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16 December 1971

WFT # 16

SITUATION INFORMATION REPORT

The culmination of the fall "antiwar offensive" was November 6. The movement spirits are no longer high, as the nationwide fall protest was a failure. The new left it appears can no longer count on the anti-war sentiment to mobilize mass outpourings of citizens.

As for the future, the movement is divided, Rennie Davis says "there is no motion in this country for Vietnam" and has called for a year-long campaign to "Evict Nixon." The Communist Party influenced People's Coalition for Peace and Justice seem to endorse the "Evict Nixon" Plan. The Trotskyite groups, the Socialist Workers Party, and the National Peace Action Coalition still intended to concentrate on their displeasure with the war and having forsaken both Republicans and Democrats long ago will probably support the SWP candidates next November. The New Left is in a period of regrouping and re-evaluating its tactics.

John S. ...

CALENDAR OF TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

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

*16 December, Washington, D.C.

Al Hubbard, a leader of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, has announced that his organization plans to demonstrate at Lafayette Park on the above date to coincide with the annual lighting of the National Christmas tree by President Nixon. According to the VVAW officials, the demonstration is to take the form of a memorial service and between 300-500 participants are expected. The proposed schedule calls for assembly in Lafayette Park during the morning and early afternoon with guest speakers addressing the group between 4:30 and 6 p.m. Following the speeches a vigil will be conducted until midnight. Hubbard has also stated that the VVAW may attempt to defoliate or deface the National Christmas tree on 24 December.

Source: FBI 10/4/3/02

10/2/71

#19-24 December, Woodstock, New York and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point

The Mid-Hudson Non-Violence Center and the Rockland Peace and Life Community has announced their sponsorship of a Christmas "peace walk" during the above indicated period. A group of demonstrators plan to walk from Woodstock to the Military Academy where on Christmas Eve demonstrators plan to enter the chapel at West Point and turn the Christmas Eve service into a peace service.

FBI IN 477297

#22 December--31 January, Valley Forge, Pa. and elsewhere

The VVAW has announced that during this period they will conduct Valley Forge II, a program consisting of civil disobedience by VVAW groups in Valley Forge, Pa.; Chicago, Ill.; Killeen, Texas; and Washington, D.C. A small group of VVAW members plan to meet with unnamed U.S. Congressmen in Washington to gain publicity. They may possibly attempt to handcuff themselves to the Congressmen. A part of this program may consist of an attempt to throw napalm on the National Christmas tree.

FBI IN 465969

#24 December--1 January, Killeen, Texas; Chicago, Ill.; Valley Forge, Pa.; Atlanta, Georgia; and San Francisco, Calif.

The VVAW has announced plans to conduct antiwar protest activities in the cities listed above during this period. Among the activities planned are the following: 1. A non-Christmas dinner in which persons will be charged admission to sit-down at a dinner of empty plates; 2. public donation by VVAW members of blood to blood banks designating its use for the people of the world on Christmas Day; 3. Public testimony of VVAW members on alleged American atrocities committed during past Christmas truces; 4. Civil disobedience (to be performed on Christmas Day); and 5. The establishment of sanctuaries near military bases for servicemen desiring to desert.

FBI IN 477297

#28 December--1 January, Houston, Texas

The Socialist Workers Party, a Trotskyite group, has forbidden its youth group the Young Socialist Alliance to have SWP members address the YSA national convention scheduled on the above dates. It is likely, however, that exceptions to the rule will be made for Linda Jenness and Andrew Pulley, the 1972 presidential and vice-presidential candidates. The conventioners will discuss the role of the Young Socialist Alliance in building the independent and growing women's liberation movement. Delegates will also discuss the campaign for the repeal of all anti-abortion laws.

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#31 December, New York City

The VVAW has recently discussed the possibility of a demonstration

in Times Square, New York City on New Year's Eve. The organization is considering encircling the Allied Chemical Building at 8 p.m. prior to the arrival of the usual large crowd. It is then proposed that a group of vets will unfold a large sign on a nearby building at midnight indicating that those in the crowd are declared prisoners of war. The VVAW believes that a demonstration will require the assistance of other antiwar groups in the New York City area. The VVAW has also tentatively planned a demonstration at the Statue of Liberty sometime during December 1971. Final plans have not been made.

*1 January, Pasadena, California

The militant Red Sun Tribe, a West Coast group composed of radical street people widely credited with bombing the ROTC building on the campus of the University of California at Los Angeles last May, is threatening to conduct a massive demonstration to disrupt the Rose Bowl Parade if the war in Vietnam is not over by 31 December.

