

MAYDAY PROPOSAL  
OF THE ANN ARBOR STUDENT AND YOUTH CONFERENCE

The following is the amended proposal of the Seattle-West Coast caucus which was passed by acclamation by the Ann Arbor Student and Youth Conference on February 7, 1971. This proposal and its implementation should be as widely circulated as possible in order to educate the prepare people for the spring offensive against the war.

WE ARE GOING TO STOP IT

We must be serious about implementing the Peace Treaty with the Vietnamese people. Already 73% of the people of the United States favor immediately ending the war, but the government continues to defy these wishes and in fact intensifies the conflict. Thus the people have been forced to design their own treaty and now we must put it into effect. We must end and can end the war now.

WE CAN STOP IT

The movement has the power to bring the war to an end now if it can unify itself to exert maximum pressure. Last spring's response to the Cambodia invasion almost forced Nixon to give up the struggle, but since then the forces opposing the war have been unable to deal with Nixon's new strategy. Yet this strategy depends upon an increasingly shaky base of support -- the mythical silent majority which feels threatened by the disastrous economic effects of our military policy. The rise in taxes, prices and the threat of unemployment have begun to break the complacency of this group. This strengthens the peace movement tremendously and means that the social cost of maintaining the Indochina war is becoming intolerable.

THE PEACE TREATY AND UNITY

Bringing the diverse anti-war groups together requires that they see their common interest. The PEACE TREATY PROVIDES THAT MEANS. It appeals to all age groups and can attract people who have been inactive up until now. Campus and city-wide referendums should be set up and when possible run by the anti-war movement. Special efforts should be made to involve new groups in the implementation of the treaty -- from welfare mothers to church groups. Door-to-door canvassing should have good results in many types of neighborhoods. But young people, especially students, will still have to play the role of catalyst that they have done before. If the peace treaty is to be more than another pointless petition people must see it as something real rather than just another gimmick to give some people a way to workoff frustration. More people than ever are opposed to the war but they are unwilling to go down a blind alley. They must be convinced that they have the power to end the war.