

DIRECT

ACTION

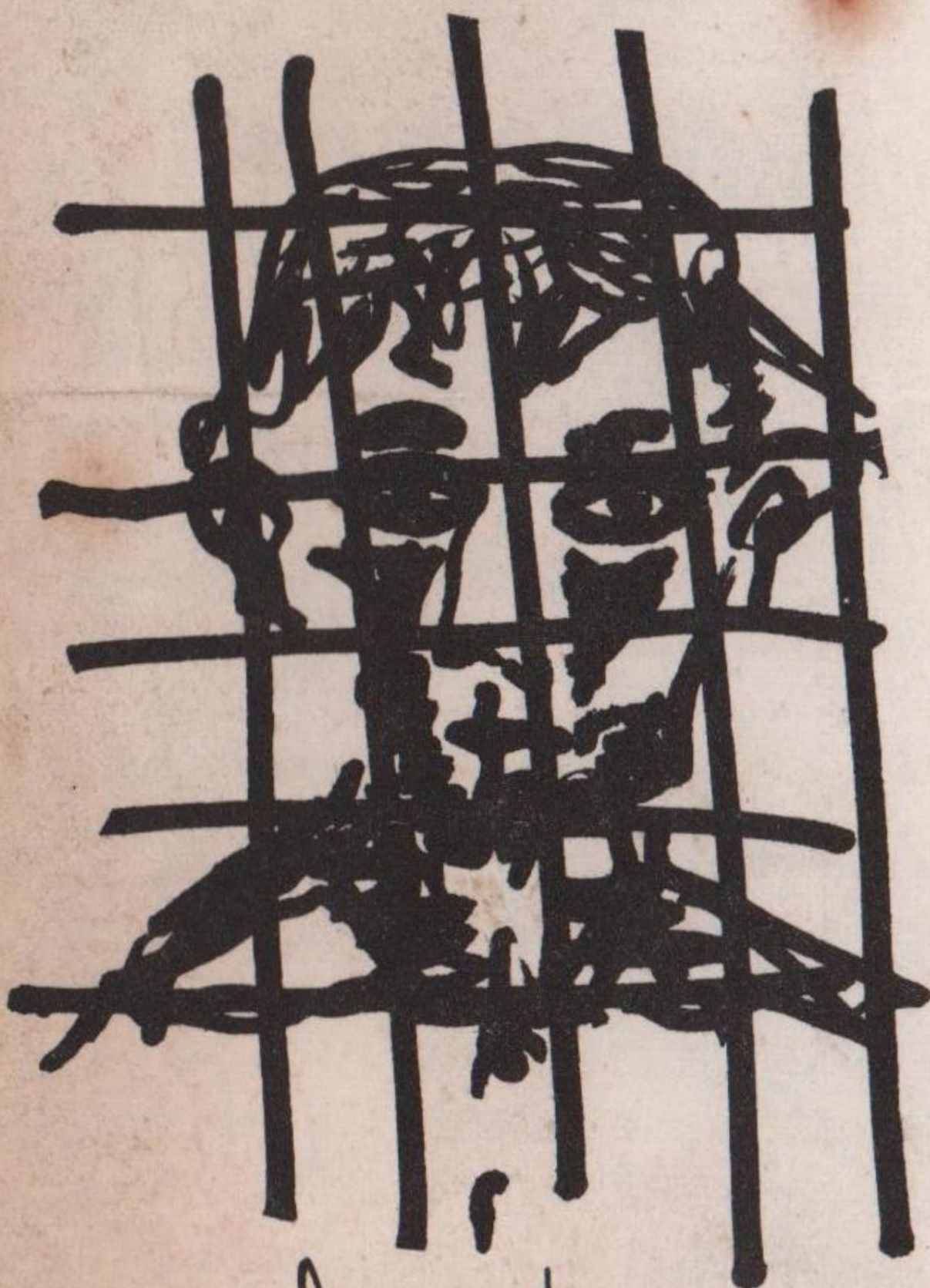
for a nonviolent world



January 14, 1967

Telephone 203-376-9970

Number 74

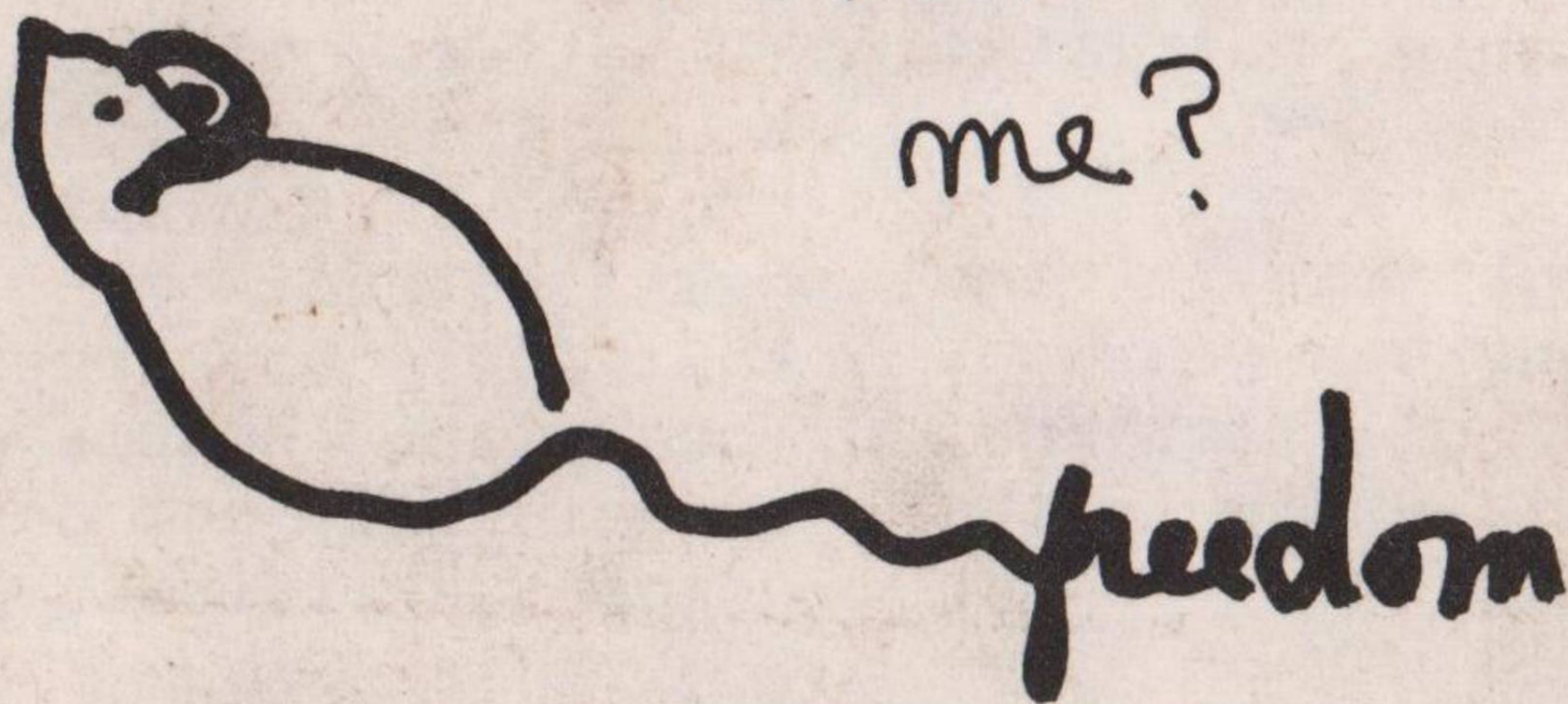


... The voice of
the child's blood
crying yet,

who has
remembered
me?



who has
forgotten?



Thou hast
forgotten



O' Summer
Swallow



but

the
world
shall
end

when I
forget

- Swinburne



candy Stephens

Thanksgiving Vigil

What began as a quiet personal witness and an experiment in communication turned into a well-supported and highly-publicized project in Boston during Thanksgiving week. Suzanne Williams and Chuck Matthei set up their vigil in Post Office Square the morning Dave Reed and Charles Muse were sentenced, with a sign reading:

In identification with the ten thousand human beings who die each day of starvation,
In support of those men who, taking the stand of conscience, face imprisonment for refusing to kill,
As an affirmation of world peace and understanding.

Speaking, during the course of the week, with several thousand people in group discussion and hundreds in individual conversations, the vigilers considered the natural, "human" relationships between men, the basic acceptance of nonviolence and rejection of violence, and, in this context, the war in Vietnam, the draft, and other specific issues. Response varied from considerable interest to considerable hostility.

