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29 April 1969

SUBJECT: Stanford University

1. Stanford University, a prestigious school of some 11,300 students located on a beautiful campus in Palo Alto, California, has sometimes been called the Harvard of the West. Despite its serene setting and its largely middle and upper white class student body, it has not been without its turmoil and problems, particularly in recent months. The number of minority of minority groups' members studying and working at Stanford has been increasing, and 15 percent of the incoming 1968 fall quarter freshmen were minority group members. (Six to seven percent Oriental, five percent Negro, etc.) Although minority groups have been involved in some of the campus strife, most of the action has been by white students and usually led by the Stanford SDS Chapter, supported by some faculty members and/or outsiders.

2. For months Stanford SDS attempted to mobilize students around the issues of the University's involvement with the war in Vietnam through Government research contracts and by focusing attacks on members of the Board of Trustees, who are connected with large corporations that deal in Defense contracts and on the Stanford Research Institute which does some war-related research for the military. Reputedly, next to MIT, Stanford handles the greatest amount of Defense contracts, and this has been an important issue for use by the radicals in their incessant accelerating attack on the (establishment) (industrial-military) complex.

3. Disruption and abrasive tactics began November 6, 1967 with a demonstration against CIA recruiters. Suspensions were levied against the more prominent agitators. In May 1968 students sat in at the Administration Building in protest over the penalties and were successful in having them lifted.

4. The majority of the students strongly condemn coercive tactics and campus disruptions, and the radicals have not been able to significantly radicalize the liberals and moderates. Students voted for "open job" recruiting by CIA in May 1968. The Young Americans for Freedom and the Young Republicans have staged orderly anti-demonstrations to the Leftist Group actions and formed a coalition of campus conservatives calling itself "Community of

the Right." SDS lacked popular campus support but continued their harassment campaign. They violently disrupted a Board of Trustees meeting in January 1969.

5. Activity increased in April with an all-night vigil which escalated into occupation of the Applied Electronics Laboratory. This occupation lasted for nine days, and its demands were for an end to all campus war research. Stanford's new President, Kenneth Pitzer, had warned the students that Federal troops might be used to protect the secret Government files in the building. Pitzer has spoken strongly against the Vietnam war and has said that he would prefer that Stanford do no classified research. Stanford Board of Trustees has asked the Stanford Research Institute not to enter into new contracts for chemical and biological research for the time being. Under pressure from students and faculty, the Board also agreed to consider severing all ties with the SR and to amend the relationship.

6. A student meeting was reportedly to be held on 25 April to review the progress in ending University war-related research. If results were not sufficient, the demonstrators were considering taking over another building. One of the radical faculty members behind the students is the Associate Professor H. Bruce Franklin, a self-professed Maoist, and one of the organizers of the Revolutionary Union, the recently formed radically militant organization dedicated to aid the Communist cause by overthrow of the U.S. Government by force if necessary.