

By JUAN M. VASQUEZ
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WASHINGTON, April 24 — With the help of some telephones and a widespread network of friends, a group of antiwar activists has become a novel source of information on the military activity involving Vietnam.

Calling themselves the Ad Hoc Military Build-up Committee, the group has been gathering and disseminating information on American troops and supply movements to Southeast Asia since April 8.

Members of the committee said their sources, for the most part, were antiwar servicemen and civilians in the G. I. coffeehouse movement.

While their information has not always been correct, it has often been close to the mark.

On April 13, for example, the committee told national wire services that an Air Force reconnaissance group at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii had been "drawing up extra large targetting charts for Hanoi and Haiphong."

The disclosure was the first

public hint that action was under way to resume the bombing of those two cities in North Vietnam, and preceded the official confirmation of the bombing by three days.

"We look at ourselves as a public information service," said Frank Neisser, a bespectacled 25-year-old activist from Dorchester, Mass., who has been a leading member of the group.

Like other members of the group, Mr. Neisser has long been active in the antiwar movement. The coalition that formed the ad hoc committee includes individuals and organizations that have long worked together in various antiwar projects in New England.

Adjoining Offices

Mr. Neisser, for example, worked for the Legal In Service Project, which counsels servicemen about their legal rights. Other members of the committee are also members of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

The two groups share adjoining offices at 67 Winthrop Street in Cambridge, Mass., near Harvard Square, where

the hectic activity of the first few days of the committee's existence added to the unkempt look of the surroundings.

Underground G.I. newspapers are pinned on the walls next to posters pleading for total withdrawal from Vietnam. Press releases, stop-the-war literature and peace movement brochures are scattered about.

Ed Murray, a 25-year-old former marine and member of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, said the ad hoc committee did not consider at first whether the information it was divulging was classified.

"From all the people we began hearing more and more about unusual military activity — people being placed on alert and things like that," he said.

During a New England antiwar conference in Portsmouth, N. H., the second weekend in April, Mr. Murray said, some of the participants decided to "monitor" the apparent military build-up in Southeast Asia.

"We started calling places like Travis Air Force Base [in California], Okinawa and Hawaii, canvassing for information," he added. "Before

long, people were calling us back and telling us what they knew."

Not until last Thursday, he continued, was the question raised of whether the committee was dealing in military secrets in violation of the law.

"Some people started saying things like 'aiding and abetting' and I thought, well, maybe we are," Mr. Murray said. "Then I figured, well, if we were, the F.B.I. would have closed us down by now."

Both Mr. Murray and Mr. Neisser appeared unsure of the legal ramifications, but both said that "everyone we talked to"—including lawyers whom they did not name—told them that their actions were not illegal.

In two weeks, the committee ran up a telephone bill that Mr. Neisser estimates at \$8,000. He said the committee had been soliciting for funds "from people we know" to pay the bill.

Besides disseminating information to the news media, the committee has also been working with such antiwar members of Congress as Representatives Bella Abzug of Manhattan and Robert F. Drinan of Massachusetts, both Democrats.

Mrs. Abzug has used information from the committee in antiwar debates in Congress, and members of the committee working in Washington say that they spent much of their time distributing "packets of information" to sympathetic legislators for possible use in debates or hearings.