AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR A SAFE BOSTON HARBOR

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In addition to developing the Working Paper, the Ad Hoc Committee planned an educational, information sharing evening to which 50-60 community, religious, labor and political leaders were invited. This meeting took place on May 9th at the UMass/Arlington Campus. In preparation for this meeting, a fact sheet was prepared by Joe Gerson of the American Friends Service Committee. It along with the Working Paper was distributed to those attending. Though the meeting did not result in a major expansion of the Committee it did serve the purpose of consolidating the efforts of the present Committee members and of refining the Working Paper.

The Ad Hoc Committee has also established communication with those organizations in New York City and Newport, Rhode Island who have united in opposition to the fleet. The Navy has Boston, New York City (three sities) and Newport under consideration and has received strong pressure from organized civic and political leaders from each of these communities to select their respective port. Opposition has also grown up quickly in these three cities despite the limited attention given to the issue by the media.

In an effort to gather more detailed information and to express our concern, 11 members of the Ad Hoc Committee recently met with legislative aides of the members of the Massachusetts Delegation. Representatives of the Governor's and Lt. Governor's Office joined aides from Senator Kennedy's and Tsongas' Office and aides from Representative O'Neill's, Donnelly's, Markey's, Studds', Shannon's and Mavroules' Office. The discussion was fruitful and it is hoped that the Committee will be supplied with further factual information and that the members of the Delegation will join the Committee in holding public hearings on the fleet.

As mentioned one of the major concerns of the Committee was the lack of participation of the public in the decision making process. Therefore, the Committee has begun to plan a outdoor TEACH-IN to be held on June 25th, Saturday, tentatively scheduled to take place at the Waterfront Park. This TEACH-IN will address the major issues surrounding the fleet- as explained in the Working Paper- and will feature international know historian and disarmament activist Professor E.P. Thompson. Local representatives of the religious, labor, and disarmament communities will also speak as well as representative of South Boston, the community directly effected if the Navy fleet is stationed in Boston. This educational event will be coupled with continual efforts by the Ad Hoc Committee to work with members of the Massachusett Delegation and other local political leaders, to broaden the composition of the Committee, and to build stronger public opposition to the fleet. It should be noted that the issue of jobs and the supposed economic benefits of the fleet will not be avoid by the Committee. While we are in no position to offer a detailed alternative to the use of the Boston Harbor, we are investigating possible alternative uses and believe it is the responsibility of local, state, and federal officials to participate in this investigation.

In terms of organizational structure, the Ad Hoc Committee remains as an effective network of 15 organizations and has decided to operate in this manner until the need for a more formal structure arises. While the organizations have given much time and energy to the Committee, it became clear that a part-time staff person would be needed to coordinate the Committee's efforts. Since the Navy is suppose to make a judgement in terms of which sight offers the best technical support by July 15th, the position is a short-term position. However, it is more than likely that no final decision will be made until the end of the summer, therefore the Committee has made a three month commitment to the present staff person, Ms. Regina Eddy. Financially, the Committee has requested a donation from each of