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SITUATION INFORMATION REPORTHIGHLIGHTS

I. Anti-Draft Week. --Next week (16-22 March) the big three of the anti-war protest, the New Mobe, the Vietnam Moratorium Committee and the Student Mobe will stage Act II of the winter-spring end-the-war offensive.

The New Mobe, a supercilious peacenik cum communist conglomerate of over 100 organizations ranging from the hyper-naive (American Council of Churches) to the doctrinaire dedicated radical revolutionary (CPUSA) appears to be playing the leading role in the broad protest community. The New Mobe's vocal and more violence prone little brother, the Student Mobe, is directing its attention to the college and high school campuses. The Student Mobe, incidentally, is the child of multistriped communism. It was conceived in the mid 1960's and sired jointly by the CPUSA, the SWP and the PLP. Two years later the CPUSA opted for increased emphasis on its very own W. E. B. du Bois Club, the Maoist PLP felt more mileage was being obtained through infiltration of the radical SDS and the Trotskyite SWP moved into sole control and domination of the then college campus oriented Student Mobe. The "Trot" catalyst was the party youth appendage, the Young Socialist Alliance.

Today all major Student Mobe leadership posts are held by YSA'ers and most of these YSA'ers also hold credentials in the parent party. The Student Mobe is probably the largest radical political entity on the American college scene today. It must be conceded that the Socialist Workers Party has shown the most realistic and imaginative organizing and structuring capacity among the old left monoliths in infiltrating and involving the university and high-school student community. The SWP provides money, philosophy, and guidance. The YSA plays the traditional revolutionary vanguard role among the youth, and the Student Mobe provides the mass movement support by rallying to the classic "worthy cause." Unfortunately, too many Student Mobe joiners just don't read the facts, know the history, or realize the super dupe-sucker role to which they have been relegated by a mere handful of talented and crafty professional revolutionaries.

The VMC's piece of next week's action is, compared to the others, minor. The VMC'ers for all of their rhetoric are showing signs of being upstaged by the more sophisticated communist organizers and agitators. The names of VMC leaders who were practically household words last October and even into the mass November demonstrations (Sam Brown, David Hawk, Marge Sklencar, etc.) are seldom mentioned this time.

The national press seems once again to have been co-opted into fulfilling the propaganda and publicity requirements of the anti-war coalition leftists. The lengthy reporting of the statements of such fuzzywits as former Alaska Senator Ernest Gruening, such radicals as Women's Strike for Peace' Cora Weiss, a raft of perverse peacenik preachers, hippies, and activists such as Tony Avirgan have sounded a clarion call to revolutionary impressionables.

The entire week is to be devoted to anti-draft activities in 100 major American cities in an effort to close down, at least for a day, most of the country's 4100 draft boards. The tactics will be mostly traditional but a few new wrinkles will also be introduced this time. Protest leaders in leaflets and brochures have distinguished between legal actions and illegal ones so as to provide a means for all desiring to participate to "do their thing." There will be placard carrying picket marches, "haunt-ins" and "comply-ins" (legal) and civil disobedience "sit-ins," "chain-ins" (illegal) and "confrontation dialogues" with draft board officials and workers (illegal if it obstructs the business of the board.)

The so called "comply-ins" will take protest and obstruction advantage of obscure tenets of the Selective Service law to paralyze local boards with unneeded and unwanted (but technically required) information. All male citizens born after August 30, 1922, should be registered. Additionally, registrants are required to inform their draft board of all things which may affect their classification. Boards are required to keep everything sent and add it to the registrant's file. A New Mobe leaflet recommends mailing (registered mail--return receipt requested) daily reports on the registrant's health, bibles and books that have influenced the registrant's thinking (for a possible claim to conscientious objector status) and other large objects. The objective is to drown the draft board in its own bureaucracy.

The "haunt-in" is designed to harass members of local draft boards. Demonstrators are urged to determine where board members work and live and to picket them all hours of the day and night.

