14 Charles Lane New York, N.Y. 10014 May 24, 1973

TO ORGANIZERS AND ANTIWAR DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

The Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice (PCPJ) has issued a call for a demonstration in Washington on June 15. According to publicity the theme of the demonstration will be, "Funds for Life not Death." The major slogans of the demonstration will be, "Restore Budget Cuts; Cut Military Spending; End U.S. Intervention in Indochina; Stop Bombing Cambodia."

The National Peace Action Coalition (NPAC) and the Student Mobilization Committee (SMC) have issued statements welcoming the initiative of PCPJ in calling the action and urging people to come to Washington on June 16. To date PCPJ has refused to consider co-sponsorship of the demonstration or agree to a truly unified action in regard to decision making about such things as parade route, speakers, or marshalling. In its press statement NPAC expressed hope that the demonstration would be a truly unified one as was January 20. NPAC will continue to press PCPJ to make the action a unified one.

While PCPJ's present focus for the action is around the war we can expect them to move in the direction of a multi-issue demonstration. Regardless of this and whether or not PCPJ finally agrees to discussions on the character of the action, NPAC and SMC can influence its character by mobilizing people to come to demand "Out Now."

The continued publicity around the bombing of Cambodia along with the debate going on in Congress in regard to cutting off funds for the war, make June 16 an opportune date. The action will also take place in the context of the spreading Watergate scandal. Exposés are daily appearing in the press detailing government harassment of the antiwar movement. NPAC and SMC are in the process of compiling material on the history of this harassment with the idea of projecting such things as movement press conferences in protest.

While we expect the June 15 demonstration to be modest in size we think that it provides an important opportunity, as did the actions around Thieu's visit, to make the point that the war is not over, and organize people in visible protest against the war.

NPAC and SMC will be building the action under the slogans of "Stop the Bombing of Cambodia; U.S. Entirely Out of Southeast Asia Now!" The two organizations are urging their local affiliates to call together meetings as rapidly as possible to discuss out how to relate to June 16, and begin getting out publicity on the action. The best way of relating to the date will vary from area to area. In some places like Chicago plans include sending a number of people to Washington and having a send-off picket line or rally the night before. In other areas a picket line or rally on June 16 might be appropriate.

NPAC and SMC will of course want to contact PCPJ affiliates that exist in their areas to discuss having unified activity. In addition to the obvious necessity for the movement to get together around a common date, it is particularly important that a united defense effort for these demonstrations be organized, given the recent actions and threats of the National Caucus of Labor Committees.

Antiwar directors should keep the national office informed of plans for June 16 in their area.

Wendy Reissner 33

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SWP Antiwar Director