

P.O. Box 471 Cooper Station  
New York, N.Y. 10003

February 5, 1975

TO ALL ORGANIZERS

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed is a copy of a report by Mark Ugolini,  
Washington, D.C. YSA organizer, on the recent "Assembly  
to Save the Peace Accords" conference held in D.C.  
January 25-27.

Comradely,

*Malik Miah*

Malik Miah  
YSA National Office

January 28, 1975

Dear Comrades,

This letter is to report briefly on the "Assembly to Save the Peace Accords" that was held here in Washington on January 25-27.

The Assembly was larger than the organizers expected. About 1,600 paid the at least \$5 needed to register, and close to 3,000 attended a major public rally at which McGovern spoke. Following the rally most of those present marched to the White House for a rally at which Tom Hayden and Daniel Ellsberg lauded the accomplishments of the antiwar movement. The central theme of the march was "Stop Funding the War."

Religious pacifists and liberals played the dominant role in organizing the Assembly. The central sponsoring groups were American Friends Service Committee, Indochina Peace Campaign, and the Coalition to Stop Funding the War, a group of lobby-oriented antiwar liberals. The idea of the Assembly was not that it would serve as a place to discuss proposals for action, but that it would be the focus of a weekend of lobbying efforts directed against the continued funding of the Thieu and Lon Nol regimes.

While the Assembly's name mentioned the Paris agreement, there was little discussion of the agreement in the Assembly. Comrades reported few instances of hostility toward Militant salespeople, and most of the young participants were former rank-and-file activists in the antiwar movement. Those with organizational affiliations were mainly associated with religious groups.

There was no real political debate at the conference, and there was no time for any such discussion. All of the plenary sessions were filled with entertainment, movies or well-known speakers, ranging from Abzug to I. F. Stone to McGovern to Bishop Moore to Vietnamese Buddhists. There was quite a bit of talk among the pacifist speakers about a Vietnamese "third force" consisting of "non-communist, democratic elements." The mood projected by the speakers ranged from urgency to complacency. Fred Branfman of the Indochina Resource Center told the audience that he expected that the accords would be implemented "in the immediate future." One of the Vietnamese called for a neutralist government in Vietnam.

A broad range of former PCFJ leaders attended the conference, but seemed to play little role. This was especially true of the members of the Communist Party who were present. They seemed there strictly as observers, and expressed to the SWP and YSA members there some mild disapproval of the exclusively lobbying focus of the Assembly. However, none of those present had any proposal for any type of mass action.

The only ongoing action proposals were for lobbying, use of replicas of "tiger cages" as an educational tool, and other small-scale educational or witness-type activities.

According to the credentials report, about 60 percent of the conference was between 20 and 35, 30 percent under 20 and the rest over 35. The conference was virtually all white, and the overwhelming majority of those attending came from outside the Washington, D.C. area.

We sold over 150 Militants, distributed 1,000 copies of the Bill of Rights for Working People and sold a good amount of Pathfinder literature. A considerable amount of material was distributed on the Boston conference.

Comradely,  
Mark Ugolini