A.J. Muste Memorial Institute

339 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. 10012 (212) 533-4335

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Dear Muste Institute supporter,

This has been a year of ups and downs for the A.J. Muste Memorial Institute. We increased our grant making and fiscal sponsorship for nonviolent organizations. Our building is packed full of activist groups working late most evenings. We're developing new programs to increase support for projects like our International Nonviolence Training Fund, and the Harrop and Ruth Freeman internship program for War Resisters League. For the first time in several years, we are researching potential new pamphlets to publish in 1996. We will make a new annual report available next year with more complete information on our programs for you.

We survived the fire in our building in July and, thanks to your help and our insurance, we did not lose any money. In fact, we made our building safer and more secure. But we did lose valuable time from other work while taking care of the fallout from this unfortunate event. One of our more active sponsored groups, Out Now, folded. All of us will miss their important opposition to international military intervention. **Most disturbing of all, contributions overall are down this year**.

Your support makes it possible for us to carry out new work and expand our existing programs. It allows us to assist hundreds of projects. Your donations help us publish and distribute our pamphlets, putting important writings from Martin Luther King, Jr., Barbara Deming, Emma Goldman, Jessie Wallace Hughan, Henry David Thoreau, and A.J. Muste himself, into the hands of thousands of students and activists. Your donations have made it possible for us to provide a home for dozens of activist groups at the "Peace Pentagon" on Lafayette Street for almost 25 years!

We understand that times are tough. Despite the prosperity that seems to be all around us, studies show that it's harder for most people to get by. We know this to be true from our own lives as we struggle to pay our rent and living expenses. In my own relatively new role as the parent of young children, I've come to understand that the next generation will have a much harder time making ends meet with greatly reduced possibilities for education, jobs and economic opportunities.

This means we all have to work harder to survive. Far too many resources are still being squandered on a military build-up for no reason. More business and investment is devoted to producing profits instead of useful items and a stable economy. In our contact with activist groups, we hear from more community-based programs that previously received government support. They now turn to the Muste Institute and similar funders for help. We cannot come close to meeting their needs, nor should we. These are the programs that our tax dollars should be supporting instead of B-2 bombers that even the military admits they don't need!

(over, please)

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