

NATIONAL STRIKE INFORMATION CENTER

Newsletter #12

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

May 27, 1970

The National Strike Information Center has been established as a central house for all information regarding strike activity at high schools, colleges and universities across the country. We are prepared to receive and disseminate strike information at BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY: (617) 894-6000 Strike Central. Ham radio communications will be received at K1WGM/1, Frequency 14.294 Mhz.

The strike has been called in support of the following three demands:

- 1) That the U.S. Government end its systematic repression of political dissidents and release all political prisoners, such as Bobby Seale and other members of the Black Panther Party.
- 2) That the U.S. Government cease its expansion of the Vietnam war into Laos and Cambodia; that it unilaterally and immediately withdraw all forces from Southeast Asia.
- 3) That the universities end their complicity with the U.S. War Machine by an immediate end to defense research, ROTC, counterinsurgency research, and all other such programs.

TO ALL NEWSLETTER RECIPIENTS --- WE NEED FEEDBACK

Is the newsletter meeting your needs? What information do you find useful? Useless? Interesting? Who is reading the newsletter, and how is the information in it being disseminated? Please contact the National Strike Information Center at Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass. 02154.

EXCERPT FROM TEXT OF DOUG MIRANDA'S SPEECH

New Haven, May 14, 1970

... people, especially white people white students, love to hear us speak because they're all hung up on words like a played-out drama or something. I think what he (ex-GI) was saying is very important; that if we're serious about what we're doing, we have to attempt to organize the GIs, bring them over to our side. And you don't do that, students don't begin to coalesce more or less with the GI movement which is part and parcel in our movement and bringing about a complete understanding by sitting out there in the audience and doodling and talking and just bullshitting while someone's trying to explain something to you. See you all got to understand these GIs can be turned into fascists, the very same people who are shooting you. I think it's suicidal not to attempt to listen to a GI who's trying to explain some of his problems to you and try to make you understand how important it is at this time to organize GIs. Coming from where the Black Panther Party is coming from, we understand the importance of that, and we're always trying to organize black GIs wherever they are. We place just about our primary emphasis on dealing with GIs. You may have noticed in our newspaper that we devote a page to what's happening in the GI movement. A lot of our theoretical positions are addressed to GIs, especially an article written by our Minister of Information, Eldridge Cleaver.

As I was sitting here, you know, and I'm looking at what's happening and I'm listening to people, and we've been traveling around pretty much -- we were up in Boston, down in Washington, and I was out in Ohio yesterday. And I'm just trying to figure out what the fuck is going on. What I'm going to talk about today is how the students are going to make the connection, and how we can put all this shit into perspective, and how we can make ourselves understand just where we find the student movement at this time. To do that I'm going to do this: I remember when the contradictions were getting really high in the black community and black people were beginning to listen to what Malcolm said and to what the black nationalists at that time were saying about how we had to move into a new arena, how we had to raise our struggle to a higher level, but at that time the civil rights movement was still in the black community, but it was waning. And the pigs knew it was waning. And the black community knew it was waning. So we had a development of niggers were beginning to take to the street and crush the symbols of oppression, the liquor stores, the furniture stores run by the community Zionists more or less. So we're organizing, you know, and we were doing that shit. So we have a situation in which the pigs had to do something. They called that something the march on Washington. Niggers were getting shot down in the streets, but still they wanted black people to march on Washington. And the politics involved in that were the politics of capitulation more or less. This thing was set up to reinstitute in the people's minds that you can still talk with the government, still redress the government for your grievances through the proper legal channels. You can do it in a moral, non-violent, pacifist way, more or less.

So they are confronted with the same problem today in America, these pigs are: they got a student movement that's beginning to understand just what it is, and is beginning to understand that it's going to have to seek new tactics to deal with the bullshit that they are confronted with. So students, as America takes us farther into Indochina, as America takes us farther into the community, into the black and brown community with its attempted

