

Book Industry Urged to Devote Day to Peace Action

A large group of executives, editors and authors has appealed to the book publishing industry across the country to devote next Wednesday to "positive action for peace" by allowing employes to hold assemblies or lobby for political candidates opposed to the Indochina war.

The move is sponsored by Publishers for Peace, a group organized within the book industry, which announced yesterday that more than 5,000 persons had signed the appeal.

In making the announcement, Christopher Cerf, an editor at Random House and chairman of the group's action committee, said that representatives of the film industry had expressed a desire to join with the publishers on Wednesday and show antiwar films in the theaters of major cities.

Mr. Cerf said that about 1,500 signatures were collected during last week's convention of the American Booksellers Association in Washington. They included owners of book stores, publishers and authors who attended the convention.

A mimeographed flier, widely distributed to the industry by Publishers for Peace, asserted that "at a moment of such national crisis every citizen has not only the right, but the duty, to express himself peacefully, either as a private individual or in concert with his fellow workers."

Mr. Cerf said that "several hundred" employes in the industry had pledged a day of wages for a fund to support peace candidates. He noted that a number of major publishing

houses had already expressed sympathy for the peace action, including Random House, Harper & Row, Farrar, Straus & Giroux and the Viking Press.

To forestall opposition from some managements, Arthur W. Wang, president of Hill & Wang and a founder of Publishers for Peace, has set wires to 60 publishing houses urging them to join in the action. Among those reported to have objected to

the use of their premises for group discussions were Doubleday & Company and the Herst organization, which owns Avon Books.

Peter Mayer, publisher of Avon Books, is one of the key organizers of Wednesday's action. Others are: Andre Schiffrin, editorial director of Pantheon; Theodore Solotaroff, editor of the New American Review; Richard W. Baron, pub-

lisher of Richard W. Baron Books, and Mark Jeffer, vice president and editorial director of Bantam Books Inc.

In New York, the group has organized an afternoon program of seminars at the Community Church, 40 East 35th Street, with a group of scholars on Asian affairs.

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