

Report to the NEC on the Student Mobilization Committee, Apr. 28, 1967

by Gus H.

Reports received in the National Office and by the Student Mobilization Committee indicate there will be a very good representation from local areas at the May 13-14 conference in Chicago. New York, Boston, and Detroit among others are planning to bring busloads. Philadelphia is organizing a large car caravan.

The conference will be held at the University of Chicago.

At the conference itself we will want to support the following perspectives:

- a. retain immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam as the position of the Student Mobilization Committee. The most likely variant is adoption of the essence of the "Call to Vietnam Week" as the statement of aims.
- b. re-affirm the principle of non-exclusion within the general antiwar movement. As the movement tends to broaden out, it remains necessary to re-educate it on this principle.
- c. outline a program of summer activities which can mobilize support, keep the political direction of the Student Mobilization Committee healthy, and can consolidate and build the committee as the national student antiwar organization. This would involve a strengthening of the national office, publication of brochures, a regular Student Mobilizer, buttons, etc.
- d. recommend from the Student conference to the Spring Mobilization conference a national mass protest action to take place in the fall.

While the CP objects to the radical political character of the student committee, the large-scale appeal of the committee will probably force them to go along and participate within it. Right now, though, they are evidently adopting a wait-and-see attitude.

Although many SDS members identify with the Student Mobilization Committee, the top leadership has been hostile, tending to view it as a competitor. Sections of the leadership, however, have recently expressed a friendly interest in the conference and may encourage a certain degree of SDS participation in the conference.

One question on which there has been discussion among the main forces in the SMC is the structure of a national steering committee following the conference. As yet, the question is still undecided, with the CP pushing for a small policy making body not broadly representative of the forces which have actually built the SMC.

Please let the YSA national office know who will be attending the conference from your area. Also, send in reports on local developments.