

THE CHRISTIAN RESISTANCE

What the world expects of Christians is that Christians should speak out loud and clear...in such that never a doubt, never the slightest doubt could rise in the heart of the simplest man. That they should get away from abstraction and confront the blood-stained face history has taken on today. The grouping we need is a grouping of men resolved to speak out clearly and to pay up personally. (Albert Camus, 1948)

In the face of our nation's growing aggression in Vietnam, we have attempted to speak out clearly. But our voices, our votes, our prayers, our marching feet have failed to stem the tide of escalation. By now, American planes have bombed targets within one minute of China's borders, and our government continues to show no signs of slackening its deceitful indifference to the achievement of peace in Vietnam. Moreover, as events in Vietnam spiral toward an ever more grim crescendo, faint sounds of the future "Vietnams" begin to emanate from other parts of the world. The highly visible American presence in Thailand, the charred remains of peasants in Guatemala, and the activities of American "advisors" in Peru suggest that the U. S. has become the most determined and active purveyor of counter-revolutionary violence in the world today.

This pattern of neo-imperialism leads us to believe that the time has come to pay up personally. The choices that moral men face are becoming ever clearer, ever narrower, until we feel compelled to commit our lives to reversing our government's violent course home and abroad. Thus we join with other members of The Resistance in ending our cooperation with the Selective Service System which serves as an indispensable foundation of American militarism and which lives by virtue of our acquiescence. On October 16, 1967, we joined with hundreds of American young men in announcing our refusal to cooperate further with Selective Service and from there we are continuing to intensify our effort to undermine American militarism, principally through nonviolent confrontation with its agency of manpower recruitment and control.

And yet, although we are painfully aware that the Cross stands at the center of Christian life, we are not acting in the quest of martyrdom. Rather, we are committed to the development of a Christian community with the intellectual and spiritual resources to maintain its independence of a national ideology and style of life becoming ever more callous to theological and humanistic values. We seek to discover and affirm that a life lived in the context of risk and suffering can also be a life which leads to the formation of joyous and vibrant community.

We are attempting to face with equanimity, even with joy, the futuristic, open-ended dimensions of our situation, and to develop, without abdication our responsibility for rational analysis, and kind of realism that is appropriate to the openness of the future and the level of our commitment. Therefore we join with Richard Shaull in asserting that "to be realistic cannot mean to limit oneself to what now seems politically possible, but to undertake the impossible in an attitude of daring and of trust."

Although our acts of resistance involve the threat of a severe jail sentence (the maximum penalty is five years in jail and a \$10,000 fine), we refuse to be paralyzed by fear of this weapon in the government's arsenal. For more powerful than our fear of prison is our compassion for the suffering of the Vietnamese people and our belief that future "Vietnams" can be prevented only by the resistance of large numbers of Americans to their government's policy of counterrevolutionary violence.

We call upon Christians of draft age who may share our sentiments to consider joining us in this act. We ask those of like mind who are ineligible for the draft to seek concrete ways of expressing complicity and support.

PLEASE CLIP AND SEND IN THIS COUPON FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

- I would like more information about The Resistance and Conscientious Resistance.
- I would like more information about the War in Vietnam.
- I would like counselling about the draft.
- I would like to donate some of my time to help The Resistance and Conscientious Resistance with their work.
- I would like to help out these groups with a donation of \$ _____
(Make checks payable to Jill Boskey, secretary.)

SEND TO:

WASHINGTON AREA CHRISTIAN RESISTANCE
DAN EARLY
1362 NEWTON STREET N.E.
WASHINGTON, D.C.
PHONE: (202) 562-7599

WASHINGTON AREA RESISTANCE
2719 ONTARIO ROAD N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009
PHONE: 387-3626