

Phone Pipeline on Troop Buildup

Cambridge, Mass.

A handful of anti-war activists, drawn together in the past week by the escalation of hostilities in Indochina, has established a telephone network to monitor the buildup of American forces.

Operating from offices of other anti-war groups to which most of them also belong, the ad hoc committee on military buildup has supplied to news media since last Saturday detailed information on the buildup of United States forces intended to counter the current North Vietnamese offensive.

Information provided by the committee, and later confirmed by independent sources, includes movement of ships, men and planes from bases in Florida, Virginia, California and Hawaii and stepped-up activity at bases in the Philippines and in Japan.

The Pentagon will not confirm troop movements. Some of the group's information cannot be confirmed. But much of it has been.



Anti-war activists discussed their phone net at Cambridge, Mass., to monitor troop buildups

AP Wirephoto

The information disseminated around-the-clock by the anti-war activists comes from sources at coffee houses and anti-military movements near military bases in this country and abroad. Much of the material is supplied by draftees and other military men who privately

tell anti-war activists everything they know, the committee says.

"We are doing this so people will know what is happening," one committee member said.

"If they know the real truth, maybe they'll know what we are really doing

about Vietnam."

Running a telephone bill to what they say is more than \$8000 in a week the committee says it has learned that 25 ships, 486 planes and 30,650 U.S. military men have been sent from bases around the world to Indochina.

The committee came into being last Saturday when George Stein, a newsmen at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology campus radio station, read a new account of a transfer of men from a Kansas base to Southeast Asia.

Intrigued by the story, Stein notified friends who

land convention of persons who operate coffee houses and generally support anti-war movements in areas around military bases.

From that meeting, Stein and six others obtained telephone numbers of people involved in similar anti-military efforts at most U.S. bases in this country and in Thailand, Japan and Hawaii.

Ed Murray, one member of the committee, was asked whether the group's activities left it open to criticism that it was performing a disservice or aiding U.S. enemies.

Murray said committee members "will not give out, nor do we want to accept, any type of classified information. To the best of our knowledge, everything we've given out is unclassified."

Associated Press

were gathered in Portsmouth, N.H., for a New Eng-