at the final plenary session

NATIONAL WORKSHOP CONFERENCE

Washington, D.C. May 29-21, 1967

1. DRAFT RESISTANCE Proposed and accepted that:

A. The Mobilization Committee call for local anti-draft demonstrations to take place in many cities on a nationwide level on a selected date this summer, preferably July 4.

B. The Mobilization Committee initiate a statement urging draft refusal, to be signed

- by prominent national personalities.

 C. The Mobilization Committee go on record as opposed to the draft and favoring resistance to it; that the Committee take a stand in defense of all draft resisters regardless of the form their resistance takes; that the Committee make its facilities available for liaison and coordination by those working to resist the draft.
 - D. The Mobilization Committee support the Puerto Rican people's struggle against the draft, as expressed in a resolution submitted to the draft resistance workshop.

2. NON-VIOLENT STRATEGY AND TACTICS Proposed and accepted that:

- A. A target city be chosen for a non-violent confrontation in the summer or early fall, in order to create a social drama that could become the object of national focus; Washington, D.C., is recommended as the target city for the following reasons: (1) it is the center of political and military power; (2) it is the focus of national and international attention, providing good publicity; (3) it offers the means for the expression of discontent by an otherwise disenfranchised community. It is thus recommended that in consultation with the local Washington Mobilization Committee,
- activity begin this summer to develop movement towards this confrontation.

 B. The Mobilization Committee urge the development of local community education, recruitment, organization, and confrontation projects in addition to the above national action, both to sustain and further local development and to reinforce the national action.
- C. The Mobilization Committee give a vote of confidence to the non-violent leadership of the Committee to act in conjuction with the local Washington leadership to develop the specific strategy required for a successful confrontation.

Proposed and accepted that:

- A. The Mobilization Committee call a national demonstration in Washington, D.C., with the theme, "Support our boys in Vietnam -- Bring them home," along with other themes; that the demonstration be international in scope and call for supporting demonstrations in other countries; that the date of October 21 be set, with the understanding that if practical necessity dictates, it can be revised; that the date be finalized on the basis of consultation with the Washington peace movement, leaders of the black community, and key union leaders, within 30 days.
- B. The Mobilization Committee promote local actions on July 4, August 6, and September 4 (Labor Day) to help build for the fall demonstration.

4. STRUCTURE Proposed and accepted that:

- A. The national Administrative Committee of the Mobilization Committee, which is the governing body of the Mobilization, consist of one representative from every national organization, one representative from each major metropolitan area, the three coordinators of the Student Mobilization Committee, the vice-chairmen, plus other persons prominent in the peace movement, as deemed necessary by the Administrative Committee.
- B. Within the next two weeks the national Administrative Committee meet and choose officers and a national working committee. The working committee would meet weekly, or whenever necessary.
- C. For any given project of the Mobilization Committee, a coordinating committee be set up consisting of officers and staff of the national Mobilization Committee and of the local Mobilization Committee.

5. POLITICAL ACTION Due to lack of time both the majority and minority proposals were tabled until a conference to be convened by the national Administrative Committee in the near future. Proposed:

- A. That the Mobilization Committee encourage and support the organization of referenda against the war in Vietnam wherever possible in the coming elections; that it make available to communities the information on legal and practical experiences of the areas that have already conducted such referenda; that the Mobilization Committee call for a mational referendum on the war.
- B. That because of the diversity of opinion within the Mobilization Committee on other forms and types of electoral action, the Mobilization Committee take no formal stand on any particular candidacies, parties, or perspectives. The MOBILIZER will urge reports and will publicize for the information of the movement the various electoral projects of the different sectors of the anti-war coalition.
- C. Minority proposal: that the Mobilization Committee establish a political action committee to work towards the setting up of an independent candidacy for president. in 1968, heading a "Peace and Freedom" ticket.

6. VETERANS MEMORIAL DAY DEMONSTRATION Proposed and accepted that: The Mobilization Committee support the Memorial Day demonstration in Washington, D.C., organized by Veterans for Peace in Vietnam and Veterans and Reservists to End the War in Vietnam.

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7. BLACK CAUCUS Submitted a statement outlining four minimum proposals. The substance of the proposals, i.e., that the Mobilization Committee must work towards increasing the participation of black and other minority groups both in its decision-making bodies and on its staff, was accepted by acclamation. (Statement from the Black Caucus appears below.)

Also accepted by acclamation was the proposal that the Mobilization Committee recognize the statement from the black student caucus at the Student Mobilization Committee conference in Chicago, May 13-14.

