

Call for the 1st Stanford Town Congress
and Operation Dig-In

Stanford University is a major corporation housing major corporate industrial and commercial firms on its lands, medical facilities, a shopping center, a major educational complex, residential and student housing and investments of approximately \$204,000,000 in stocks and bonds.

The Call for the 1st Stanford Town Congress recognizes Stanford to have all the activities, forces and concerns of a town. We therefore call for a Town Congress of staff, administration, students and faculty who make up this Stanford Town to assume legitimate power over our own lives and that of our town.

Much of Stanford's investments are in complicity with the present Indochina War and the growing expansion of the American Empire. Stanford also has the major non-developed land in this geographic area and fundamentally determines the housing, transportation and service needs of thousands of individuals in Stanford Town and the Mid-peninsula.

We as the Community have no vote on major projects in our community and must move from our state of disenfranchisement to a full democratic government here in Stanford Town.

"The voters of the area have always decided, and are still deciding, how Stanford lands can be developed."

Boyd Smith

University Real Estate Manager

"But if a community must keep adding industry to obtain the funds to solve the problems that industry helps create, where does it all end? Doesn't that mean that growth can never be halted?"

No. A community can halt growth if a majority of the voters decide that the disadvantages of continued growth outweigh the advantages."

-Campus Report Supplement, April 6, 1970-

There is NO Stanford Community CONTROL. We must have our legitimate power.



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Sheltered by the distant throne
The kingdom flaunts
The difference between rulers and ruled,
Keeps disaster hidden under awnings.
Hapless the reign which
Reduces the symbol of power to shame
Even if the suffering of multitudes
Does not touch the rulers-
Finally it draws the provincial curse

adaptation of a poem by Tagore

The following two principles come from the Nurenborg Tribunal of 1948. The Nurenborg Tribunal or a number of Geneva agreements can be cited to indicate international legal precedents the United States has publically declared its acceptance of. For our reference, Principle VI is to do with our country's acts and Principle VII has to do with Stanford University's and our own personal actions in complicity with the War Crimes presently being committed.

PRINCIPLE VI: The crimes herein after set out are punishable as crimes under international law:

A. Crimes against peace:

1. Planning, preparation, initiation or waging of a war of aggression or a war in violation of international treaties, agreements or assurances;

2. Participation in a common plan or conspiracy for the accomplishment of any of the acts mentioned under (1).

B. War crimes: Violations of the laws or customs of war which include, but are not limited to murder, ill-treatment or deportation to slave-labour or for any other purpose

of civilian population of or in occupied territory, murder or ill-treatment of prisoners of war or persons on the seas; killing of hostages, plunder of public or private property, wanton destruction of cities, towns, or villages, or devastation not justified by military necessity.

C. Crimes against humanity: Murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation and other inhuman acts done against any civilian population, or persecutions on political, racial or religious grounds, when such acts are done or such persecutions are carried on in execution of or in connection with any crime against peace or any war crime.

PRINCIPLE VII: Complicity in the commission of a crime against humanity as set forth in Principle VI is a crime under international law.

"The Tribunal's legitimacy will be determined by the answer given to its findings by the people of the world. The people of the world must refuse to commit the crimes that have been documented here. They must refuse to be accomplices in these crimes. The Tribunal appeals to the people of the United States to stop the monstrous aggression of the United States as its source. It appeals to the people of the United States to put an end to U.S. genocide."

Appeal of the Bertrand Russell War Crimes Tribunal
to World and Public Opinion, 1967

ON THE STANFORD PORTFOLIO (STOCKS AND BONDS)

Stanford University has a portfolio of securities worth approximately 204 million dollars as of August 31, 1971. We own

a portion of the corporation's assets, receive profits from the corporation (dividends), and theoretically have some say in how the corporation is run (through proxy or direct votes at the stockholders meetings). Holding bonds means that we have loaned a set amount of money (the initial value of the bonds) to the corporation and will receive that amount plus interest back after a specified period of time. Speculation occurs in securities, with individuals who hold them selling their holdings to other individuals on the securities exchanges through intermediaries, brokers.

Thus, we have responsibility for the operations of those corporations in which we have invested, as we are giving them the benefit of our financial resources. Many of the corporations we own stock in, or bonds from, profit from the war in Asia, either through the manufacture of military goods and rendering of services to the military, or through their interests in Southeast Asia which are protected and furthered by the war. Some of the more outstanding examples follow:¹

Corporation	Stanford's Investment (thousands of dollars)	Value of direct Dod contracts (thousands of dollars)	Involvement in S.E. Asia
1. A.T. & T.	12,551,000	931,233,000	only DOD
2. Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.	1,482,000	-	Hong Kong, Papua Indonesia, Malaysia, New Guinea, Singapore, Phillipines, S. Vietnam, Thailand ²
3. FMC Corp ³	342	140,911	-

4. Ford Motor Corp.	2,316	345,877	Indonesia, Phillipines, Thailand
5. General Electric Company	1,798	1,000,452	Indonesia
6. IBM Corp.	2,901	256,052	2
7. Royal Dutch Shell Group	875	-	Brunei, Cambodia Hong King, Malaysia, Laos, Phillipines, Singapore, S. Vietnam, Thailand, Pacific Islands
8. Sperry Rand Corp.	716	399,888	-
9. Standard Oil	1,230	229,188	Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia

In addition to these, Stanford owns stock in many other war profiteers, such as Atlantic Richfield, General Motors, General Telephone and Electric, Gulf Oil, Hercules, Hewlitt-Packard, IT&T, Standard Oil of Calif., Standard Oil of Indiana, Tenneco, and Texaco.