One night while the vigilers slept, all their belongings were stolen. Publicity of the theft brought students, clergymen, businessmen, and secretaries with donations of clothing, blankets and other items. On Friday night, the police, in an attempt to end the vigil -- which had gradually grown larger until 16 people stayed all night Thursday -- arrested Chuck and Suzi and a Catholic Worker supporter, John McKenna. All fasted in jail (Chuck and Suzi even abstained from water) and were sentenced to 10 days or \$10. Police treatment was very rough, with a good deal of kicking, dragging, throwing, etc. Suzi's mother paid her and Chuck's fines; John's was paid a few days later. The vigil was carried on by others until its planned conclusion on Sunday evening.

An interesting result was the involvement of a number of new people, and their continuing interest after the vigil. Publicity was plentiful, with most reporters understanding the connection between a fast at Thanksgiving time and the millions of starving and suffering people in the world. A more detailed report is available; write New England CNVA for it.

We are all aliens

All aliens living in the United States are required to register each January at their local post office. All of us, as nonviolent human beings, should obtain and file an alien registration form with accompanying letter expressing our alienation from much of American society and policy, our objection to national classification and discrimination, and identification with those persons subjected to such registration. (Suggestion from Harold and Sandra Chapman, Australian citizens living in Philadelphia.)



A new resident at the farm, Juanita Miller, daughter of Dave and Cathy Miller. This picture was taken a few days after she was born.

CNVA wants YOU!

Sometimes people exclaim to those of us who have been with New England CNVA a long time: "I don't see how you hold up so well!" The truth is that we don't hold up very well; we find ourselves becoming inefficient and probably ineffective. But we have to hold up as long as there are not people to take our places for short or long periods.

In discussing this matter, the staff and Executive Committee have realized that the constant flow of young people in and out of New England CNVA provides new ideas, new blood, renewed enthusiasm. We also realize, however, that there has been a lack of somewhat older, more stable people who can take long-range responsibility and serve as "anchor men" for the younger activists.

Therefore, the committee is initiating a recruiting program to bring couples, families, and older people into residence at the farm, or as full-time field workers in various New England cities, for periods of one year or more. Admittedly the inducements do not in some ways match those of the business, professional or academic world. The pay is minimal to say the least: maintenance and \$1 per week personal allowance. We hope to improve the living facilities by constructing one or two family-sized cottages similar to the remodeled sauna or the Swann family cottage. There is little we can do about the physical risks, which certainly are a consideration for families; all we can do is point to the dangers and deprivations under which families in Vietnam and elsewhere in the world live daily, and ask whether we cannot share such risks to a slight degree.

However, there are satisfactions not common to conventional jobs: that of total commitment to one's beliefs; that of meeting and working with a wide variety of interesting people; that of learning new skills of communication and calling out creative potentials of nonviolence.

It may be a surprising thought, but why don't you consider taking "a sabbatical" from your teaching or other profession, from your business, your factory, store or office job, and joining the New England CNVA staff, where your skills and experience will bring premium reward?

--Marjorie Swann

A Human

Insurance Policy

Our barn burned down. The State Fire Marshal's representative now tells us there is no question but that it was deliberately set. The two insurance companies paid the insurance -- \$2000 on the barn, \$1000 on the contents. Then they cancelled our policies. Our agent could not find any company which would insure us. We're too much of a risk, and we don't fit into insurance categories, because of our community living and our unusual occupation.

The New England CNVA Executive Committee considered seriously setting up a pledge system, with pledges to be called in in case of fire or other serious emergency. Then the Committee looked at the marvelous response to the fund appeal which was sent out following the fire and the threatened Minutemen raid, and decided that we could count on the generosity of supporters in case of catastrophe, and that the formal set-up of a pledge system is not necessary.

