

Now that the Trustees have once again failed to stop the research which we oppose, A3M is faced with the perennial question: where does it go from here.

From my viewpoint, the answer is straightforward. Since the Board of Trustees hasn't stopped the research, we must try to stop it ourselves, just as we did at AEL. Only now the target is the counter-insurgency, classified, and Vietnam war-related research at SRI. This means a long struggle probably lasting through next year. As a first step, we can try to stop the research at SRI's building on Hanover Street where a good part of this research is done.

Compared to other proposals likely to be discussed, this one has four advantages:

1, Even if we only succeed in closing SRI-Hanover for several hours on several days, we will have made it much more difficult for the death research to continue and much more difficult for the Board of Trustees to locate a buyer. Corporations will be wary of buying an institute likely to be the target of militant demonstrations.

SRI staffers have revealed that A3M has already pressured some counter-insurgents to seek other research. They also say that our movement has already cost SRI some military contracts because of the "unstable situation". Demonstrations explicitly directed against SRI should multiply these effects as well. They will also help us choose appropriate tactics for the rest of the quarter, next summer, and next year.

2, As long as we are interfering with counter-insurgency, classified and Vietnam war-related research we are winning because that is the goal of A3M. Another sit-in at Encina may force the Trustees to close the university, but will it reverse their decision about SRI?

3, SRI is conveniently near many of the Trustees' corporations, many of which are also engaged in war research. The effects of our demonstration may spill-over onto these targets thus increasing the pressure on the Trustees.

4, Demonstrations against SRI-Hanover don't automatically expose people to suspensions from school and six months in jail for violating an injunction. Unless there are good political reasons for doing so, it is silly to court (bad pun) stiff penalties.

How do we stop SRI-Hanover?

It's unlikely that the moral force of a thousand, or even several thousand people peacefully picketing the building will convince SRI's administrators to close-up shop. It's also unlikely that we will be able to seize SRI-Hanover as easily as we took AEL or even Encina. SRI-Hanover's relatively few doors will certainly be locked and protected by police long before we get there. I'm not ruling-out the possibility of the entire movement or some exemplary affinity groups breaking into SRI-Hanover at some point in the demonstration. I'm just saying that we shouldn't count on this at the beginning.

Our initial approach should be one of blocking the entrances to the building before the researchers arrive in the morning. When the police attempt to clear the entrances, our response should be similar to that of the demonstrators at the Oakland Induction Center in Stop the Draft Week. At Oakland, affinity groups sprung up. They blocked the streets with cars, garbage cans, benches and sometimes themselves. This created traffic jams making it difficult for the buses loaded with inductees to reach the Center. If the police chased them, the demonstrators simply extended the perimeter. The groups were and mobile enough to minimize the dangers of encirclement, arrest, or tear-gassing by the police. We can do the same thing around SRI-Hanover.

From my viewpoint the considerations underlying such a demonstration are based on our intention to stop the research at SRI-Hanover because that research facilitates the exploitation, oppression and death of the people of S.E. Asia. If it were possible to wish the building and its contents---the piles of classified documents, notebooks, data, etc---out of existence, that would be splendid. But that is not a meaningful alternative at present. Our present situation is such that property damage---broken windows, destroyed files, messed-up air conditioning---helps stop this research by discouraging future buyers and additional contracts.

