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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD - About 200 members of the Off ROTC Movement at Stanford voted Sunday (APRIL 19) to stage a White Plaza rally Monday noon (APRIL 20), followed by a march to the President's Office to present an ultimatum that ROTC be forced off campus.

They said the ultimatum would have a Thursday noon deadline, backed by another rally and a possible sit-in at the Old Student Union or other buildings as part of a Bay Area-wide protest.

In a two-day referendum last week, students voted by a narrow margin to retain ROTC on campus but voted against academic credit for ROTC courses by a 2-to-1 margin. The Movement overwhelmingly defeated a suggestion that ROTC credit be banned.

Soon after their Sunday night tactics discussion started, Aaron Manganiello of Vinceremos College, Redwood City, took over the microphone. Backed by a group of 40 Brown Berets and their supporters, at least half of whom came from off campus, Manganiello read a support statement from "Northern California Brown Berets" stating:

"Stanford, take notice: If you intend to have a professionally trained military unit here being hired to kill people of color, then you will have to defend this unit militarily because the best thing we can do for our carnalles is to see to it that ROTC never gets a chance to use their training on us."

At least one supporter of the Progressive Labor Party was forcefully ejected from the room when he attempted to debate Manganiello. After passing the hat for Vinceremos, circulating petitions for the impeachment of Judge Chargin of San Jose, and talking of the need for eventual unity between radical whites, black and brown groups, Manganiello led the group out of Cubberley Auditorium to widespread applause.

"Blacks and chicanos can't overthrow the government alone," Manganiello said, warning the audience against so-called "real revolutionaries." Referring to Progressive Labor, he said: "If they're not working for the CIA, they're not getting paid." A brief shouting match ensued, as audience members argued with a handful of PL supporters, none of whom succeeded in getting a microphone. Shortly thereafter, an amplifier tube was temporarily reported missing, and the mike went dead. Later one PL supporter spoke briefly.

The Movement overwhelmingly backed a demand that the University seek to reverse court action against Paul Rupert, who last week was given five years probation, two years alternative service (to the draft), and 10 days to leave Santa Clara County by Federal District Judge Stanley Weigel.

Noting that Weigel imposed \$30,000 bail on Black Panther leader David Hilliard, James Shoch said there was "real danger" this action could "border on racism." Disagreeing, Leonard Siegel maintained the University had intervened directly in Rupert's case and added lightly: "Until we go off and kidnap someone, we won't have the power to get them (the Panthers) free."

The group also voted overwhelmingly in favor of amnesty for its supporters, even after Yale Braunstein, former Student Legislature speaker said it was "false" to expect this, in view of the University's recent judicial actions.

Decisively defeated were motions against the punitive clause, a request to the Faculty Senate that ROTC be dropped, and a suggestion that faculty organize a nation wide federal research strike to counter any cutoff in government funds stemming from action against ROTC.

Discussing tactics to back the ultimatum, several speakers favored the idea of using a non violent and mobile sit-in to trigger an excessive response, or at least escape penalty. "We should leave when the police come, and go elsewhere," Janet Weiss suggested. Unlike Berkeley, which is heavily fenced and developed, "Stanford is absolutely open, especially when people are in small groups. There's no way they can get us."

Siegel, whose proposal was adopted by the group eventually, said "the Administration is scared about a sit-in," especially of the non violent variety.

Fred Cohen, a leader of last year's sit-ins recently returned to campus, noted that any violent action taken by the Movement or its small "affinity groups" could result in "loss of legitimacy" of the ultimatum, if it happened before Thursday noon. A formal motion to this effect was tabled.

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