

SMC meeting maps plans; assault by PL rebuffed

By CAROLINE LUND

BOSTON, May 24 — A national steering committee meeting of the Student Mobilization Committee met here today to discuss the current stage of the student strike upsurge and future perspectives. The meeting, held at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was attended by some 230 antiwar and student strike leaders from across the country. It suffered a disruption at one point when a gang organized by the Progressive Labor Party assaulted the meeting in an unsuccessful attempt to break it up. Despite the disruption, the discussions were fruitful.

The body decided that a key task for the SMC in the coming three weeks would be to build the conference called by the Cleveland Area Peace Action Council for the June 20 weekend. The conference will discuss the date and character of mass antiwar actions in the fall. After the conference the SMC will hold another expanded steering committee meeting to continue the discussion which was begun today.

The May 30 demonstrations were the second key focus of activity endorsed by the SMC meeting. Don Gurewitz, in his opening report on general perspectives, said he thought the May 30 demonstrations should be seen as a turning point for the student movement.

"We've got to be audacious," he said. "We've got to go all out now to involve

the labor movement, the Black and Brown communities, the GIs and other sectors of the population in the antiwar movement. The question now is not *whether* the rest of the population will explode against the war, but *when* they will do so."

The violent attack on the meeting was made by an organized gang of 55-60 members of the Progressive Labor Party and Students for a Democratic Society who attempted to storm into the room. The meeting was successfully defended. The attackers were stopped short of the door, and they soon dispersed realizing the impossibility of obtaining their objective. The meeting was then able to resume for another two hours to complete its business.

In the course of the attack, John McCann, the coordinator of the Massachusetts Vietnam Referendum 70, suffered a broken nose, severe injuries to both hands, and serious injuries to one eye. He was admitted to the hospital. Five other SMCers, less seriously injured, were treated at the campus infirmary or hospital and released.

Individuals from the following groups volunteered to participate in the defense of the meeting: Boston Female Liberation, Beacon Hill Support Group, Draft Information Center, Workers League, Citizens for Participation Politics, the Young Socialist Alliance, the Socialist Workers Party, International Socialists, and Susan Stewart from the National Organization for Women.

The SMC meeting passed a motion in response to the assault, stating: "The National Steering Committee of SMC calls for a nationwide campaign against the use of violence within the movement and for the right of all groups to hold meetings without disruption.

"The SMC also calls upon Students for a Democratic Society and Progressive Labor Party to repudiate the attack made upon the national SMC steering committee meeting by members of PL and SDS."

Sales in South never bigger!

ATLANTA, May 23 — Over 800 copies of the special issue of *The Militant* carrying first-hand accounts of the police killings in Augusta and Jackson were sold here today. It was the largest *Militant* sale ever in Atlanta, and supporters indicated that even more could have been sold — had they been available.