*3-9 January, San Antonio, Texas

The National Association of Student Government Presidents announced the formation of the National Youth Caucus designed to be a political force in the 1972 presidential nominating conventions. The caucus which describes itself as non-partisan opposes the re-nomination of President Nixon and the nomination of Senator Henry A. Jackson for President. The first meeting of the caucus was held at Loyola University in Chicago on 3 December at which time it disclosed plans to emphasize political organizing among high school students and its program to elect young delegates to the Democratic and Republican National Conventions. Duane Draper, executive director of the caucus, told a news conference that cities in the South would be a main target because political efforts could have a greater impact there than in the North. The conference has been scheduled on the above dates in San Antonio for students of voting age from that city and from Dallas, Houston, Austin, El Paso, and Corpus Christi. After a follow-up meeting in each city, students are scheduled to begin precinct organizing.

*10 January, Harrisburg, Pa.

The trial is scheduled to begin on the above date for the Rev. Philip F. Berrigan and seven other antiwar activists charged with plotting to destroy government buildings and kidnap Henry A. Kissinger.

*13-16 January, Kansas City, Missouri

A nationwide interreligious movement called the "Ecumenical Witness" is under the sponsorship of 125 Protestant, Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Jewish leaders. The Rev. Robert S. Bilheimer, executive director of the Department of International Affairs of the

National Council of Churches, is coordinator of the movement. Members of this group are concerned with the moral issues in the Indochina War and have gathered in front of the White House to pray for peace. Dr. Bilheimer has announced they will hold a national conference on the above dates.

N.Y.T. 2/9/71

*26 January, Detroit, Michigan

The Michigan Committee to Free Angela Davis and the Young Workers Liberation League (youth organization of the Communist Party, U.S.A.) have announced a joint drive to make January 26 (Angela Davis's birthday), Angela Day. The two groups are calling on the mayor and city council of Detroit to declare the date for Angela Davis Day and make public facilities available. Students of different high schools have agreed to participate and will circulate a petition for the Angela Davis Day and solicit bail for Angela.

Daily News 2/24/71

*31 January, San Jose, California

The trial of Angela Davis has been scheduled to start on the above date. Miss Davis, an avowed Communist and a former philosophy instructor at UCLA is accused of having provided weapons used in the shootout at the Marin County Courthouse in August 1970.

N.Y.T. 2/24/71

*15 April

At the recent PCPJ national coordinators meeting in Chicago, a split occurred between the radical and conservative factions of the organization. The radical faction led by Jay Craven and Tim Butz expressed the opinion PCPJ should engage in disruptive tactics at the 1972 Republican Convention in San Diego and the Democratic National Convention in Miami. The conservative faction led by David Dellinger is opposed to this plan on the grounds PCPJ would lose the support it enjoys from religious pacifist organizations should it participate in such activities. A meeting was held in New York City on 7 December in an attempt to resolve the differences between the two factions which could unite them around a single election year program. PCPJ will concentrate on social and political issues and will not endorse any candidate for the presidency. PCPJ spokesmen believe that in contrast to the NPAC, they have developed close relationships with a wider and more diverse number of groups ranging from the Catholic Left to the Communist Party and including the Fellowship of Reconciliation, War Resisters League, Women Strike for Peace, Womens International League for Peace and Freedom, Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, May Day Collectives, National Welfare Rights Organization, SCLC, and Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

The PCPJ has designated April 15, Tax Day, for demonstrations throughout the country against the war and its tax burden. The character

of their actions are to be determined early next year by a newly elected interim leadership committee.

*16-22 April, New York City

The National Peace Action Coalition held a national convention on the campus of Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland, Ohio on December 4-5. The Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice received an open letter from the NPAC inviting PCPJ to join in the "unity conference" in Cleveland this December. The PCPJ rejected the NPAC's unity offer citing profound political disagreements and what they described as a manipulated approach on the part of NPAC during previous antiwar demonstrations where there was supposed to be joint sponsorship. The PCPJ made a reply in an open letter to the National Peace Action Coalition pointing out the differences between the two groups with PCPJ's multi-issue approach consciously emphasizing the links between war, racism, the wage freeze and other social issues; and NPAC's refusal to support the seven-point peace proposal of the provisional revolutionary government in South Vietnam.

The NPAC has announced plans for their spring offensive to be held in New York City during the period 16-22 April 1972 and a West Coast city which is to be chosen at a later date. The theme of the demonstration reportedly will be the same as that of the past demonstrations: End the war in Vietnam, withdrawal of all troops and stop the bombing.

SOURCE: Government and News Media

RELIABILITY: Probably True

*Guardian 3 Dec 71
Daily Worker 4 Dec 71*