Other activities on the week's agenda will be organizing a draft card turn-in and conducting a "we won't go" petition circulation among those too young to be draft card carriers. Campus military recruiters are probably in for a week of nastiness. Petitions signed by as many draft resisters as can be obtained will also be turned into the Senate Armed Services Committee for its meeting scheduled later in March. The guerrilla theater will stage the usual bizarre and immature (and according to the critics not particularly well-acted) dramas in front of selected boards, mainly on March 16. The groups will portray the condemning of boards as public health hazards and place them in quarantine. New Mobe leadership has also suggested setting up a lottery at a public rally to decide which local board or recruiting center to block. Washington area campuses will host "teach-ins" on the 17th.

Although next Thursday (the 19th) is the designated major protest day when a march on the National Selective Service headquarters will take place at about noon (and a coffin filled with draft cards will be presented to Acting Director Colonel Dee Ingold) activities will be conducted the entire week. Women's Strike for Peace will demonstrate at the White House on the 18th.

Next week's demonstrations are a sure bet to produce violence in some areas. The interruption of induction processing on March 18 is also planned and will pit draftees against activists. Although spokesmen for the New Mobe and Student Mobe are preaching non-violence and state that they will not forcefully enter draft boards or destroy draft records, the climate for violence has been created by the radical leadership and broadcasted by the legitimate and underground press. The organizing machinery at the Washington headquarters is well experienced and relatively efficient. Leaders predict that several thousand demonstrators will be arrested. The prediction will probably be accurate. There will also be bruises, black eyes and bloodied heads, mostly among the sheep, few among the shepherds.

II. Age of the Bomb. -- The classical tool of anarchy, the bomb, is being used with increasing and alarming frequency in recent weeks. Broadly reported in the media in past days have been the old Cambridge Courthouse and the Featherstone autoblast, both probably connected with the Rap Brown prosecution underway (but presently recessed until 17 March) at Bel Air. Probably of greater significance, however, was the apparent accidental self-destruction of the SDS bombworks at New York. Two very prominent new lefters were directly involved, namely Cathy Wilkerson, long-time activist (much of her efforts and energies spent in the Washington area) in whose father's house the slipshod manufacture was in progress, and Ted Gold. Gold, blown to bits in the basement, was a confederate of Mark Rudd at the Columbia University riot in 1968. He later, it seems, found Weatherman not radical enough (or violent enough) and became associated with the "Mad Dogs," a manifestly extremist splinter from Weatherman, principally known to exist in the New York area. One other victim so far has been dug from the debris along with SDS radical literature, dozens of dynamite sticks and hundreds of cap fuses. Cathy and a girlfriend escaped the building, apparently after the first blast but before the entire house was engulfed. Reportedly one of the two women was naked and the other partially so.

Actually, bombs have been going off for months now but isolated enough so as not to attract much national attention. Earlier in the winter there were a few explosions in New York, Oakland, Pittsburgh and Seattle. During the third week in February, however, many American cities were terrorized by planned and concerted bombings in nearly every major city. Hardest hit were New York and the San Francisco Bay area. In New York a police station and a Navy recruiting office were fire-bombed. Four Molotov cocktails were hurled at the home of Justice John Murtagh, presently presiding judge at the trial of the 13 Panthers. At Berkeley, New Leftists and street people went on a destructive rampage throwing bombs at the police station and damaging 16 police cars and seriously injuring a police officer. In the Haight-Ashbury section of San Francisco a precinct house was bombed, spraying glass and steel splinters into a room occupied by 12 policemen. Nine men were injured and one later died from a metal fragment that entered his eye and tore into his brain. The underground Berkeley Barb, after the rash of bombings, observed "All the cops around Park Station (Haight-Ashbury) wear the faces of men at war. . . . The faces at Park Station are the faces of American patrols coming back from a night with the Viet Cong. The face of being struck with a war where the natives used to be friendly. But this war is at home." See 15 March Addendum, p. 9.

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CALENDAR OF TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Asterisked items are either reported for the first time, or contain additions or changes to previously reported activities.