not going to take this shit sitting down, because if the student movement has mastered anything, they've mastered the Vietnamese question. So America knew that they'd be faced with some uprising, especially on the campuses, by going further into Indochina. So they did that. But they were prepared to deal with it; they knew they had a whole bunch of frisbee players, they knew they had a whole bunch of dope smokers, they had a whole bunch of social pacifists, and they knew that had a whole bunch of liberals and administrators that they can depend upon to exercise the safety valve. So the minute this shit came down, New Mobe got together and a whole bunch of other organizations got together, and more or less as far as we could see, played a safety valve action, pulled everybody together ... come on down to Washington, and get everybody to sit in the heat.... They had Coretta King come down and wave for five seconds; and that wasn't a mistake: you know that Nixon told her to get her ass down there, and wave to the students, and wave the peace sign, and keep the students all hopped up on the moral question, on the moral arguments to keep them away from the real political issues, to keep them away from recognizing just what was happening. If you can really see what's happening -- the campuses are popping in the same manner in which the reservations were popping, and that's the reservations that black and brown people live on. Remember when the rebellions were occurring, how they occurred -- spontaneously all over the country; Watts would pop, then Detroit, then Harlem, and the guard would come in here, and the pigs would shoot people there, and the pigs would arrest people there. Well the same thing is happening on the student campuses. The shit is popping all over the god damn place. And out of that, as came out of the rebellions, has to come an organization, has to come a direction, and has to come a discipline that's going to stop the student movement from being co-opted by those forces who would use it to their ends. We have to understand that those who are in control of the peace movement are nothing but social democrats, are nothing but the new reformists, who would use the energy that students generate to push their bullshit politics (Applause.) So what we hear is about students talking about supporting politicians in November, and the administrations saying you all can have two weeks off and shit in November to support the peace candidate of your choice; that it's very wise at this time to petition your Congressman, your Senators, and help all the doves to overcome the Hawks; that it is wise to do this; that it's wise for Kingman Brewster to go to Washington and speak with those Congressmen who've agreed to set themselves up as the image, as the force that best speaks to the problems of bringing about peace in Vietnam. So Kingman Brewster, who is a very slick motherfucker, slides down to Washington, brings a couple of his liberal faculty members, brings a lackey named Kurt Schmoke, who just developed out of nowhere, who fell out of the sky; and they're seriously down there trying to get these Congressmen to generate some resistance to the hawks. And the students just sit around and get caught up in all this shit, and the student movement fluctuates back and forth, letting the unity and solidarity that could be expressed, letting all the energy that could be brought into a collective nature be thrown off in a whole bunch of diverse paths and shit. You still got the liberals; you still got the pacifists; you still got the people who are nonviolent. And out of that there has to come some organized collective force that makes sense, because if you can't make sense, well, something's going to fuck you up. Because you have to understand that you haven't made sense, because we went to Antioch, and the motherfuckers out there were playing frisbee. I know that playing with frisbees isn't the first step to being revolutionized. Dropping acid surely isn't the first step in becoming revolutionized. Fuck it; you can smoke dope if you want -- that's right on, but you can't let it keep you from becoming involved in your responsibility, your human responsibility -- that being the movement, that being the struggle. So I want to talk about that, you see, I want to talk about how the motherfuckers are leading you around by your noses, because you all don't think for yourselves yet. And niggers were in that same fucked up situation, but we dealt with it, you know. We recognized that motherfuckers were shooting us, and they were bayonetting us, and they were driving us into a situation that could only lead to our isolation and extinction. So we met that situation; we met that historical situation, and developed out of it, and matured, you know. And it's up to students to do that shit. So we're tired of motherfuckers sitting around and waiting for the Panthers to speak so they can dig on the words, so they can dig on the rhetoric, because nobody puts it together these days like niggers put it together. And we know that shit. And you all got to stop tripping off that shit, because it's gonna get you killed. Come over here for your exorcism, sit around and listen to the niggers blow. But when the cats blow facts at you, when the cats from the GIs blow facts at you, you all don't want to listen to that shit. Cause maybe you all understand that it isn't knowing, because the movement knows. It knows it's mastered the Vietnamese question, so if in fact the students have mastered the Vietnamese question, then we shouldn't talk primarily about Vietnam anymore, because one doesn't have to, one has already mastered it, and one knows how to deal with this shit appropriately when it comes down, you know. So I want you to understand that -- fuck the peace movement as it is 'cause if we want peace we have to fight for it. The Vietnamese tell us that. And if we're stupid enough to get caught up in the moral arguments of the ruling class then we'll pay their price, because so have we paid their price at Kent State. So the niggers paid their price in Orangeburg. And so we continually pay their price until we take the master's head. And we recognize this shit, you know. So you will continue to be isolated, and those crazy workers down on Wall Street will continue to want to attack you and shit, and support people like Lindsay who takes the position of saying, "Well, I'm against the war," and just keeps the social relations, keeps the forces in society at each others throats, just keeps motherfucking everybody hopped up on racism, everybody confused and everybody all jangled and twisted. And the student plays a very important part in what's taking place in this society, and they're a very very strong force if you can all get your shit together. But niggers can't do it for you and the Black Panther Party can't do it for you; it's got to come from within yourselves. The will to become organized, the will to become disciplined has to come from yourselves. The will to have a consistent ideology because you all, wow man, spontaneity is good but people be asking us what the fuck is wrong with the students in America. What is wrong with students in America? They lay low for nine months and talk shit for two weeks, and then go on back to the status quo, go on back to normal radicalism, go back to the arguments that you all discuss in these University campuses. So we don't want to talk about the Vietnamese question any more, we want to talk about the war that's going on at home. We want to help you master the question of the national liberation struggle being waged by brown and black people, and how you can hook up into that shit, how you can deal with your racism. It's racism that leads you to look to Vietnam instead of looking in your backyard. And I don't know how you do it, I call it clogheadism and shit, you all can see far away to Vietnam and you hear the bombs going off in Vietnam. But when it comes down to you motherfuckers seeing what's going on in the Hill section of New Haven, when it comes down for some of you all to see what's going on in Harlem, in Watts, in Detroit, you all get fucked up.

