

Militant Antiwar Movement Shifts Tactics, Not Targets

By Carol Clifford
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On Oct. 21, 1967, Larry Levin and 100,000 other demonstrators marched through lines of soldiers and federal marshals to the walls of the Pentagon in a massive protest against the Vietnam war. Today Levin is still trying to end the war, but his tactics have changed.

"We see now how the war is happening," Levin said, "and how it has to be stopped—through the United States Congress."

In contrast to the 1960s with their demonstrations, marches, and skirmishes with police and National Guardsmen, the peace movement today is quiet, less visible, but still very much alive. "People who think the peace movement is dead," Levin said, "have been looking in the old places."

Levin is on the staff of the Coalition to Stop Funding the War. Made up of more than 30 religious, social action and peace organizations, it seeks to halt all U.S. aid to Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos by putting pressure on Congress. It serves as an information office for other groups, coordinates antiwar efforts, and conducts telephone alerts before key votes in Congress.

It also drafts legislation and talks with members of Congress and their aides about U.S. involvement in Indochina.

"Although the administration talks as though the war is over," Levin said, "it is important to understand that U.S.

involvement in Indochina has only changed, not ended."

The recent defeat in Congress of the administration's request for additional military aid to Saigon was, according to Levin, largely a result of efforts by the peace forces. When the request was made known, the coalition—concentrating on 30 senators and 76 representatives it tabbed as key "swing" votes—contacted antiwar groups around the country that in turn gathered support from local churches, newspapers, unions and other groups.

Defeat of the administration request, according to Levin, shows the peace movement has not lost strength. "Large demonstrations aren't happening much any more," he said, "but there is a lot of activity on a different level."

Educational action campaigns have been a major part of efforts by peace groups. Slide shows, films, leaflets, newsletters and small local demonstrations are some of the tactics.

"In the past, demonstrations have been successful in alerting people to what was going on in the war," said Carol Kurtz of the Indochina Peace Campaign. "Now, through other means, people are also learning about political prisoners and the implications of aid."

Ms. Kurtz, participant in major protests during peak years of the war, now stresses the need for education. "Not only do we have to end this war—which is crucial—but to prevent another Vietnam the American people have to un-

derstand the last 10 years," she said.

The Indochina peace pledge is one of the means used by IPC. Signatures are gathered within a congressional district of groups and individuals opposed to American involvement in Indochina, and then present the list, urging the congressman to sign the peace pledge. The pledge is to support legislation which curtails U.S. military involvement, encourages a political settlement in accord with the Paris Agreement, and ends aid for police and prison systems in Indochina.

Congressional aides have been the target of activists Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden, also of the Indochina Peace Campaign. Earlier this year, Miss Fonda, who has toured Vietnam with the "Free the Army" show, and Hayden, founder of Students for a Democratic Society and defendant in the Chicago Seven trial, conducted a series of legislative seminars for congressional aides on the current situation in Indochina. Out of the seminars came a group of aides who work together informally to compile information pertaining to antiwar legislation. The data is then kept on hand for use by members of Congress for briefings or speeches.

Fred Branfman, director of the Indochina Resource Center, has also been focusing on Congress. Testifying before the House Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs,

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Antiwar Movement Increases on Hill

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Branfman accused the Nixon administration of subverting the public and congressional mandate for peace.

Branfman testified that the United States spent \$3.2 billion on Indochina in fiscal year 1974. Of that amount, he said, only 3 per cent actually went for reconstruction and humanitarian aid.

Branfman, who visited Saigon last year, suggested a "pause for peace"—all U.S. aid to Indochina except emergency food aid would be halted to allow progress toward a political settlement.

While Vietnam is by no means a dead issue for any of the peace groups, some focus on such areas as disarmament and defense spending.

Women Strike for Peace was founded in 1962 out of concern over nuclear fallout and escalation of the arms race. The Vietnam issue soon took over, but now, says Edith Villastrago, a founding member, Women Strike for Peace is returning to its original program. "We need to awaken people to the horrors of the arms race. The greater our military build-up, the less secure we will be."

"Real disarmament" is the

long range goal of SANE, which says it is an organization for a sane society, according to Sandy Gottlieb, its director. "We're still piddling around with future limitations—so that arms levels can't be raised—but we haven't yet touched the arms already here."

SANE's educational campaign is geared toward "Middle America," according to Gottlieb. "We try to show people what it's costing them. The money poured into defense is money that won't go for schools."

Along with Women Strike for Peace and numerous church groups, SANE is part of the Coalition on National Priorities and Military Policy, which says it is trying to eliminate waste in the military budget, to transfer military resources to civilian use, and to press for international arms control and disarmament agreements.

The American Friends Service Committee, Quaker pacifists, has joined forces with Clergy and Laity Concerned, an ecumenical peace group, on a campaign to "stop the B-1 bomber."