

PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

Why of course the people don't want war...But after all, it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy, and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along, whether it is a democracy, or a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them that they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in every country.

--Hermann Goering

In contrast to the establishment, we must become more and more life-centered and love-directed not death-oriented or hatred-motivated.

--Dave Dellinger

The purpose of this pamphlet is to give direction to people who feel a need to respond to the intense situation in Indochina in a manner that is consistent with the notion that a true peace must be achieved through peaceful means. This latest invasion of Laos and threat of further escalation, including the use of nuclear weapons, reinforces our belief in the criminality of America's war-makers. We therefore feel moved to respond in a manner that is both creative and responsible. It is not only important that in our actions we demand that the U.S. government reverse its murderous policy throughout the world but that we recognize that we can in fact act effectively towards that end.

So be it. We have tried to underscore with our tears, and if necessary with our blood, the hope that change is still possible, that Americans may still be human, that death may not be inevitable, that a unified and compassionate society may still be possible. On that hope we rest our case.

Daniel Berrigan

We must not be overwhelmed by the seeming immensity of our task. If people would cease feeling intimidated by other people's statements and actions, and clarify a few facts for themselves, they would then be able to act creatively and effectively. It is important to realize that the task of saying "too long", "too many lies" to the controlling powers of the murderous American system is a necessary one. Actually implementing the words "no more" requires the unrestricted creativity of each person. Those of us who have been gathering at the Columbae House in the last few days recognize the wide range of modes of commitment to this task and are encouraging each other to follow the course of action with which he or she feels best. The major areas of work which we have already initiated are:

Civil Disobedience:

In order to make a statement which will both jar the consciousness of the people and will actually impede the operation of war machinery, some of us are seriously considering various acts of civil disobedience. Multiple levels of commitment will be needed: People who are in sympathy with such an act of civil disobedience, but are not prepared to act illegally, can give support in numerous ways in accord with their own inner convictions. Resistance is an act of spirit, as well as of body.

Economic Boycott:

An attempt is being made to organize a withdrawal of our economic support from those corporations making profits from war. Further, research has already begun concerning the feasibility of a long-term economic boycott designed to reduce the consumption of goods which are supplied by the economic exploitation of Indochina and the rest of the world.

War Crimes:

In cooperation with lawyers who were at the Nuremberg research is also underway to explore possibilities of defining American war crimes in order to stop the manufacture and shipment of the munitions and supplies and to provide information for possible citizen arrests of key American war criminals.

Communications:

Efforts are being made to continue the supply of information about our involvement in southeast Asia by setting up a speakers bureau and initiating a search for other methods of raising the general level of consciousness about this involvement.

Join us at Columbae House, next to Cowell Health Center. For information phone 328-9555 or 326-8308.

This is only the beginning. We call upon each person to apply himself in a flexible and creative way to the task of increasing the strength of the people's outcry. Talk to friends. Talk to other students. Talk to professors. AND ACT. Students and other people from the Stanford community have been meeting. We encourage everyone to come join us for we are you-people who feel the demand as human beings to respond to this latest outrage. Other human beings depend upon us.