What You Can Do!!

- form a march committee on your campus
- organize debates and discussions on U.S. Vietnam policy
- write letters to local papers and Congressmen
- plan local demonstrations

for more information contact:

Students for a Democratic Society
119 Fifth Ave., New York, NY
I enclose $_____ to support the March
I am interested in helping to organize the March
I am interested in learning more about SDS
Name ___________________________
Address _______________________
School _________________________

March on Washington
to end the war in Vietnam
April 17, 1965

cover design by Vera Williams

students for a democratic society
How long can the Johnson Administration be allowed to pursue this anti-popular, illegal and doomed war in Vietnam?

The current war in Vietnam is being waged in behalf of a succession of un-popular South Vietnamese dictatorships, and in behalf of freedom. No American-supported South Vietnamese regime in the past few years has gained the support of its people, for the simple reason that the people overwhelmingly want peace, self-determination, and the opportunity for development. Americans prosecution of the war has deprived them of all three.

• The war is fundamentally a civil war, waged by South Vietnamese against their government: it is not a "war of aggression." Military assistance from North Vietnam and China has been minimal; most guerrilla weapons are home-made or are captured American arms. The areas of strongest guerrilla control are not the areas adjacent to North Vietnam. And the people could not and cannot be isolated from the guerrillas by forced settlement in "strategic hamlets": again and again Government military attacks fail because the people tip off the guerrillas; the people and the guerrillas are inseparable. Repressive Government policy, each napalm bomb, each instance of torture, creates new guerrillas. Further, what foreign weapons the guerrillas have obtained are small arms, and are no match for the bombers and helicopters operated by the Americans. The U.S. government is the only foreign government that has sent major weapons to Vietnam.

• It is a losing war. Well over half of the area of South Vietnam is already governed by the National Liberation Front—the political arm of the Viet Cong. In the guerrillas the peasants see relief from dictatorial Government agents; from the United States they get napalm, the jellied gasoline that burns into the flesh. The highly touted "counter-insurgency" the U.S. is applying in its "pilot project war" is only new weaponry, which cannot substitute for popular government. Thousands of Government troops have deserted—the traditional signal of a losing counter-guerrilla war. How many more lives must be lost before the Johnson Administration accepts the foregone conclusion?

• It is a self-defeating war. If the U.S. objective is to guarantee self-determination in South Vietnam, that objective is far better served by allowing the South Vietnamese to choose their own government—something provided for by the 1954 Geneva Agreement but sabotaged in 1956 by the American-supported dictator Ngo Dinh Diem and never allowed since. The Diem government, that invited U.S. intervention, was thus illegitimate; having violated the agreement established it. The Vietnamese, North and South, have no taste for Chinese domination; these two countries have fought one another for over a thousand years. Moreover, South Vietnam is not a "domino"—the threat to it is internal, not Chinese, and the greater threat to stability in other Southeast Asian countries is U.S.-inspired provocation of China, not China's own plans.

• It is a dangerous war. Every passing month of hostilities increases the risk of America escalating and winning the war. Since the 1956 U.S.-trained South Vietnamese commando teams have been penetrating North Vietnam, considerably provoking the North Vietnamese. We all know of the presence of American destroyers in the Tonkin Gulf, a body of water surrounded on three sides by North Vietnamese and Chinese territory. How could the United States be if Cuban commandos were being sent into Florida, and Chinese ships were "guarding" Cape Cod Bay?

• It is a war never declared by Congress, although it costs almost two million dollars a day and has cost billions of dollars since the U.S. began its involvement. The facts of the war have been systematically concealed by the U.S. government for years, making it appear as if those expenditures had been helping the Vietnamese people. These factors erode the honesty and decency of American political life, and make democracy at home impossible. We are outraged that two million dollars a day is expended for a war on the poor in Vietnam, while government financing is so desperately needed to abolish poverty at home. What kind of America is it whose response to poverty and oppression in South Vietnam is napalm and deflation, whose response to poverty and oppression in Mississippi is . . . silence?

• It is a hideously immoral war. America is committing pointless murder.

But the signs are plain that Americans are increasingly disaffected by this state of affairs. To draw together, express, and enlarge the number of these voices of protest, and to make this sentiment visible. Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) is calling for a

MARCH ON WASHINGTON TO END THE WAR IN VIETNAM

We urge the participation of all students who agree with us that the war in Vietnam injures both Vietnamese and Americans, and should be stopped.

The March, to be held on Saturday, April 17, 1965, will include a picketing of the White House, a march down the Mall to the Capitol Building to present a statement to Congress, and a meeting with both student and adult speakers. Senator Ernest Gruening of Alaska and journalist I. F. Stone have already agreed to address the body.

Thousands of us can be heard.

We dare not remain silent.