*13 March to 28 April, Washington, D. C.

Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam and the Pacifist Fellowship of Reconciliation are still carrying on their Lent to Passover fast and picket of the White House. The event which has now lost its newsworthiness is no longer being publicized in the press.

March, San Jose, California

The Radical Action Movement faction of SDS at San Jose State College reportedly is planning to close the Student Union there during industrial recruiting (Career Days) in March.

*14 March to 1 May, California

The University of California Ecology Action organization at the Berkeley campus will stage a "survival walk" from Sacramento to Los Angeles. Between 100 and 200 marchers are expected to participate with other persons joining for rallies along the way. A major stop is planned at Delano, center of the chronic grape pickers labor strife. Presently, along the ecology line, Mexican-American grape pickers are protesting the use of pesticides in the field. Other stopping points along the way will be Stockton, Modesto, Merced, Fresno, Visalia-Tulare, and Bakersfield. The "survival walk" will terminate on Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, probably on 1 May.

*15 March, California - See Addendum, p. 9.

16-22 March, Nationally

(See Highlights -- Anti-Draft Week) Although individually sponsoring separate activities, the three main coalition umbrellas of anti-war, anti-establishment dissidents: the New Mobilization

Committee, the Student Mobilization Committee, and the Vietnam Moratorium Committee: are jointly supporting one another's actions and with heavy overlapping of membership and leadership, most activities will represent combined effort. As part of the "back to the grass roots" winter-spring planned activities, March is intended to be highlighted by concentrating on anti-draft actions with the emphasis in the week of 16-22 March. The 19th has been selected as the day of large scale, non-violent confrontations with draft board employees.

*17 March, Bel Air, Maryland

The H. Rap Brown trial scheduled to resume after a one week recess. See Highlights--Age of the Bomb. *1400*

*20 March, Asheville, Alabama

Reportedly the United Klans of America plans a massive rally at the courthouse in protest of Nation of Islam (Black Muslim) activities in St. Clair County. *Monthly White Summary 1/21/68*

21 March, New York City, New York

Women's liberation groups throughout New York are planning a demonstration at Bryant Park to support the legal challenges being brought against New York State abortion laws. *1/21/68*

22-29 March, National

A National Black Referendum on Vietnam has been organized to allegedly determine whether or not Black people favor the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam. According to one piece of organizational literature, "Official voting will begin Palm Sunday, 22 March, and continue daily that entire week, ending on Easter Sunday, March 29, at 2 p.m. Voting stations will be all Black churches participating in the campaign, in every Black community throughout the entire U.S." Supplied by the organizers of the Referendum is a kit of literature giving instructions on propagandizing and conducting the Referendum and expressing a strong stand against the war. The likes of Ossie DAVIS, Julian BOND, LeRoi JONES, Dr. George WILEY, and H. Rap BROWN are on the National Executive Council of the Referendum. Irving DAVIS of SNCC is one of the national program coordinators. *1/21/68*

How many "votes" will be tallied is conjectural but not the result--which will obviously show almost all those voting to be for the ballot's one simple proposition: the total, immediate withdrawal of all American troops and money from Vietnam.

23-26 March - 8:30-10 p.m. EST, National Educational TV

National Educational Television (NET) will devote an unprecedented 6-hour block of prime time March 23-26 for the showing of "Trial--The City and County of Denver vs. Loren R. Watson." The documentary marks the first time that the complete scope of a single trial is examined on an American television program.

The program is broken into four 90-minute portions to correspond with the trial's four days. As a result, the usual NET schedule has been preempted so that these portions may be presented on successive nights (Monday through Thursday) from 8:30-10 p.m. EST.

Loren Watson, the defendant in the trial, was arrested by a Denver patrolman and charged with resisting and interfering with a police officer. "The issue has national implications, involving police and Panthers, the American system and the blackman," notes Don Dixon, NET's director of public affairs programming. "The case is really a microcosm, reflecting one of our country's most critical concerns." The antagonism between Watson and the Denver police forms a subcurrent within the trial and is a basis of Attorney Leonard Davies' defense of Watson.