This negative case (some go even farther, and contend that Stanford should resolutely refuse to make any direct contribution to resolving the housing problem (except as it may decide to house an increased number of its own students, faculty and staff).) would be far more compelling if Stanford had confined itself to the educational function alone--if Stanford had not developed an industrial park and a shopping center, and had not already leased land for the construction of middle and upper-income homes and apartments for non-Stanford residents (Stanford Hills, Oak Creek). A considerable share of the local housing shortage is a by-product of industrial growth on Stanford lands; rent levels and the purchase price of homes have been driven up by the influx of new employees into the area. The committee believes that when the university (or any other institution, including a municipality) contributes to creating

a severe social problem, it has some responsibility for contributing to a solution of the problem.

Wright Committee Report
The President's Ad Hoc Comm. on Housing

There are 2 major premises of this call for the first Stanford Town Congress and Project Dig In, and a number of facts that bring forth this call to act.

Premises:

1. There is inherent worth and power in every human life.
2. Every human being must have the right to participate in decisions that directly effect her or his life.

The facts laid out in pamphlet 1,2,3 and 4 of the call for the first Stanford Town Congress address four specific facts that are all ongoing actions of what has been known as Stanford University, but what is actually Stanford corporations and what we understand to be Stanford town. The normal functions of Stanford Town involve the ownership of stocks and bonds in major war-related industry; the ownership of land on which major war-related industry is housed; the present management, termed trustees, has ownership, leadership and vested interest in corporations that directly contribute to the war in Indochina and who gain from the extension of United States interests throughout the world. Stanford Town also brings thousands of individuals to live in or around Stanford Town. It is a major employer in the Mid-Peninsula and hosts a huge labor force (industrial park, shopping center, hospital facilities and university) that cannot presently be

housed in the nearby surrounding area. These activities and their expansion are continually putting pressure on the desperate need for low and moderate income houses in this geographic area.

There is no effective recognized power to implement corporate decisions, consider issues and take initiative other than the board of trustees of Stanford Town. This is the same logic of a corporation town, where individuals who make up the town or work in the town have no say in the decisions that effect their lives. This point becomes blurred unless it is kept in mind that Stanford University has all the on-going activities as listed in pamphlets 1,2,3 and 4, and is not simply a place where reasonable men and women get together to discuss things. There are a variety of major decisions and interests continually going on in Stanford Town.

A number of individuals are in the midst of struggling to change this monopoly on power. Non-violent means cannot be effective in any great magnitude unless the small group of men who have the present power in Stanford Town recognize our two premises: the inherent right of an individual to participate in major decisions that effect his or her life and the inherent worth and power of an individual.

The politics of fear and the life it breeds compounds with already present personal feelings of impotence in changing society and contribute to a feeling of confustions, helplessness, anger, fear, escapism and isolation. Those who are interested in seeing

fundamental change in society take place, must recognize that working for these changes will involve major conflicts. Conflict and violence must not be confused. To engage in struggle for change involves long hard conflict; yet, we can try to conduct this struggle in a manner of life rather than fear and death.

We therefore call for a Stanford Town Congress and suggest operation Dig In as the context for this first gathering of the community. We do not wish at the present to become an incorporated township but to have democratic representation within Stanford Town under the present land situation.

If the Stanford Town Congress initially comes together over issues we can develop the organization of the Congress over a period of time. What we suggest is that all staff (administration), students, and faculty of Stanford University be given one vote. Particular issues will be put before the Congress and differing opinions on those issues will be voiced. The individual members of the Congress will either put forth their own positions on an issue or support those put forth by someone else. The members will then vote for the position they favor. The Congress as a whole will have to figure out what number of votes gain support to have a position put into action. It is therefore suggested that the Stanford Town Congress needs a context in which to begin its proceedings.

Context: that given Stanford University's holdings in a number

of war-related industries we shall divest ourselves of specifically named stock. Corporate capitalism seems to think it has much to gain from imperialism; therefore, we cannot re-invest the newly released capital in other corporations. One corporation is only different in magnitude, not kind, when investing in major corporations. What we will do is re-invest this capital in the much needed low and moderate income housing. We will use our Stanford land for this project Dig In and the community will begin hearing from the individuals involved in the issue of low and moderate income housing. Once the Congress has decided on a site for the development of a model low or moderate income home, we will begin construction. The model home can be used to house small scale models of various proposed low and moderate income housing and multiple units. The house can serve as a meeting place for architects, interested community people and individuals who qualify for low and moderate income housing to work on designing experiments in housing.

