

DR. KING STARTS PEACE CRUSADE

National Grass-Roots Effort Is Backed by Dr. Spock

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CAMBRIDGE, Mass., April 23—The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called today for an "escalation of our opposition to the war in Vietnam" as he helped inaugurate a nationwide peace effort called Vietnam Summer.

Dr. King said, "I give my absolute support to those who initiated this move."

The civil rights leader was seconded by Dr. Benjamin Spock, the pediatrician, who said, "I welcome this opportunity to urge all communities to voice their objections to the war."

Dr. King and Dr. Spock were joined by another peace advocate, Robert Scheer, managing editor of Ramparts magazine, in starting off the peace crusade at Christ Church Parish House off Harvard Square.

Vietnam Summer was planned by a group of Harvard faculty members, students and local residents. The acting director of the project is Chester Hartman, an assistant professor in the department of city planning at Harvard.

Sees Grass-Roots Action

Mr. Hartman said the idea was to get action by the public against the war on a massive scale. He said it was aimed at creating a political bloc powerful enough to end the war.

Mr. Hartman said that within two weeks an army of field organizers would be moving across the country seeking 10,000 volunteers for peace organizing efforts in their home communities.

About 200 people crowded the parish hall where the peace organizers held a press conference.

Outside the hall about 50 protesters quietly held up placards rebuking those inside.

One sign said, "Support Our Men in Vietnam." Another said, "Fight Communist Red Termites, King the Red Hitler."

Sees Mounting Peril

Dr. King said the war had "increased the possibilities of nuclear war to destroy mankind."

He went on, "There comes a

time when silence is betrayal, and today we are involved in one of the most bloody and cruel wars in history. It is poisoning the soul of our nation and has isolated our nation morally and politically."

The civil rights leader said that continuation of the war "has damaged the movement to aid the disinherited people of our nation."

"It has diverted civil rights aims and fighting the slums," he said. "So we feel a need to take a stand on the war."

Denies Advocating Merger

In answer to questions Dr. King said he had never advocated a merger of the civil rights and peace movements. He said he believed "it is more important that I should be concerned with the survival of the world" than with integration.

Asked if he has his eye on the Presidency in 1968, he said he would probably comment on that in New York tomorrow.

Dr. Spock, who is co-chairman of the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, said there were "millions of American families horrified about the war that have not joined any peace organizations."

He said, "I welcome this opportunity to urge all of them to go out and voice their objections through the Vietnam Summer project."