

To:

Academic Community
State University College
Plattsburgh, New York

1968

On April 3, 4, 5, concerned students and faculty at State University College, Plattsburgh, will hold an evening vigil expressing their opposition to the war in Vietnam. We see this move as an affirmation of our commitment to the cause of peace, freedom and international understanding. The war in Vietnam, we feel, violates the very basis of civilized behavior and for this reason, among others, we will stand in silent protest against the continuation of this conflict.

Since the American build-up in Vietnam began, we have been witnessing the destruction of a country and its people. In such a situation, mass murder becomes merely a descriptive phrase whether it is saturation bombing of civilians or almost total dislocation of the institutions and cultural patterns on which the Vietnamese depend for their very lives. For this the public life of our own country is poisoned, our sense of national priorities debased. For this, 20,000 young Americans have died. This dangerous war must be brought to an end.

The massive resistance of the essentially middle class academic, professional, and religious communities could be crucial in the coming months. We are informed about the realities of Vietnam and privileged with an ability to articulate them. The moral and political imperatives of immediate action fall heavily on us.

What has, up to now, prevented us from meeting this imperative is the deal middle class people have made with the Federal Government. If we students live within the confines of our deferments, remain effectively silent, accept our political irrelevance, then the government will not trouble to put us or our parents and friends in a position where moral decision and political responsibility are unavoidable. We need only to allow them to fight the war in Vietnam without the burden of our collective resistance.

We invite all members of the academic community who share our concern to join us in this responsible demonstration of solidarity toward ending this terrible war. To refuse to come forward in favor of your beliefs, while men continue to die in an undeclared war is denying yourself a voice that is your right. Vigil- April 3, 4, 5, 6:30-7:15pm. in front of Hawkins Hall, State University College, Plattsburgh. For more information contact:

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