

FEB 5 1973

SFChronicle FEB 5 1973

# A Big Push For Amnesty To Begin

## New York

Anti-war and draft resistance groups, reacting to President Nixon's hard line on the amnesty question, said yesterday they are preparing a large scale, "no strings" attached campaign for amnesty for deserters and draft evaders.

A formal announcement of the campaign will be made today and will include a four-day international conference of Exiles for Amnesty, planned for February 19-22 in Paris.

President Nixon has said he is against offering amnesty for desertion and draft evasion.

Tod Ensign, a lawyer for the Safe Return organization, said the program is designed to win amnesty for those both in and out of the military who have resisted the war, including those serving prison terms for draft evasion.

The Paris conference is expected to be attended by about 25 exiles from Europe and Canada and about 75 representatives of anti-war and resister groups.

Describing the Paris meeting, Ensign said: "We are going to take the exiles' demands and bring them back here to begin work on a broadly based national campaign to win a just amnesty."

He said the conference will not support the proposal for alternate service in exchange for amnesty. "Alternative service maintains the idea that somehow these guys are criminals and that they have to pay," he said.

"We feel it is a punitive proposal and therefore cannot accept it. We will only accept a universal, no-strings amnesty for every category of war resisters," he added. *United Press*