

OPEN LETTER TO WORKING PEOPLE  
We came over to SRI this afternoon to neither lecture nor disrupt. We came to learn.

We've talked to vice-presidents and to public relations men earlier this fall, but this afternoon we want to talk to the people who work at SRI. We want to talk about the work SRI is presently doing as well as the work it could do in a healthy society.

We want to ask if SRI allows you to apply your moral judgment and technical skills to the social problems we see all around us. If so, we want to help you expand that work; if not, we would like to find out what we can do together, as human beings and members of the Midpeninsula community, to place SRI at the service of the excluded and the dispossessed.

We have a suspicion that the men who run SRI don't go out of their way to inform you of the nearly 900 projects SRI people are working on now, from Washington D.C. to Bangkok. Since much of SRI's work is classified, we can only present a thumbnail sketch. We hope you check on our facts and inquire further on your own:

- numerous Vietnam projects include: a study of alternative reconnaissance (and thus bombing) routes over North Vietnam (1968); "Strategic hamlets", brainchild of SRI economist Eugene Staley (1961); study of the feasibility of building a military port at Cam Ranh Bay; studies "directed toward improvement of tropical military communications" and of "helicopter vulnerability to ground-fire."
- contracts for the Army Chemical Corps such as "the dissemination of chemical solid and liquid materials" (\$2.5 million) and "investigation of incapacitating chemical materials" (\$1.1 million). This research has contributed to defoliation and crop destruction in Vietnam as well as to CS tear gas, which has been used to "flush out" Viet families from shelters dug beneath their homes. In a closed space, the gas can kill.
- 55 SRI staff members have been doing counter-insurgency work for the Pentagon in Bangkok since 1962. Their work ranges from testing devices which "sniff an enemy's presence" to analysing communications requirements to repress "medium-level insurgency" in the northeast.
- SRI has performed counter-insurgency studies in Peru and Honduras. SRI economist Robert Davenport worked on "a study of the advantages and disadvantages of providing U.S. operational assistance to the armed forces of Peru."
- SRI does long-range studies of Southeast Asian investment opportunities for U.S. corporations. It's hardly surprising that SRI directors Arbuckle, McNaughton, and Kaiser, to name a few, (as well as a number of Stanford trustees) have substantial investments in Thailand and Indonesia.
- SRI has accepted contracts totaling over \$1.5 million for "study and evaluation of potential effectiveness of Nike-X antimissile missile systems". Stanford and SRI trustees (like Donald Douglas, whose company makes the Nike-Zeus) in the electronics-aerospace business stand to profit handsomely from either "thin" or "thick" shields.

Last Monday we nailed the following demand on the door of the Stanford Board of Trustees: "We, the members of Stanford SDS and concerned members of the Stanford community, demand that Stanford University, its wholly-owned subsidiary, the Stanford Research Institute, and all members of the university community immediately halt all military and economic projects and operations concerned with Southeast Asia."

We also asked that SRI make public all its contracts by this Monday. We've already been told that much of SRI's \$31 million in defense work has been classified "in the interests of national security." But we feel that the American people are threatened by official secrecy (witness Vietnam). We thus request your help in opening SRI up to public scrutiny and moral accounting. If SRI directors and management ring themselves with police men and classified documents, a growing number of people, both inside and