

WHAT IS CONTINUING PRESENCE IN WASHINGTON?

On May 4, 1970, students and faculty members at Dartmouth College formed an organization in response to President Nixon's announcement of the invasion of Cambodia. Led by Government Professor Denis Sullivan and Senior Eric Martinez, the organization defined its goal as helping to bring about the withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Southeast Asia. Since mass student demonstrations in Washington and elsewhere have proved to be ineffective in bringing about the end of the Indochinese War, and may have in fact further polarized American society, it was decided to employ a method of political action which is both legitimate and effective: a permanent citizens' lobby. The organization was thus designed to effectively mobilize all American citizens displeased with the present Administration's foreign policy and to provide for these people the means for personally expressing their views to their elected Congressional representatives either in Washington or in district offices. This ongoing citizens' lobby, committed to continue its operation until all troops have been withdrawn from Southeast Asia, has been incorporated as Continuing Presence in Washington (CPW).

CPW was formed and continues to operate on the following four premises:

- 1) The President's invasion of Cambodia clearly demonstrated that he no longer deserves the trust, indeed the support, of the Congress and the public.
- 2) Nixon's action, and the manner in which he acted, moves him out of the "middle ground" of public opinion on the war, and hence opens up the possibility of effective political action.