But wait a minute, you niggers can't be talking about picking up guns. Non-violence! Well, niggers have mastered the question of non-violence, and understand it perfectly well: you-all can't do that shit, you all can't exercise your constitutional right of self defense. Because if we want to stop the war-machine we have to sit around passively in front of it and wave V-signs. The only way we're gonna stop it; we have to wave V-signs at the war machine. See: PEACE!! PEACE!! those motherfuckers they love that shit. Nixon sips coffee, you know, while the students wave V-signs. And he kills more people in the black and brown communities while students play with frisbees and wave V-signs. That the war machine keeps on churning and fucking up people in Vietnam and in the black communities while the students say peace, while Lennon goes "Give peace a chance" and all that shit. We want peace, it's understood that we want peace, it's understood that we are not the aggressors, if tomorrow these motherfuckers would stop doing what they're doing, right on. We'll accept these motherfuckers back in the fold. Because we're not foul like they're foul. We're not criminals like they're criminals. We're not barbarians like those motherfuckers are barbarians, you see. So we say that we mastered the Vietnam question maybe but maybe you forgot a very important part, a component on that shit, that so were the Vietnamese people confronted with this question of non-violence and pacifism at the hands of the aggressor, but the motherfuckers learned very quickly that once they got their shit together, don't you know that they went after the master, that they went after the captain, that they went after the aggressor, with rocks, with hoes, with sticks, because they realized that if they wanted peace, if they wanted to bring about a tranquil situation in

their homeland, in their fatherland, that they had to drive the aggressor out. So simply speaking, that if you want to stop the aggression in Vietnam, if you want to stop the war machine from killing other people, then deal with it correctly yourselves. The only way to draw the line of demarcation between you and the government is to let people know that you oppose the policies of war that the government carries out over in Indochina and in the black and brown communities. So how do you do that? You raise your level of resistance continually. You continually struggle against the shit the government is doing in your name. So to say that at one time, to say that the Vietnamese, that niggers; to say that I petition the Congressman and told him that the shit that was going on in the black and communities was morally wrong, to say that the shit that was going on in Vietnam was morally wrong; at one time that was revolutionary for white people, because you never did that shit before. But then as the shit got higher, as America started killing more and more people, as they started churning the war machine faster and faster, your level of protest, your level of resistance had to heighten along with that. So you all began to march and mobilize in 1964. Certain forces in this society said: Bring the GIs home now, get out of Indochina or Southeast Asia now. And motherfuckers are still saying that. There are cats who still stand up there and say that, on the level of words, you see. And that's so very incorrect at this time, to do that now, in the situation we find ourselves in. Because everybody and their motherfucking uncle knows that the motherfuckers ain't gonna get out of Vietnam until we start shooting at home. But that by no means says that you all should start shooting. Because you all haven't acquired that human understanding yet that you have a right to self-defense, that you have a right to stop by any means necessary those who would kill you, those who would kill half the goddamn globe, or 75% of the globe in your name, and love to have you sit around while they're killing people again, to blow V-signs, and to throw frisbees, and to throw peace signs at these motherfuckers, who are killers. To understand America is to understand that this ruling class is a gang. Conceptualize a gang, you know, they have those greasers, those grease gangs they used to blow on TV, they would blow on the movies in the fifties. That's what the ruling class is, it's a gang. And the motherfuckers are killers. And they'll kill you as fast as a greaser in those films would stab you in your motherfuckin' gut and throw you off a roof or throw you in the East River. They do it that quickly, you see. So the response you have to that kind of terror, to that kind of criminal activity has to be a correct response, has to be a response that enables you to continue your work while you attempt to isolate these criminals and wipe them out and expose them for what you know they are. Symbolic acts will not expose the ruling class any more. An organized, disciplined force among white people will do that, because they couldn't deal with that, they couldn't deal with a force that has a consistency of ideology. They couldn't do that shit. Cause that's proven. We've proven that through practice that the motherfuckers have tried to do everything they can to the Black Panther party, but we have a consistent ideology, so therefore we survive, so we're assured of one thing, that if we are in fact wiped out, and assuming a vanguard position almost dictates that you either go to jail or you get killed, but if you have that consistent ideology, you have to understand that that ideology now has its origins among the people, you see. What you're trying to do is say that in order to destroy the ideology the pigs will have to destroy the whole people, and in their attempts to destroy the whole people, you see, the people will resist, because the people want to survive. And as the pigs come down harder, the people resist at a higher level, that they defend themselves and finally they move the shit right on out, have the correct political line, have the correct human understanding, and they move to destroy the oppressor because they understand it is their human right to do so

GI News

MAY 16-17 ANTI-WAR ACTIONS - RESULTS

The following is a report on actions held during the Armed Forces Day weekend. The actions varied in just about all respects from each other. Most were rated as successes, some were not. At any rate, we all succeeded in closing down the regularly scheduled Armed Forces Day "celebrations" at the following bases:

Fort Ord, California	Grissom Air Force Base, Indiana
Fort Benning, Georgia	Fort Jackson, South Carolina
Fort Meade, Maryland	Fort Bragg, North Carolina
Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota	Key West, Florida
Sacramento, California	Goldsboro, North Carolina
Fort Polk, Louisiana	Quantico, Virginia
Andrews Air Base, Virginia	McDill Air Force Base, Florida
Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Illinois	Phoenix City, Alabama
U.S. Army Aviation Systems Center, St. Louis, Missouri	Charleston Naval Base, South Carolina (plus the air bases, army bases and marine corps bases there)
U.S. Army Tank Center, Detroit, Michigan	Fort Rucker, Alabama
Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland	Fort Dix, New Jersey
Pickitanny Army Base, New Jersey	
Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma	

