

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
STANFORD —

More than 200 persons protesting the invasion of Laos broke windows in at least half a dozen buildings at Stanford Sunday night, Feb. 7.

There were no immediate arrests or reports of injuries requiring medical attention. Between 40 and 70 windows were reported broken, but the precise total will not be known until late Monday morning. The protesters have called a noon rally in White Plaza Monday.

Buildings "trashed" included the Graduate School of Business, Post Office, Engineering, Education (Cubberley), the Lou Henry Hoover annex, and Inner Quad offices.

Soon after 9:30 p.m. the Computation Center was emptied following a phone threat there that "you'd better get everybody out of there for safety's sake." The caller sounded like a young male. Firemen searched and found nothing.

Witnesses estimated there were 15 to 30 rock throwers at the Hoover annex, and said the crowd included many nonstudents. Photographic flashes were frequent. Windows in two campus police cars were broken and the cars were chased after one spotlighted the scene.

The incidents broke out soon after a crowd of more than 600 attended a meeting in Dinkelspiel Auditorium featuring the San Francisco Mime Troupe, sponsored by the Stanford Community Against War and Fascism.

Many in the audience heard radio reports and wire service stories confirming the Laotian invasion as they arrived for the 8 p.m. session. Tom Hayden, defendant in the "Chicago Seven" trial, introduced the Mime Troupe.

Following their performance, several student speakers called for a variety of actions, none of which was put to a vote. Theresa Ramirez, one of those charged with disrupting the Jan. 11 speech of Henry Cabot Lodge on the same podium, said: "We really didn't do enough. We haven't been able to stop the invasion of Laos." She said the defendants "will not put up with efforts to separate the defendants from the people" at their hearing Tuesday.

Harry Cleaver, graduate student active in the Coalition Against the War in Indo-China, said: "The only way people in the university can influence the government is to exercise power within their reach." Maximum power means "shutting down the university," he added.

Leaflets distributed by The Inquisition, an antiwar research group, demanded that the University "release all information on the uses of the Computation Center" and that war research at the center "immediately be halted." Under University research policy, no classified work is done there, according to Provost William Miller.

Janet Weiss, another defendant in the Lodge incident, also called for the broadest possible support to "shut down" the University. "Let's not get to fighting each other over a couple of rocks or something," she told the audience. Another young woman, carrying a handbag decorated with the Viet Cong flag, then led the way out for many.

Sixteen campus police were on duty when the incident occurred. An additional 35 sheriff's deputies were brought on to campus briefly after the first reports of property destruction, but these quickly subsided and they were not deployed.

Commenting later, Robert Grant and Adam Levin of the Associated Students Council of Presidents said: "Stanford students all are distressed and angered by the new invasion ordered by the President. But very few students were involved in the violent response tonight. Trashing and destruction of property are never appropriate responses to tragic decisions like the one to invade Laos. We are arranging for faculty and administrators to meet with students in the dorms to discuss the issue and develop means of expressing our dissent and disagreement in ways which will affect the President and hasten the end of the war."

Patrick Shea of the Associated Students Council of Presidents said: "Tonight's trashing is just the first of this year's series of hysterical displays activated by issues of national concern. The issue now is the trashing. We cannot lessen our degree of disdain by pointing to Laos and saying that this type of response is justifiable or understandable.

"U.S. policy in Southeast Asia will be dealt with in the same fashion as other similar issues—namely, political pressures within the Congress and Executive, directed by their respective constituents. The problem of wanton trashing will be curtailed only when the administration, faculty, and students communitively decide that, regardless of motive, no action of this type is justifiable."