STATEMENT FROM THE BLACK CAUCUS

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153 To succeed in rallying the ghetto communities to the common cause of an immediate end to the war in Vietnam, it will be necessary to act positively on the following minimum proposals:

- 1. On the advisory board, the executive board and among the national officers, there needs to be at least half from the minority community (if there are twenty members of the executive board, then 7-9 should be drawn from the grass roots Black community).
 - 2. Staff members should be composed on the basis of what is required to organize the communities. The staff should have adequate numbers of Black people; at least half of the staff should be from other than white communities.
 - 3. Funds afforment should reflect the same concept. Also, special local community programs for non-white minorities in ghetto areas such as Black, Puerto Rican, and Indian communities should be set up.
 - 4. The Mobilization Committee should recognize that the New York Times is not the most effective way of communicating with the Black community, and therefore, when placing newspaper ads, should make it a point to place ads in publications such as the Amsterdam News, Muhammad Speaks, the Pittsburgh Courier, the Afro-American, the Chicago Defender, the China Puerto Rican Liberator, and in Mexican publications. production of the second secon

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Spring Mobilization Committee NATIONAL WORKSHOP CONFERENCE Washington, DC 20-21 May 1967

RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO

In 1917, the U.S. imposed the draft on the Puerto Rican people against their will as it was expressed in the unarimous rejection of the Selective Service Act (Jones Act) by the Puerto Rican Chamber of Deputies. In the First and Second World Wars and the Korean and Vietnamese Wars, the Puerto Ricans have been forced to serve in the army of a foreign power which holds their country under political and economic domination. In those wars, the Puerto Ricans have suffered, similarly to the Blacks and other nationalities, in great disproportion to the total number they comprise of U.S. citizens.

Today, the U.S. army as claiming in terms proportional to population, nearly three Puerto Rican dreftees to each North American. The Puerto Ricans are used as cannon fodder against the Vaetnamese, who are struggling for the same things the Puerto Ricans are: self determination and full independence from U.S. domination and intervention.

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The Puerto Rican people have not kept silent. Under the leadership of the Movement for Independence (MPI) and the University Students Federation (FUPI), nearly 1,000 young Puerto Ricans of draft age recently declared publicly their determination not to serve in the ranks of the U.S. army "under any circumstances." Some thirty-five were indicted on the grounds of "violating the Selective Service Act," but under the impact of tremendous popular support, their indictments were temporarily dismissed. At the moment there are seven new indictments pending in the Federal Courts.

The Conference welcomes and supports the struggle of the Puerto Rican people against the U.S. colonial draft and against U.S. aggression in Vietnam. Moreover, it understands that the establishment of greater links between the Puerto Rican freedom fighters and the anti-war and progressive forces in the U.S. can enhance the strength and potentialities of both.

STATEMENT PROM THE BLACK STUDENT CAUCUS

Student Mobilization Committee Conference
Chicago, May 14, 1967

People have been talking about a "coalition" between the peace movement and the civil rights movement. Glory Hallelujah. We think it is time to define exactly what this means.

The Black students seeing a direct relationship between the struggle of the Vietnamese people to achieve self-determination and the Black man's struggle to attain
equality in America, feel that a bigorous support and participation in all of those
activities which lend to the cessation of the American military aggression in
Vietnam are not only compatible but coincident with the aspirations of Black people
in America.

To end one aspect of the racist and genocidal tendencies of this country is not enough. The peace movement has as its primary purpose to end the war in Vietnam. As a secondary aim it should support and defend Black people in the U.S. in their struggle for liberation. On the other hand, we, as Black people have, because of the structure of this country's system, as our primary interest, our people's liberation. This means organizing Black people in the ghetto.

For instance, we assert and uphold the right of Black people to armed self-defense. We take this position knowing that Black people have been continuously oppressed through armed aggression ranging from racist attacks by mobs to the use of National Guardsmen and police departments throughout the dountry. In particular, recent events that we cite include (1) the statement by the National Rifle Association that their armed membership could serve to combat "urban disorders"; (2) the existence of armed neo-facist Minutemen and older organizations like it; (3) the use of arma by the National Guard that recently killed a Jackson, Mississippi, Afro-American youth. We unequivocally support the demonstration by armed members of the Black Panther party that took place in Sacramento, California. We feel that the right of Black people to armed self-defense is not only guaranteed by the Constitution, but morally wight and absolutely necessary.

In our actions to encourage and assist Black youth in refusing the draft, we contend that our struggle is here in the U.S. against the same forces that attempt to oppress the people of Vietnam, recognizing that these forces repress Black liberation here and around the world. We feel that it is hypocritical for the peace movement to concern itself with the liberation and self-determination of the Vietnamese people and not be concerned cimultaneously with the liberation and self-determination of Black people here in America. We feel that whites in the peace movement should organize white workers and the middle class in an all-out fight against facism, at the same time educating them to be sensitive to the problem of oppressed people of color around the world. We urge you to work for the revolutionary change that would be amenable to all races.

Conclusively, one of the main problems facing Black activists in the country is lack of a definition relating the merger of the peace and civil rights movements. Thus far, the relationship has been seen as civil rights forces supplementing peace efforts rather than the formation of a coalition of two equally important facets of revolutionary activity. If the civil rights movement is expected to expend time and energy developing creative alternatives to the racist war in Vietnam, the peace movement must be expected to spend equal time seeking creative alternatives to racist wars here at home. To speak syllogistically, we would rather not see the tropps brought home if it means 400,000 trained white killers returning to an America which still gives a mandate to white folks killing Black people. The reason the peace movement and civil rights movement are merged is because of the realization that the war was spawned by the same white arrogance and egotism which allows lynchings in Philadelphia, Mississippi and Cicero, Illinois. We expect that the peace movement will address itself not only to the war in Vietnam but also the war which is being fought in America between white imperialists and Black militants.

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