Not bad for a display of the power of the people as well as the paranoia of the military. But then the objective was not simply to shut down these bases, rather to shut down the war machine. The following actions happened, working to shut down that machine:

Fort Devens, Massachusetts - GIs and civilians held a picnic and some 70-80 civilians leafletted the post. First issue of bi-weekly newspaper, Morning Report, distributed. Good local support for the first action ever attempted there. About 20 GIs at picnic, rap session and repression (i.e., restrictions, etc.) was minimal. Contact with lawyers, good; press, good. Press coverage, good. Strike idea was announced and response was generally good, with GIs discussing it. Local contacts: Peter Magerty & Don Pelrine (civ.) 617/492-5570.

Fort Bragg, North Carolina - GIs held rally, moved on post, centered at basic training area. 750-1000 GIs and 2500-3000 people total. Rated success, with rally going as scheduled. Rightists given chance to speak, other speeches by Mark Lane, Jane Fonda, Rennie Davis and GIs John Vail and Hal Noyes. Davis arrested for using obscenity (motherfucker), thrown out of court by judge. Early passes given Friday to get GIs out of area, some restrictions, rumors of violence. Jane Fonda and Mark Lane thrown off base. Contact with lawyers, good; press, good. Press coverage, good, except low estimates of numbers. Strike idea mentioned and got dynamite response. Local contacts: John Vail and Hal Noyes (GI) and David O'Brien (civ.) 919/497-6526 & 919/483-5270.

Fort Dix, New Jersey - GIs held rally and attempted march on base. Marchers Gassed. 3-4,000 people with few GIs. Disruption of speakers platform and order by outside groups. All GIs restricted to base, many MPs from both Dix and Meade. Contact with lawyers, good; press so-so. Press coverage good. Strike idea was announced but response was little: few GIs and many people did not hear. Local contacts Leroy Conley (GI), Carol Rogers, Doug Hall (civ.) 609/298-9716.

Fort Meade, Maryland - GIs held march and rally towards base. 500-600 people, about 100 GIs. Rated success by GIs, though number of civilians far less than expected; due in part to incomplete planning. Military had put out word of violence, but action was entirely peaceful. Speeches by Abbie Hoffman, Susan Schnall, black panther, GIs and revolutionaries from Spain. GIs restricted, put on alert and intimidated. Contact with lawyers, good; press, good. Press coverage, relatively good. Strike idea announced, response generally quite good. Local contact: Ed Cox (civ.) 301/235-8310.

Fort Benning, Georgia - GIs held mock trial of the system. About 500 people, 100-150 GIs. Found system guilty of illegal war, genocide, etc. Speakers: Mark Lane, Barbara Dane, Flo Kennedy, Howard Levy, Diane Schuler, GIs that have witnessed war crimes and have been in stockades. General at base offering three day week-day pass to anyone that turns in a person that has been distributing their paper RAP! on base. Contact with lawyers, good; press bad. Had near total press blackout. Great Speckled Bird, Atlanta Underground paper, will cover. Strike announced and response was good, though much needs to be talked out about it. Local contacts: Candy Russ (civ.) Jim Goodman (GI) 404/322-8985.

Fort McClellan, Alabama - GIs held rally in city auditorium. First anti-war demo in city's history, first ever by local GIs. About 250 people, about 50 GIs. Speakers: Howard Levy, Flo Kennedy, Diane Schuler, Denis Adelsberger, Richard Boone, Ether & Axis (rock groups). Repression included extra duty for many units, and threat of water being turned off by landlord of key organizer (it was). Contact with lawyers, poor (relying on So. Reg. Off. ACLU-Atlanta); press good. Press coverage was very good. Strike idea announced, GIs very receptive, are discussing implementation. Local contact: Skip Delano (civ.) 205/435-4150.

Grissom Air Force Base, Indiana - GIs planned leafletting of post for May 16, went well, May 17 rally ripped off by right wingers with no chance for GIs to speak. About 50 people at rally with few GIs. GIs on restriction, with base closed up very tight. Right wingers armed with clubs, etc. Contact with lawyers, good; press, bad. Press was doing public service announcements telling people to come and break up the commie rally. Strike idea found impossible, physically, to announce. Local contact: Sam Hunt 317/452-0841.

Camp Pendleton, California - GIs held rally and march. About 5000 people, 200 GIs. Some felt rally longer than desirable. Speakers: Tom Hayden, black panther, GIs and others. GIs put on restriction, extra duty, told to stay away depending on unit. Contact with lawyers, good; press, good. Press coverage good, partly because it did not compare this action with December Oceanside march of GIs. Strike idea announced, response good, with question about implementation. Local contacts: Don Duncan 213/783-7669.

