

# An Invitation:



STATEN ISLAND COUNCIL FOR PEACE & JUSTICE

P. O. Box 509 • Staten Island, New York 10314

Second UN Disarmament Session

## **Mobilizing toward June 12**

Dear Friends,

We write to you about a matter of great urgency. On June 12, a massive march and rally will be held in New York City on the occasion and in support of the United Nations Second Special Session on Disarmament. This SSD-2, as it is called, comes at the urging of the Non-Aligned Movement and the socialist countries, both because of the increasing threat that the nuclear arms race will spiral out of control, and because of the daily threat to the well-being of all of us as the military budget eats valuable resources, literally causing widespread death and destruction on a daily basis all over the world.

The N.Y. Peace Council has made mobilization for June 12 its first priority for the next days. We believe that June 12 can equal in numbers and effect the tremendously successful Solidarity Day of last September 19. Essentially, the hundreds of thousands coming to New York can make June 12 Solidarity Day II. Some 200 national organizations -- ranging from major church denominations, the National Council of Churches, the National Conference of Black Pastors, to trade union organizations like the International Association of Machinists, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the Coalition of Labor Union Women, to environmental and professional groups like the Friends of the Earth and the Physicians for Social Responsibility, plus the national peace organizations, have come together to support this effort.

We have come on agreement on two demands: 1) Stop and Reverse the Arms Race, and 2) Cut the Military Budget; Transfer Funds to Human Needs.

These demands and the breadth of the supporting organizations of the June 12 Rally Committee make it possible to appeal to any local church, community or campus organization, trade union local or labor council for support and participation. Right now, local metropolitan area June 12 coalitions are forming in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, San Francisco and other cities all across the country. We urge you to immediately become active in our local coalition, the Ad Hoc Comm. FOR JUNE 12<sup>th</sup>, which will meet on night of Thurs. May 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 at College of S.I. (St. George campus), 130 Styvesant Pl., Rm. 702

For our part, we will make special efforts to guarantee massive participation from labor and the Black, Hispanic and other oppressed minority communities. The Peace Council will be issuing its own literature emphasizing the growing danger of the arms race, the responsibility of the US military-industrial complex, the domestic consequences of militarism in terms of a sharpening racism and attack on the living standards of working people, and the increased dangers of US military intervention in Central America and the Caribbean, Southern Africa and the Middle East.

This year has already seen tremendous growth in the US Peace Forces with the Nuclear Freeze and Jobs with Peace referenda on ballots and resolutions in State Legislatures and City Councils around the country; with the emergence of such mainstream institutions as the American Medical Association and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops speaking out against the arms build-up; with the growing movement from the grass roots to Congress against the threat of military intervention in Central America; and with the massive fight-back against the Reagan war budget. All these currents will come together in common effort to make June 12 the most massive demonstration for disarmament in US history, equal to the peace movement in Europe which is beginning to change the political map of that continent.

We urge you to be part of this effort now. *Please, have your group send a representative to the Thursday night meeting on MAY 6<sup>th</sup>!!*

*Sincerely for Peace,  
S.I.C.P.J. Steering Committee*