

A SMALL VICTORY

A significant victory has emerged out of the frustration and impotence pervading the movement at Stanford. SRI has terminated its use of the Stanford Computation Center.

The announcement was made Wednesday by Stanford Provost William Miller in response to the Inquisition's demands of February 3. He also indicated that information concerning utilization of the Computation Center by non-University organizations will be made public. SRI was but one of these organizations, the release of this information will enable the Stanford Community to consider in each case whether Stanford facilities are being applied toward enhancement of life or toward efficiency in death.

But knowledge is not sufficient to extract Stanford from its "neutral" role of the West Point of technological warfare. If the University resources are to be used for the betterment of human welfare, then the Stanford Community must have the power over those resources. That power presently exists with the Stanford Trustees, whose primary allegiance is to the military-industrial complex they built and run.

At a meeting Wednesday night of the Committee on Research of the Academic Senate, Earl Cilley, Stanford Vice President for Research, discussed SRI's War Game, which had been running on the Stanford Computer. He indicated that this project, which was directed toward formulating assault plans for amphibious warfare, fell within the existing University guidelines for acceptability of research projects. These guidelines, which were put into effect after the April 3rd Movement, prohibit classified research by stipulating that publications resulting from research projects must have unrestricted distribution, and the project must not require a security clearance for any of its researchers.

But the research guidelines allow a wide range of projects that fall under the disguise of basic research but are of little interest to anyone but the Department of Defense, which is all too willing to supply the money. The research policy was deliberately formulated in vague terms. Ostensibly this relieves the University of the necessity of making "moral judgments" regarding the research underway within its laboratories; in practice it ensures that the University will continue to play a vital role in supporting the militaristic and imperialist policies of present-day America.

Cilley acknowledged that under the existing research policy, SRI's War Game could be conducted by a Stanford University researcher in a Stanford University laboratory--notwithstanding that an overwhelming majority of the Stanford Community would surely find such a situation intolerable.

We have achieved a victory: SRI has discontinued its use of the Stanford Computation Center--a use which it obviously had found advantageous--in response to pressure from the Community. But ahead of us lies the struggle to eliminate all DoD research from Stanford----\$14 million of research for the Department of Death eagerly pursued in the name of "academic freedom."

The New Left Project