Charleston Naval Base, South Carolina - GIs held rally. About 1000 people, with about 200 GIs. Very successful for first action and for area of country. Speakers: Rennie Davis, Isadore Buff, Ex-GIs and GIs. Repression included telling GIs not to go by the brass, uniformed GIs chased off from rally by shore patrol. Contact with lawyers, good; press, good. Coverage by press of May 17 action was good. Strike announced, response not too good. GIs feel that area is bad for it. Local contact: Gary Messenger (civ) 803/747-2693.

Fort Riley, Kansas - GIs held a rally with about 1300 people, 400 GIs. First action of this type. Response was truly great, may start coffeehouse project. Speakers: John Froines and editor of AWOL Press (GI paper). Repression not too bad, included standard restrictions, riot control training. Contact with lawyers, good; press, good. Press coverage, fair. Strike idea was announced and the response was great. Local contact: Kemp Houck (civ.) 913/843-0723.

Fort Lewis, Washington - GIs held all-day festival/picnic/workshop. About 200 people, with about 50-60 GIs. Problems because Seattle people did not relate to the action, no feature speakers, it was no billed as a demo. Speakers from Seattle Liberation Front, GIs. Repression included a lot of people on riot control duty, but little else. Contact with lawyers, good; local press, good. Press coverage was fair, with equal coverage of Armed Forces Day "celebration" and demonstration. Strike announced and GI response was very good, have been talking about it a lot. Local contacts: Stan Anderson, 206/CR5-9875.

Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota - GIs and GI Wives for Peace held Friday (May 15) coffeehouse with David Dellinger, John Froines and Phil Ochs. About 50 GIs attended. Saturday (May 16) held anti-ABM demonstration at Nekoma, N.D. About 1000 people at Nekoma. Both actions evaluated as very good for GI solidarity, etc. Starting GIs for Peace. Repression included some units being given extra duty, all units told not to go to either action. Contact with lawyers, good; press, bad (one sympathetic reporter). Coverage of Nekoma action was good, but no mention of GI participation. Strike announced and response was very good. Planning July 4 demo to kick off strike. Local contact: Ellen Curlee 701/775-9104.

Fort Hood, Texas - GIs held rally and march through Killeen. 800-900 people in march, almost all GIs; another 500-600 followed on the sidewalks (GIs). Rated a great success with huge numbers of GIs and increasing rapport with townspeople after they saw the numbers drawn out for demo. Rally was not too good due to local police harassment (police surrounded rally, making it hard for others to get into it.). Two active duty GIs spoke, one civilian coffeehouse staffer spoke. Repression was variously GIs being put on alert, given extra duty, told they better not go, depending on unit. Contact with lawyers poor with only occasional help from straights in area; press contacts fair, with some sympathetic reporters but no papers. Press coverage was great (first page story) but was terribly distorted. Strike idea announced, response very good, with GIs working on ideas for it. Local contacts: Joe Barnwell, Paul Aaron (civ.) 817/ME4-0114.

Fort Jackson, South Carolina - GI action cancelled itself out after the local Armed Forces Day "celebration" was cancelled. Plan had included anti-war participation in that action. Repression of GI organizers and others in sympathy with GI thing there continues at a horrifying rate with Mike Cole, key contact there, now in jail for trumped up charges of larceny and trespassing (\$4,000 bond set). Contact with lawyers, good; press, fair. Strike idea announced and the GIs are working on it. Local contact: Mike Collins 303/635-6841 (day) and 303/634-9225 (night).

Fort Carson, Colorado - GIs held festival of life in Colorado Springs. About 500 people, with about 30 GIs. Speakers included Paul Krassner and representative from MDM. Speakers not too good. GIs also spoke. Problems related in part to the recent turn-over in staff which made the planning somewhat difficult. Repression included bomb threats, people being threatened with busts. Contact with lawyers, fair; press, good. Coverage by press of action was very good. Strike idea announced and the GIs are working on it. Local contact: Mike Collins 303/635-6841 (day) and 303/634-9225 (night).

Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois - GIs held mock trial of the army. About 800 at trial, hard to tell how many GIs. Participation from Grissom APB and Fort Knox. Had to get new hall to accommodate the crowd. Hall was placed off limits by military, but GIs still participated, some old folks too. Definite success. Speakers included Andy Stapp and U. of Illinois professors. No repression yet (beyond off limits thing) but sure to come, they feel. Contact with lawyers good; press, bad. No coverage in local papers. The strike idea was not announced due to insufficient information. Local contact: Sue Fox (civ.) 217/344-5241.

Fort Ord, California - GIs held a march and rally. 3000-5000 people with about 100 GIs. Size was smaller than expected partially because of rumors of cancellations. Some organizers felt it was too conservative that some time should have been spent picketing in front of base, rather than simply marching around base. Tactical problems and failures, but over-all success. GIs on base gave excellent response. Repression includes post reg. banning the use of the fist and the "V" on post whether in or out of uniform and whether on or off duty. Will contest in court. Base put normal workday routine (also contesting in court). Riot troops on alert, bomb threat. Contacts with lawyers, good; press, good. Press coverage good though the action hit in the middle of a teamster strike, thus splitting news coverage. Strike idea sort of announced. GI response mixed, some very enthusiastic, some wondering exactly what nature it would take. Local contacts: Jim Halley 415/843-8209 and MDM-ers 408/372-8884.

Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana - GIs held festival of life and workshops. 600-700 people all afternoon with 150-175 GIs. Definite success, despite press attempts to say that action was called off. Good representation from blacks. Speakers: Walter Collins (SCEF), Walter Rogers (WWI vet), Vernon Grizzard (AFSC). Repression included attempts by authorities to deny permit dashed by GIs work to get Federal injunction against the act. Key organizer arrested on so-called pre-dated warrant from March. Contact with lawyers, good; press, awful. Press coverage concerned only with bust listed above, most popular station cooperated with police. Strike was announced and GI response was hard to gauge. Many GIs conservative and don't know consequences of such a thing. Local contact: Mick Osborne.

Fort Bliss, Texas - GIs held folk and rock music festival. 1500-2000 people, with 1000-2000 GIs. Rated a definite success with new GIs brought into organization to take over when current leaders leave which will be relatively soon. Speakers were all local people with three GIs. Repression was at a minimum. Repression in November had been heavy, so GIs sent a hundred letters to Congress and an article to the New Republic. Strangely, repression stopped to a great degree. Contact with lawyers, good; press, poor. Press coverage was relatively small front page article of the put down variety. Strike idea was not announced because GIs have questions about legality and possibility of repression. Local contact: Ron Withem (GI), 915/568-8626.

A few other bases have been exceedingly difficult to contact, but there were a few other actions not listed here. Apparently there were actions at a number of places that we did not even know about, judging from the Armed Forces Day shut-down list.

A few interesting conclusions have been drawn by a variety of the people involved in these actions. We would like to state these kind of the way we received them. First, the actions were generally very successful, though a number of them were smaller than expected. Certainly the cut in the size can be blamed partially on the fact that so many bases closed down their Armed Forces Day "celebrations" (a victory in itself), thus giving people the idea that either the goal had been accomplished or the anti-war actions were also called off. Some of this kind of rumor was purposely spread by the "authorities." Also, partial blame for smaller turn-outs can be laid upon the heavy restrictions and repression that most GIs were under. However, it is probably important that analysis go beyond simply discounting things on this basis. Were uncommitted GIs addressed in the wrong manner?

Second, the idea of the strike met with a generally enthusiastic response, though there were many questions as to what the implications and implementations of such a program would be. Thus, we need to meet and discuss these things. However, it seems as though we should definitely go ahead with the tedious details of setting up a means of implementing this idea.

Thirdly, press coverage of local actions was generally much better than we had expected and was considerably more than we had been told by newsmen to expect. In fact, as we sit here in Washington and gaze through the Washington Post and the New York Times, we are amazed to see that even today, Tuesday, the coverage of the GI and the war is much heavier than before. We can probably feel pretty safe in assuming that what we all did this past weekend has really brought the strength and universality of the GI movement to the fore as far as the press and millions of Americans are concerned. This in itself is pretty important.

Fourthly, the civilians that participated in the actions have probably gotten a better understanding of the GI movement as well as of the GI himself. A comment made by Abbie Hoffman (who gave a speech that was surprisingly geared to GIs and civilian support therefore) seems particularly good: "behind every GI haircut lies a Samson." So true!

GI response to these actions was very good, even amongst those who could not or did not attend. The problem now becomes one of incorporating these GIs into the real movement. Within this area comes the problem of many GI (and civilian) groups: expanding the constituency. Some people have expressed to us the feeling that a lot of GI groups tend to become elite corps of radicals who find it difficult to relate to new GIs that have expressed an interest in working in the anti-war, anti-repression movement.

Also, these actions have probably given a lot of people a good deal of experience in working with civilian groups, experience that could be very important in the future. The same probably goes for working with the press.

We have shown a lot of strength in these actions. We have shown the national focus of this movement. We have felt, probably, a much greater degree of solidarity with other bases' movements. This should be continued and strengthened.

Jack Susarrey, John Williams, Gil Harris, Richard Sanders, Mike Roche
GI Task Force
New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam

commencement

Commencement season is with us. We ask our campus based readers to send in to us news as to how their commencement reflected the current political crisis. We expect that every campus will have its own special brand of commencement '70. Some plans include counter-commencements, weekend programs of political education, prominent anti-establishment commencement speakers, guerilla theatre, cancellation of commencement, refusal to wear caps and gowns with money then being turned over to the Panthers, the anti-war movement etc. Let us know what you decide to do.

Princeton Draft Conference

From May 19 to 21 a national draft opposition conference was held at Princeton University. It was sponsored by UNDO (Union for National Draft Opposition), an organization which sprung out of the spirit and the momentum of the current national strike; though its roots and its substance reach back to "early" resistance and peace organization days.

Over 130 schools and organizations attended. Those represented came from all parts of the country; from the Northeast to California as well as schools from Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, North Carolina and more in between. Among those organizations present were ACLU, American Friends Servicemen's Union Fellowship of Reconciliation, GCSC, New Mobe, CADRE, and other resistance groups.

