

2516 Dana Street

Berkeley, California 94704

May 22, 1972.

Dear American Friends,

I am a twenty-three-year-old Vietnamese student at the University of California at Berkeley. A scholarship of the U.S. Agency for International Development brought me to this country in March 1968. My native city is the old imperial capital Huế, where my grandfather was a respected Confucian scholar and Minister of Law in the royal government early in the century.

The experience of growing up under the reign of terror of the successive Saigon dictatorships understandably left me quite apprehensive about political involvement. The Cambodia invasion however compelled me to speak up against this ecocidal and genocidal war mercilessly directed at my land and my people.

I have since continued to appear at numerous teach-ins, rallies, marches, etc. to voice the desires of the overwhelming majority of my people in the South — that the war should be ended at once, and that all foreign war personnel

and materials should be withdrawn totally and unconditionally so that we, the Vietnamese, can settle our own affairs for ourselves.

One result was that when I went to the Saigon Consulate General in San Francisco to renew my visa and passport last July, the official in charge of student, Mr. Nha, told me: "Mr. Huyen, we have to this day been lenient and have not reported of your activities to Saigon yet. But if you do not stop causing trouble we will, and then the police will take care of you when you go back."

Stop my anti-war activities? How could I while Nixon has ceaselessly stepped up the ecocide and genocide by escalating under the pretext of a "just and honorable peace"? Go home? I am graduating, and A. I. D. has notified me that my scholarship will terminate, and I will have to return, on the coming July 8th.

Dear American Friends,

I must now go to court to prove that political persecution is waiting for me in Vietnam. If I win this precedent I can stay for graduate work in clinical psychology, a skill sorely needed in my country. Other Vietnamese peace

activists will need to worry about reprisals no longer, and those who have hitherto remained silent will feel secure to speak up for our land and our people.

The main objectives however are to bring to the awareness of the American public the increasingly oppressive and barbaric nature of the Thieu regime, and to obtain from the U.S. legal system an official acknowledgement of the political persecution perpetrated by Thieu under U.S. sponsorship.

Dear American Friends,

The task will have strong and wide-ranging political implications. But it is difficult. It requires a lot of support. My dear friends, could you help?

Vietnam to the Vietnamese!

Ngô Tăng Huyền

Nguyễn Tăng Huyền

P. S. Thieu publicly promised to "beat to death" those asking for "immediate peace." New York Times, July 16, 1970.