

UNITED WOMEN'S CONTINGENT



On April 24, peaceful, massive demonstrations for immediate withdrawal will take place in Washington, DC and San Francisco. Women — from campuses, Black, Puerto Rican, Chicano and Asian-American groups, trade unions, religious groups, the women's liberation movement — will join together and march as a united women's contingent. Last August 26th, the 50th anniversary of women's suffrage, tens of thousands of women poured into the streets to demonstrate for our right to control our lives. On April 24th, we will take the strength of women, which we showed to the world last August, and link up with all other people who say this war must end now.

The idea of women participating as a united force in the April 24th demonstration was first discussed at a women's workshop at the NPAC Emergency Antiwar Conference in December where over 150 women met, and decided to support April 24th and to begin organizing as women.

On Feb. 19-21, at the Student Mobilization Committee National Student Antiwar Conference, over 250 women attended the "Women and the War" workshop, and endorsed the idea of independent women's contingents at the April 24 demonstrations.

There are many reasons why it is essential that we relate to the April 24 demonstrations as women. First, women have played a leading role in the antiwar movement since the first teach-ins and demonstrations. Yet the press and media imply that the antiwar movement is led entirely by men. This is a misconception that must be corrected. We have participated in and been key organizers of every antiwar march, just as we have been perhaps the most effective force in every movement for social change in the history of the world. Most importantly, as long as this war continues, we cannot have the control over our lives which we need and are determined to have. As women, we constitute 53% of the population -- we can be a powerful force in ending the war.

Women in this country are challenging the right of the U.S. government to wage a war of slaughter and destruction in Indochina while it denies the needs of women at home. One million children are left uncared for, while their mothers work, because there are no child care facilities. Seven thousand women die every year of illegal abortions. Millions of dollars of profit is made every year by paying women less than men in the exact same job. Thousands of women are shut out

March On Washington Against the War APRIL 24