Attending the conference and speaking were Tom Reeves, chairman of the National Committee to Repeal the Draft; Reverend William Sloane Coffin, chaplain at Yale; Conrad F. Lynn, draft lawyer and author; Reverend Maurice McGraken, founder of Peacemakers' Conference and Ron Young, founder of East Coast Resistance, and National Committeeman of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

This extended introduction serves the purpose of indicating the historical significance of the Princeton conference. To paraphrase Ron Young, the sense of the conference was that we are on the verge of having the power to end the selective service system. Perhaps we have that power now.

In a sense the Princeton conference can be viewed as the historically logical progression of the resistance movement in light of the present national strike. Universities and organizations throughout the country were brought together under a single flexible banner. Though there were people with many different philosophies present, there was an essential unity. It consisted of opposition to the draft, the Indo-China war, and the general repression perpetrated by the nation's leaders and institutions upon peoples here and abroad. There was a real sense of co-operation based on the hope and the spirit of the people's "power of resistance".

UNDO has called for June 10th to be a national resistance day. By that date those who wish to turn in draft cards should have them at Union College, the national turn-in center at:

UNDO, Silliman Hall
Union College
Schenectady, N.Y. 12308
Tel. 518-393-3614

Local chapters will be organizing turn-in dates in advance so that cards can get to Union. Also, local chapters will organize resistance activities for June 10th to complement the turn-in and to achieve the destruction of our draft system.

It is hoped that all high schools, colleges, universities, community organizations, and local resistance groups will join with UNDO's efforts. This can be done by intensifying already existing anti-draft activities and seeking to co-ordinate the various groups in given areas as well as by maintaining contact and working along with local UNDO chapters and regional centers. For more information the national headquarters is located at:

UNDO
230 Palmer Hall
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
Tel. 609-452-5567

The following are excerpts from the Princeton UNDO conference describing the nature of UNDO's structure and principles.

COMMON LAW CONSTITUTION OF UNDO

(FINAL DRAFT AS DISCUSSED MAY 21, 1970, AT PRINCETON, N.J.)

PREAMBLE: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Union for National Draft Opposition actively supports means of opposing the war in South East Asia and opposing the draft.

UNDO shall act as a national clearing house for dissemination of information on available resources throughout the country; draft and military counseling agencies; legal panels; defense and bail funds; medical and psychiatric panels; job counselling for resisters; dissemination of information on imprisoned resisters; and action to end the draft.

UNDO will also act as a supporting agency including funding for the development of such resources where they are lacking and that UNDO not duplicate any services already available.

Given the agencies already available, the major thrust of UNDO should be resistance; disaffiliation; non-cooperation within the military; selective objection; direct action against and including full legal attacks on the SSS.

UNDO shall support groups operating to resist the oppression perpetrated by the state. We recognize this as a mass movement and that these groups include G.I. Resistance, Third World Resistance, worker disillusionment, Black Revolution, and Women's Liberation.

Since UNDO is concerned with draft resistance, we will exert concerted effort to support and encourage the struggle of repressed people in America to resist the draft.

STRUCTURE OF UNDO

Local chapters shall be autonomous within broad guidelines established by national headquarters. The national headquarters shall establish national objectives and general guidelines for the activities of local chapters and it shall organize and co-ordinate national programs and projects. Regional centers shall be established to work with the national organization and local chapters, with the local chapters being as autonomous as possible and coordinating their efforts through regional headquarters, with the regional headquarters working with the national organization. The local chapters shall engage in related activities within the national guidelines.

General meetings (such as the one held in Princeton) shall be held once every six months or as frequently as shall be determined by the steering committee. The steering committee shall meet monthly (or more frequently if so determined by a poll of the steering committee members). The steering committee shall consist of 17 members, three from each of the five national regions, a member from the staff of the national office, and a member of a high school who shall sit on that board as a voting member. The steering committee members shall be elected by each region at the biennial general meetings.

The national office shall be set up in Princeton, New Jersey and staffed initially by those from Princeton, and shall in the future be staffed by persons appointed by the steering committee.

Voting delegations at national meetings will be handled as at the first meeting.

The resolutions that were passed by a two-thirds vote at the first meeting may only be amended in future constitutions by a two-thirds vote of the delegates at that meeting.

ADOPTED BY A 2/3 MAJORITY OF THE UNDO NATIONAL CONVENTION (PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY) PLENARY SESSION, MAY 21, 1970.

The following material was judged to be implicit in the Common Law Constitution by the general Convocation of May 19-21, 1970. Implementation was put in the hands of the National Office by the National Steering Committee.

UNDO advocates the total abolition of the draft. As a realistic political goal to work for in the next several months, UNDO actively supports the Hatfield-McGovern bill that will end the draft on June 30, 1971. UNDO strongly criticizes the provision for registration at the age of 18 contained in that bill. UNDO reserves the right to switch support to a better bill if such a bill is forthcoming.

The National Council to Repeal the Draft offers the use of its offices in Washington, D.C. to UNDO for lobbying purposes during this summer.

