

INTERNATIONAL DAYS OF PROTEST
OCTOBER 15 - 16

America is engaged in the suppression of a social revolution in South Viet Nam: a revolution waged by the Vietnamese people against a dictatorship, which is not concerned with the **broad** interests of the Vietnamese people. This dictatorship, supported by a small minority of the Vietnamese, rules by terror and counts upon American military aid for its survival. The United States has no right to intervene in the civil war in Viet Nam.

We further oppose this war because the United States military is committing atrocities in Viet Nam. Our planes **bomb** more civilian than military targets. They kill thousands of civilians in the faint hope of killing a few Viet-Cong. They are bombing North Viet Nam as well, which is a non-combattent in the war. The United States is using napalm and phosphorous to destroy peasant villages, farmlands and to hideously burn innocent women and children in Viet Nam.

America's one sided escalation of the Vietnamese war makes the chance of nuclear **disaster** more probable.

WHY CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE?

We feel that it is the duty of American citizens to protest by all means at their disposal, the moral disgrace and political folly that is American policy in Viet Nam. Ordinary forms of protest have proved that the administration turns a deaf ear to any . . . but its own advisors. People opposed to the war have tried teach - ins, marches, pickets and vigils but still the administration refuses to even discuss the serious criticism of the Vietnamese war. Not only doesn't it answer its critics throughout the United States, but it refuses to take seriously criticism from United States senators and congressmen. Thus we feel that in order to be heard we must commit civil disobedience.

The administration has proven that it is well shielded from ordinary forms of protest. It claims to be uniquely informed about the war in Viet Nam, although many noted social scientists who have spent many years in Viet Nam, have severely criticized the American government policy.

Furthermore the administration can and does control the stream of information to the news media. Casualty figures for American and Vietnamese troops have been grossly distorted according to servicemen who have recently returned from Viet Nam. Due to the power and prestige of the presidency, mass communication media dish out any nonsense that the administration chooses to feed them. Thus any strictly verbal protest can be smothered beneath a mountain of pro- administration propaganda.

The sit-in represents an attempt to dramatically bring to the attention of the public the immorality and lack of conscience which characterize the Vietnamese war. We hope that our actions will make people think about this tragic war. There is a grave danger that the American people will keep blinders over their eyes, just as the German people did during the Hitler period. For silence means consent to murder, destruction, and reckless violence against a people whose only crime is to want their freedom and a better way of life for themselves. We hope that by our actions we will cause people to reevaluate the meaning of democracy and the practices of this administration, in light of the values of justice and humanism.

We are committing civil disobedience today because we feel that obeying the law in this situation is in effect condoning the brutal murder of thousands of human beings, thus we are driven to this course of action in order that we may not consent to the horror that is Viet Nam by silence. We hope that our action will be a small barb in the conscience of America.

TO BRING AN END TO THIS UNJUST WAR THE VIET NAM DAY COMMITTEE CALLS
FOR:

1. Immediate cessation of the bombings of North and South Viet Nam
2. Immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops and military personnel
3. Recognition by the United States of Communist China

A large minority of the group did not favor total withdrawal of American troops before negotiations with the NLF.