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Cover: December 1966; protest escalation at the Induction Center.
Photo: Eli Finder

Introduction

The A.J. Muste Memorial Institute is pleased to present its 1984 Annual Report. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Institute's operation and we observed this milestone in the best way we knew by expanding our programs of grants, sponsorships, publications and activities again.

When you look over the detailed list of grantees included in this report, you will note that the Institute has maintained its commitment to supporting a broad range of peace and social justice projects. As always, the Institute sought those educational, cultural and legal direct action activities that made the vital connections between disarmament, racial and sexual equality, anti-interventionism, economic justice and human rights. A.J. Muste left us with the legacy of his vision of a world with peace and justice; his life serves as our guide. Your generous support has made it possible for us to help people take action on these issues, and with your continued contributions we can do even more to carry on his work for a just and nonviolent society. Nineteen eighty-five will be the centennial year of A.J. Muste's birth and we are committed to celebrating the life of this visionary activist by doing still more to promote peace.

There were two significant developments at the Institute in 1984:

First, after four years of service, Wendy Schwartz left the position of Executive Director to resume the editorial career she had interrupted to come here. In her time at the Institute, Wendy oversaw every major development in our operations. The energy and skill which she brought to her work was largely responsible for the continued expansion of the Institute's programs. Though she will remain with us as a member of the Advisory Committee, her devotion and hard work on staff will be sorely missed by everyone connected to the Institute. We are happy to announce the appointment of Murray Rosenblith as new Executive Director. As part of our expansion of our work for peace and social justice, Murray will serve as the first full-time staff member of the Institute starting in January 1985.

Our second development, a very happy one, was the December final mortgage payment on the "Peace Pentagon" on Lafayette Street. As of 1985, the Institute owns this modest building free and clear. While there are still several long-term, major capital improvements needed on the property – in addition to a great deal of regular maintenance – another portion of the Institute's budget has been freed up for our activities devoted to peace and nonviolence.

The Institute's Board of Directors and staff thank you for your generous support in 1984. We hope that we will be able to count on your continuing and increasing contributions for 1985 and beyond as we expand the Institute's programs. As the tide of militarism seems to rise all around us, the work of the Institute for a world without war and with social justice and human rights takes on a greater significance. With your help, we can make a fitting tribute to A.J. Muste's centenary by working hard to stem and even turn back that tide.