welfare of mankind. Unfortunately, much of it does not. We must find ways to influence that research.

Please join our picket line, or come to talk to us about what you can do. We are the April Third Movement. We would like to meet you.