So while we continue to investigate the possibilities of insurance company coverage, we want to notify every reader that in case of another emergency, we may need to call on you again for special aid. Meanwhile, we want to express our deep-felt appreciation for the wonderful response, and to encourage you to continue your support so that the New England CNVA program can be carried on. (And read the article about the Minutemen in the January issue of Ramparts magazine to get a feeling of what threatens us.)
Marjorie Swann

New England CNVA Needs

Garden tractor; power mower; garden tools
Batt-type fiberglass insulation; sheetrock
Sheets, pillow cases
Dressers, desks
Hard and soft wheat, for our home-made bread
Subscriptions to Ramparts, Scientific American,
The New Republic

An electrician (just for a while) to check out our present electrical system (our fixtures need grounding) and to install some new wiring - this is urgent

"DISTURBING THE WAR"

On December 15, shortly after the bombs started falling on Hanoi proper, 63 of us were arraigned on charges of disorderly conduct and (for non-cooperators) resisting arrest. I did not cooperate with arrest, court, or imprisonment, and began a total abstinence from food and water upon arrest at the Whitehall Street induction center. By nightfall I found myself still in jail for refusing to pay \$50 bail for "resisting arrest." The following day my bail was reviewed, but remained the same when I told the judge that I would not return if paroled. Back to the Women's House of Detention, where I remained until the fifth day, when I was sent to Bellevue Hospital. Continuing to noncooperate, I was returned to the jail, after examinations by a psychiatrist (who found me quite sane).

The next day it was decided to send me to Elmhurst Psychiatric Hospital to force-feed me. But on the way to the van, word came that the judge had paroled me and I would be released. My declining health and the flood of telegrams from concerned people were probably the reasons for this action. I was to have appeared for trial on January 3, but didn't. The case is now postponed until February 7, and some new and interesting charges have been added, such as "threatening to riot", and "rioting", "endangering the economy and welfare of the state", etc. There is a warrant out for my arrest in New York State on those and the original charges.

I find jails dehumanizing, not only to those in them, but to those who operate them, and to the multitude who are either unaware of or unconcerned for their brothers in jail. Any system which relies on force denies rather than affirms the bonds that exist between all men. I am unable to cooperate with such systems.

--Suzanne Williams

Koinonia Products

We have a few Koinonia pecans and fruitcakes left from our holiday sales. Pecan halves or pieces, \$1.75 per pound bag, plus postage. Delicious fruitcake, 1½ pound cake, \$2.25 plus postage. Order from New England CNVA.

Please fill out and return to NEW ENGLAND CNVA, RFD #1, Box 197B, Voluntown, Connecticut 06384
Telephone: 203-376-9970

_____ I and _____ others plan to come and help at the farm on _____ (dates).

_____ Please contact me about speaking engagements for Barbara Deming on her visit to N. Vietnam.

Please send the following: _____ copies of McCall's reprint, "What If They Gave A War And No One Came?" by Charlotte Keyes - 10¢ each, 5¢ each for 10 or more, \$20/1000; _____ copies of "Can You Support Napalm Used Against Children?" - single copy free, \$1/100; _____ copies of "You And The Draft", excellent introductory leaflet - single copy free, \$1/100; _____ copies of Felix Greene's unique book with over 100 photos and text, "Vietnam! Vietnam!" - \$2.95 each.

Enclosed is \$ _____ for the work of New England CNVA. I pledge \$ _____ per month.

Check your name and address on reverse; be sure they're correct and that we have your zip code.

PORT CHICAGO - 150 DAYS

Most of us feel keenly the gap between how we know things would be in a sane world and the reality with which we must deal every day. We use various methods to deal with this chasm between the ideal and the real; we smile at the irony, we close our eyes, we give up hope.

"A million tons of munitions this year for Vietnam", MacNamara has told us. Truckload after truckload marked: EXPLOSIVES, DANGEROUS, FIRE-BOMBS pour past us..gifts of death for the Vietnamese. Even the brutality of our local hoodlum attackers can be seen as trivial here.

You too may feel that your concern is best expressed at this time by support for peace work and workers, full or part time, who confront the war machine; who with their bodies and their lives say, "The murder must be stopped!" This is our goal and we need your help. We shall overcome....even the war-making state.

---Jim Bernard from the Port Chicago Vigil

Port Chicago: U.S. Naval Weapons Station, just north of San Francisco, employing over 2500 civilians around the clock.