"We wanted to represent the ritual drama of American justice," says producer Robert M. Fresco. "Therefore, everything within the trial is placed chronologically in the documentary." Within four days, Fresco has interspersed interviews with Watson, Davies, Judge Zita Weinshienk, Assistant City Attorney Wright Morgan, prosecutor in this case, and police officer Robert C. Cantwell, who made the charge against Watson.

NET Journal--"Trial--The City and County of Denver vs. Loren R. Watson" will be seen on most of the public television stations across the U.S. that are interconnected by NET. Local broadcast times and dates may vary, however.

24 March, National

A full-length documentary film, "King: a filmed record... Montgomery to Memphis," will be at approximately 1,000 theaters in 300 cities across the country. A nationwide goal is to raise 5 million dollars for organizations dedicated to fighting the war on poverty, illiteracy and social injustice. All funds collected will go directly to the Martin Luther King Special Fund in Atlanta.

#25-29 March, Denver, Colorado

A major conference of Chicanos will be held in Denver at the end of March. The conference is sponsored by the militant Crusade for Justice, a leading Chicano force in the southwest headed by Corky Gonzalez, and will run from March 25 to 29. Chicano groups are expected from all parts of the country. Puerto Rican activists have also been invited. It is the second such Chicano parley. Last year a Chicano conference in Denver drew 1500 persons. A three day Chicano Youth Conference March 25-27 will open the parley.

On March 28, Chicanos will convene to discuss El Plan de Aztlan which calls for the formation of an independent local, regional and national Chicano political party. A National Congress of Aztlan has been called for March 29. The congress will discuss a program for a nation "autonomously free, culturally, socially, economically and politically." El Plan de Aztlan provides the underlying theme for the conference. The program says that Chicanos "must use their nationalism as the key or common denominator for mass mobilization and organization."

Aztlan is the name that the Aztecs and other Indian tribes used to describe a certain segment of territory to the north of their lands. Chicanos refer today to that section of the southwest in the United States, comprising Arizona, New Mexico and part of Texas, Colorado and California as Aztlan and the home of the Chicano people. "Our struggle then must be control of our Barrios, campos, pueblos, lands, our economy, our culture, and our political life," the plan states. The program says that "economic control of our lives and our communities can only come about by driving the exploiter out of our communities, our pueblos, and our lands and by controlling and developing our own talents, sweat and resources."

Among the positions are community control of the schools, and restitution for past economic slavery, political exploitation, ethnic and cultural psychological destruction, denial of civil and human rights and for "self defense of the community." "Cultural values of our people strengthen our identity and the moral backbone of the movement. Our culture unites and educates the family of La Raza towards liberation with one heart and one mind," the program reads. "Political liberation can only come through an independent action on our part, since the two party system is the same animal with two heads that feeds from the same trough. Where we are a majority we will control; where we are a minority we will represent a pressure group; nationally, we will represent one party--La Familia de La Raza."

The conference will include numerous workshops on social revolution and culture.

*29 March to 3 April, Quebec, Canada

A "Cultural Exchange Meeting" has reportedly been planned to attract anti-establishment students from throughout the world. The gathering will also allegedly include U.S. military personnel who have sought refuge in Canada.

*15 April, Nationwide

April anti-war activities planned by the New Mobe, the Student Mobe and VMC will be the concluding phase of their major three pronged winter-spring offensive. It will center emphasis on taxation for the war, etc. Details of April plans will be reported in subsequent Situation Information Reports.

*Addendum - 15 March, California

The Mendocino County (California) Sheriff on March 12 telexed an all points bulletin warning of a major bomb threat for 15 March. The general prime target is public utilities, presumably in northern California, but the precise target(s) have not been indicated. The sheriff's office at Ukiah has alerted military installations, National Guard units, all law enforcement agencies, utility companies, and major industrial complexes. No further details are known at this time.

SOURCE: Government and news media.
RELIABILITY: Probably true.