

The Resistance

Today Vietnamese men, women and children will die. They will die at the end of an American soldier's bayonet, they will burn to death from the napalm dropped from American planes. These executions are performed daily by ordinary American guys, most of whom are NOT in Vietnam by choice. They were drafted. Our government ordered them there.

What can we do about these crimes??

Is it enough to sign a petition, continue working toward our degree, and living a "normal" and happy life? Every American who feels strongly about the Vietnamese war must ask himself these questions.

The number of young Americans who oppose this war and wish no part of it increases daily. But for men of draft age the alternatives to conscription are few. If they are without student deferment and will not or cannot fake their way out, they can only apply for C.O. status. The great majority of those who apply for C.O. status are eventually turned down. Then the only alternative to military service is jail. However, those most active in their opposition to the war have deferments; either because they are students or because of their unwanted politics.

THE RESISTANCE is a group of men who feel we can no longer passively accept our deferments so that others can go in our place. We REFUSE to cooperate with the draft and urge all other American men to join us. We are convinced that there are enough men seriously opposed to the war that a significant, political effect would result if we stood up TOGETHER and refused to cooperate with the system that perpetrates murder in our name. We believe that only by doing so will we be in a position to speak to young Americans who are faced with the draft. We would like every American man to realize that he must make a moral choice as to whether he will allow himself to be used to commit war crimes.

We are organizing now in preparation for our action in the fall. On October 16 several hundred of us across the country will inform the government in a dramatic way that cannot be ignored, that we REFUSE all cooperation with the draft. We will clearly challenge the government's right to use any American lives for its war against the Vietnamese people. Further, our challenge will continue, and we will openly violate the selective service laws until the government is forced to deal with our collective protest. Anyone of us singled out for arrest can be assured that we will stand together with him. For example, we intend to file confessions at the police stations stating that we ALSO have violated the selective service act. We are confident that upon our example every young man in America will realize that HE must decide whether to resist or acquiesce to the draft and the war. Many will resist.

The price of our refusal--which we are prepared to pay--will more than likely be a jail sentence. But compared to the price that Vietnamese people pay daily for refusing to 'cooperate' with the American government, our price is small, indeed.

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