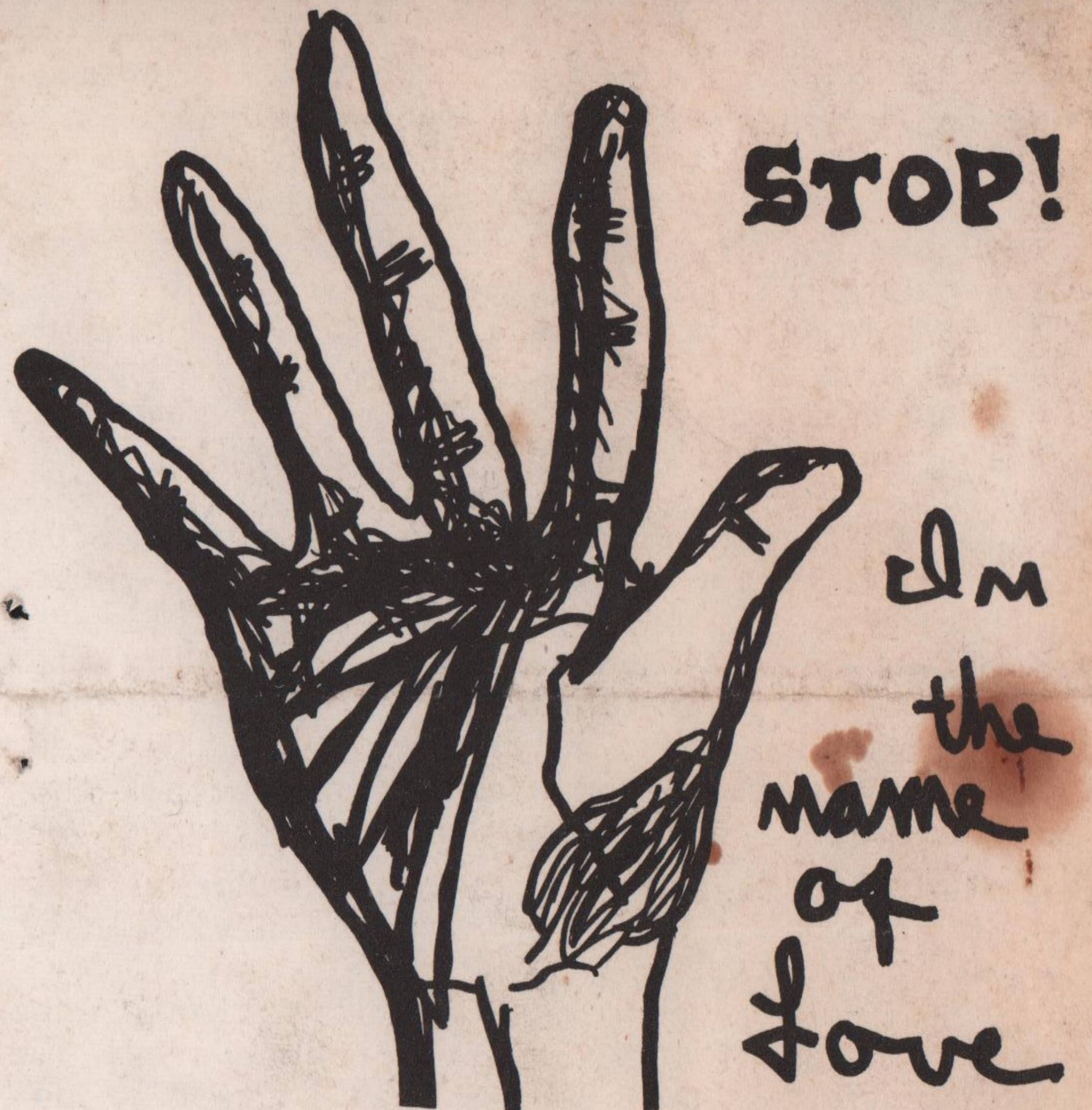
Port Chicago: Shipping site for approximately 90% of the napalm, munitions and other war materials to Vietnam.

Port Chicago: Since August 7, 1966, site of a 24-hour vigil by a small hardcore group acting as a constant witness to the brutality, the torture, and the exploitation of the U.S. War Machine and of the individual's responsibility for it.

New England CNVA
RFD #1, Box 1978
Voluntown, Conn. 06384
Number 74

FIRST CLASS

Laurens Otter
5 New Yalt Road
Nbrth Leigh, near Whitney
Oxon, ENGLAND



Port Chicago: Where through Marine and local harassment, beatings, and over 60 arrests, the vigilers continue (indefinitely) to attempt communication over the real issues with the people directly involved and continue a picket and occasional lie-down blockade of the road and the munitions trucks.

Port Chicago Vigil, P.O. Box 811, Port Chicago, California 94568 needs food, money, clothing, new ideas, and more vigilers.

