

Washington Peace Plea

An Urgent Stanford Mission

By Jerry Carroll
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Washington

An anxious delegation of 39 students and faculty members from Stanford University spent the day in Washington yesterday conveying their profound fears for the future of the Republic to high government officials.

They trudged through the long, echoing corridors of the Senate and House office buildings, dispatched emissaries to the White House and even carried their warnings to the Pentagon.

An open letter delivered to Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, National Security Affairs Adviser to President Nixon, said that deeper involvement in Cambodia plays into the hands of "extreme leftists" who advocate "an escalated violent response."

"Revolutionary elements have long recognized that destruction of our universities is essential to their plans of national conquest," said the letter. "Events now play into their hands."



UPI Telephoto

Margie Wolf, a member of the Stanford delegation, talked with Kissinger after the meeting.

Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Robert H. Finch and John Ehrlichman, Presidential Assistant for Domestic Affairs, looked on as the delegation handed its letter to Nixon to Dr. Kissinger.

The group questioned Dr. Kissinger for about one hour and will meet formally with Secretary Finch today. Although Finch was present during the Kissinger meeting, he did not participate.

Kissinger "gave us a long, fair hearing although he didn't respond specifically to a lot of questions," Professor Paul Ehrlich said.

Ehrlich said the delegation questioned him about U.S. policy in Asia and that Dr. Kissinger "listened very carefully" to Third World students, who charged U.S. policy is "fighting communism in Asia with napalm and bombs, and fighting communism in Europe with Radio Free Europe."

"He gave us a good listen to," Ehrlich said, "and he explained his position. It was my impression that he has a very different beginning set of assumptions, and he is quite able to argue from that position. But I did feel he was very deeply disturbed about the decision that was made on Cambodia."

The extraordinary two-day mission to Washington to lobby for peace was commissioned by people at Stanford

who fear government officials don't fully understand the huge significance of the campus upheavals.

LISTEN

To everyone who would listen, the students and teachers said the escalating war in Southeast Asia is eating away at the underpinnings of democracy in the United States.

And they warned with impassioned urgency that the pace of the erosion is quickening.

For their part, the lawmakers counseled patience and asked the group — almost begged them — to give Congress time to turn the war around, saying prospects for this are brightening.

"It's almost at the point where students despair of the legitimate political processes," said Eleanor Maccoby, a professor of psychology.

MODERATE

Growing numbers of moderate students are abandoning the middle ground and moving into outright radicalism because of their inability to influence the government, said English Professor William Chace.

And fewer confess to be troubled by the old liberal fears that violence will trigger massive repression from the right wing, he added.

"Students are saying let's have that dog fight and in 20 years we'll make the revolution," Chace said.

Both Chace and Mrs. Maccoby made their remarks at a meeting with Senator Alan Cranston and Representative Don Edwards (Dem-San Jose) attended by a dozen students and teachers.

Over and over again, the Stanford people emphasized that if something isn't done soon to end the war, an entire generation of students will lose its faith in our form of Government.

They pointed out that campus after campus across the

Nation is losing its role as a "bastion for rational discourse" as student rage and frustration mount.

It appeared that the urgency of the warnings voiced by the delegation—comprised of faculty and student moderates—left many of the legislators surprised and shaken.

"I feel terribly frustrated by what you said," admitted Representative Jeffrey Cohelan (Dem-Berkeley), who had been soothing at the start of his meeting with the group.

DESPAIR

Nonetheless, Cohelan, Cranston, Representative Paul McCloskey (Rep-San Mateo) and nine or ten other legislators who met with the delegation pleaded against succumbing to bleak despair.

"That kind of nihilism is not going to allow the Republic to survive," Cohelan said.

"I don't think we can abandon the fight for due process and we have to hold out for the improvement of our institutions," he added.

McCloskey agreed, saying: "We have too many men in Congress who don't belong here."

He and Representative Don Riegle (Rep-Mich.) urged the students opposed to the war to channel their anger toward electing peace candidates in November.

The two of them offered to supply the anti-war forces in this country with a list of hawks — both Republican and Democrat — who could be defeated in the fall.

They also offered to supply the names of legislators who

are straddling the fence on the war for fear of offending their constituents.

Riegle said he has nearly reached the point where — the party be hanged — he will campaign against fellow Republicans if they are for the war.

BATTLE

For his part, McCloskey — who faces a tough primary battle in June — said the significance of an election loss for him wouldn't be lost on the Nixon administration.

"Nixon and Agnew have seen the pluses Reagan has got by taking on the kids in California," he said. Riegle said a defeat of McCloskey would be a shattering blow to the peace wing of the GOP.

Cranston similarly endorsed the ballot box as the only way peace will be won. "Throwing rocks is going to prolong the war and political action will shorten it."

Edwards, a liberal Democrat, seemed less optimistic. "When you read the Gallup poll, you see most American people support stuff that makes your blood boil."

CAMPUS

But, in the final analysis, although the delegation seemed buoyed by all the traditional talk about reform by ballot, most remained unconvinced they'll be able to make any dent back on campus.

"I try these arguments all the time," Paul Ehrlich, the noted expert on population control, told Cohelan, "but

the kids don't give a damn. All we're saying is we're losing our grip."

"From our point of view, things are really desperate," Ehrlich add reflectively.

"I get an awful lot of echoes of the Weimar Republic these days," Cohelan confessed in a reference to the pre-World War II German government toppled by the Nazis.

The delegation will spend another day of lobbying for peace today and will fly back to San Francisco tonight.