Proposals from the ASU workshop on G.I. Resistance

- 1) That UNDO extend all legal aid resources to G.I.'s
- 2) That UNDO fund first mailing of G.I.-Civilian Solidarity Committee. (\$100)
- 3) That UNDO denote space in its newsletter to the G.I. movement.
- 4) That UNDO help publicize GCSC and coordinate future fund drives.
- 5) That UNDO draft counselors either add military counseling to operations, or coordinate with GCSC for referral of G.I.'s needing counseling.
- 6) That local UNDO chapters make a definite commitment to support the G.I. movement in their area.

Specific proposals for civilian support:

- 1) distribution of G.I. newspapers.
- 2) support for G.I. actions on base.
- 3) military counseling.
- 4) help with G.I. newspaper.
- 5) support for G.I.s organizing on base.

I. UNDO PLENARY SESSION Evening of May 20, 1970.

A. UNDO proposes a National Draft Card turn in day and on that date there will be a variety of actions against the Selective Service System.

B. UNDO will circulate the Charlottesville proposal.

CHARLOTTESVILLE DRAFT RESISTANCE

My signature on this pledge means the following:

- A. I feel that the present draft system in America is in violation of my constitutional rights and/or simply immoral.
- B. DELETED BY UNDO
- C. I pledge that, when a hundred thousand draftable men have signed pledges like this, I will return my draft card to my local of national resistance headquarters where it will be forwarded with the other returned cards to the proper authorities. I pledge that after that time I WILL CEASE TO COOPERATE WITH ANY TYPE OF DRAFT SYSTEM IN ANY WAY.
- D. I recognize that I am in no way immune from federal prosecution either for resisting the draft or conspiring to resist the draft.

We feel that our pledge differs from the UNDO petition in several ways.

1. the UNDO petition is directed only at the induction process not the Selective Service System. Signing it does not pledge you to Draft Resistance, but only to induction refusal. That means that C-O, IV-D, I-Y, and other deferments, which represent cooperation with the system.
2. As a symbolic gesture of resistance, our pledge calls for the return of 100,00 draft cards. The other pledge does not. Tom Reeves of National Council to Repeal the Draft has indicated that those cards would scare the hell out of a lot of congressmen.
3. We wish to make it understood that everyone signing our pledge is putting himself on the membership rolls of an Ad hoc union, whose sole purpose in existing is to stage an unconditional and irrevokable STRIKE against Selective Service. The strike is to last until the system is destroyed.
- II. We call upon UNDO to arrange for legal and moral support for those prosecuted in the course of the strike.
- III. We urge everyone who has returned a draft card, or organized such activities, or otherwise refused to cooperate with the system, to sign the pledge card and strike with us. We request that UNDO make it a matter of national policy to get pledge cards to all draft card returnees.
- IV. Although no draft cards will be requested (under the terms of the pledge) until the pledge quota has been reached, we request that those distributing pledge cards collect cards from signees, if possible, as a symbol of intention to totally resist. These cards are to be added to those collected across the nation in the past days.

UNDO PLENARY SESSION II-Morning of May 21, 1970

1. June 10 was decided by committee, for draft turn-in date.
2. The Charlottesville Proposal shall be held until after the draft card turn-in date.
3. The assembly shall endorse and direct UNDO to circulate and collect the Charlottesville Pledge. This pledge shall be circulated instead of the induction refusal pledge currently being used. Item (b) of the Charlottesville pledge has been eliminated.
4. One of the original premises that called us together was that a massive unified action against the draft was believed to be viable, and that the anti-war momentum of the past few weeks gives us a platform for action. Resolved that: IN conjunction with the proposed and accepted national anti-draft action day, UNDO carry on an expanded membership drive to swell its ranks of committed peoples.
5. The National Executive Committee shall decide what to do with the draft cards upon collection.
6. Princeton shall be national headquarters.
7. There shall be UNDO chapters in high schools with UNDO membership; if there is to be a national executive board, a high school student shall sit on that board as a voting member.

ANNOUNCEMENT: To all regional UNDO centers:

The national headquarters has requested that regional centers (and even local chapters) keep a catalogue of activities up to and especially on June 10th. They need feedbacks to figure out what's happening and to facilitate the release of comprehensive UNDO Newsletters.

OFF THE CAMPUS

As the national "student strike" moves into its 4th week, it becomes crystal clear that it is no longer a "student strike". We need a new label to sum up the current rebellious state of the nation.

Students are not protesting alone. Faculty and administrators are speaking out and acting against repression at home and abroad. The national economic action group has involved consumers all over. GIs have demonstrated and continue to do so. Labor has been involved through a student labor coalition based in the West near Stanford and in the East near Franklin and Marshall. A "Stop for Peace" is advertised to engage "responsible adults and concerned parents". The blacks and whites who marched through sultry Georgia and rallied in Jackson included ministers, maids, mayors, the unemployed, etc. This is no longer a student thing-and of that we are thankful. Now we all must continue to creatively involve those segments of the population whose base is off campus.

Nor is the rebellion any longer just a strike. Of course, over 150 colleges and high schools remain on strike. But people are also engaging in selective buying campaigns, mass marches and demonstrations, lobbying for anti-war candidates, non-violent civil disobedience, runs on banks, community political education, etc. In other words, a multiplicity of strategies exists as do a multiplicity of categories of people using them. For both reasons we no longer should speak of a "student strike" but of "A Summer of Resistance and Liberation."