For many years now the board of trustees and particular administrators have been making statements as Stanford University and this action must stop. Stanford Town has no democratic representation from the individuals who are continually affected by the major decisions of the town. A comparison of the process that the citizens of Palo Alto having in voting on major decisions

which effect their lives and the absence of this process in Stanford can be demonstrated with the following:

Decision Making on the Superblock Issue

October 1967 - Bank of America applied to city for permit to build a two story bank building on University and Bryant, and also acquired the lot between Bryant and Florence for parking. As the city and Bank of America controlled almost all land bounded by University, Ramona, Lytton, and Florence, councilman Grant Spaeth convinced B of A to work together with the city to design a major office development on that site.

May 1968 - Consultants brought in to study economic feasibility of an office tower and underground garage. Council asks city staff to solicit proposals from private developers for construction.

January 1970 - Cornish & Carey submit their "Bryant Street Project", commonly known as "Superblock".

April 1970 - Council approved concept of "Superblock" and selected Cornish & Carey as developer. City staff began to negotiate with developer, and another consultant (Optimum Systems) was hired to study project's feasibility.

June 22, 1970 - Council votes to approve project, directs city staff to draw up appropriate agreements with developer, and planning commission requested to initiate zoning change in the property, subsequently turning out to be quite favorable to Cornish & Carey.

November 9, 1970 - Council approves both the agreement with the developer and the zoning change. Fearing a citizen-initiated referendum on the May ballot, the Council called a special election to be held January 26. By jumping the gun on the project's opponents, the pro-development Council not only was able to work the proposition, but also blocked a possible voter registration drive (the polls are closed 55 days before an election), and attempted to give the developer a financial break. Cornish & Carey hoped to begin construction at the earliest date to insure better financing for the project. However, the special election cost the Palo Alto taxpayers \$10,000.

January 26, 1971 - VOTE on Superblock. Superblock defeated by nearly a 4,000 vote margin.

It is commonly accepted that the manner in which the Superblock project was finally brought to a vote of the citizens of Palo Alto was one of little democratic representation. Yet, even with this large handicap

the citizens of Palo Alto had an opportunity to vote.

CASE: PALO ALTO SQUARE (DILLINGHAM PROJECT)

1965 - Tom Ford, director of land development at Stanford, conceived of the Palo Alto Square. Through contact and personal knowledge he sold the idea to officials at Stanford, Dillingham, and Palo Alto city government, who then set the project in motion.

1969 - Four public hearings for Palo Altoans, held in the summer, following minimum legal announcements.

Sept. 1969 - Zoning change approved by Palo Alto City Council, with cursory review.

Jan. 1970 - Opposition to Dillingham project begins to organize, mostly by residents in the Palo Alto communitiy.

Feb. 1970 - Petitions opposing Dillingham presented to Stanford President Pitzer.

Feb. 1970 - Pitzer replies that Stanford could not halt project, following approval of appropriate campus and governmental bodies.

March 1970 - Signing of the lease.

March 1970 - NO VOTE was held.

"the voters of the area have always decided, and are still deciding, how Stanford lands can be developed." - Boyd Smith, University real Estate manager

"But if a community must keep adding industry to obtain the funds to solve the problems that industry helps to create, where does it all end? Doesn't that mean that growth can never be halted?

No. A community can halt growth if a majority of the voters decide that the disadvantages of continued growth outweigh the advantages." - Campus Report Supplement, April 6, 1970

The members of the Stanford University community, staff, administration, students, and faculty had, and have NO VOTE.

This is a call for the disenfranchised students, staff, and faculty to gather together to assume control over their own lives and community. We must disengage ourselves from direct complicity with this war of genocide. We must take positive steps to have a lasting effect on the uses of our resources in Stanford Town and the first context is operation Dig In. Dig In is to sell particular stocks that are directly adding to the war, keep control over other stocks to effect decisions in those corporations, and use this released capital in digging in and building the desperately needed low and moderate income housing. A shadow government is presently being called for and we have a beginning context.

For those of us who have been used to letting other people or unrepresented powers make decisions that directly affect us, we will have to struggle to break out of that old passive behavior and begin to use what is legitimately ours: a recognized right to direct represented power in those decisions that directly affect our lives. All of us are driven from our normal work because we recognize that Stanford University is a town with on-going normal functions. That drives us to reorder the activities of the present and take initiative in some positive uses of our community's resources.

All of the community, staff (administration), students, and faculty, are asked to feel the strength of being represented in major decisions and asked to come to meetings concerned with the first Stanford Town Congress

and project Dig In. If we initially come together over issues, the Congress does not have to take most of its time with the restructuring element of this program, but can get down to substantive issues immediately. It is hoped that the members of the community realize we all have a right to participate in the decisions that effect our lives, and that we can come together on issues. Let us dig in and move from our support of war to the support of low and moderate cost housing.

Everywhere
The serpents exhale their poisonous breath;
To speak of gentle peace sounds like mockery.
Let me therefore, before I depart,
Send my last greetings to those
Who everywhere are making ready
To give battle to the Monster of Evil.

Tagore

Individuals and Groups in Support
of the First Stanford Town Congress:

Date of 1st Congress:

Issues Considered:

NOTES

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Congress and Project Dig In
2/22/71

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