

I. The Asian Coalition adopts the following position regarding recent escalation of the Indochinese war by the U.S. (excerpted from statement of the People's Republic of China):

On May 8th, 1972, Nixon brazenly ordered the mining of the Haiphong harbors of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam; thus, cutting off the land and water communications of North Vietnam. The United States has again escalated its war of aggression against Vietnam. The bombing of Haiphong and Hanoi is another example of the escalation.

The pretexts used by the U.S. imperialists to escalate the war are:

1. North Vietnamese soldiers invaded South Vietnam by crossing DMZ zone. Thus, the U.S. is protecting the South Vietnamese people against the Communists from the north.

2. These actions are "safeguarding the lives of American soldiers in Vietnam."

The Asian Coalition states that the above two pretexts are absurd.

1. In reality, we know that the U.S. is the aggressor and Vietnam is the victim of aggression. It is the United States that violated the Geneva agreements of 1954 and created its puppet regime in South Vietnam. Furthermore, U.S. used its air and naval forces to massacre the Vietnamese people as witnessed in the past at My Lai, ...etc. The U.S. also made massive invasions into Laos and Cambodia, thus starting the second Indochina War. Yet now, the U.S. describes its aggression as resistance to North Vietnamese "invasion."

This is a total reverse of the truth. It clearly demonstrates the nature of U.S. imperialism.

2. The loss of American soldiers' lives in Vietnam is entirely due to the U.S. government's policy of aggression. If the U.S. government stops its aggression and withdraws all its forces and ceases to support the puppet Thieu regime, only then will the American soldiers' lives be saved. By escalating the war, the U.S. will cause more American soldiers to lose their lives and more suffering of the Vietnamese people.

II. Since the birth of progressive and anti-imperialist Asian organizations in New York and since their first unifying under the banner of the Asian Coalition, the anti-war movement among Asian students has grown in support, has raised to the American people an Asian viewpoint in support of the just cause of the Indochinese people's war for national salvation, and through the practice of working in many coalitions with other anti-imperialist organizations in the East Coast raised the consciousness of Asian students of the struggle we must wage in this country to smash the imperialist forces of the U.S. There have been many shortcomings, too, in the movement, which have divided and held it back, rather than push it forward: factionalism, individualism, vacillation, ultrademocracy, etc. As Nixon escalates the war in the face of the Indochinese people's nearing victory, there is now a renewed effort among the Asian anti-imperialist groups in New York to overcome these shortcomings through principled struggle, and to unite the widest sector possible in actions and mass organizing work that will truly serve the cause of the Indochinese people in throwing out the U.S. aggressors.

On Sunday, May 14, representatives from thirteen organizations and many individuals met to plan immediate actions to protest Nixon's most recent escalation of the war. The Steering Committee, which met Thursday, May 18, summed up the opinions expressed at the May 14 meeting as follows:

1. Asians must unify around a more militant stand against the Indochinese War in light of the recent escalations, in protest actions which reach the American public through the media. The actions called in the past have been inadequate.

2. There must be greater cooperation between student and community based groups in bringing information about the war to greater numbers of Asian students and working people. Community organizations should take the initiative in suggesting methods to raise the anti-war issues in Asian communities.

3. The Asian Coalition must consider itself a more permanent organization, committed to planning and carrying out actions protesting the war until the U.S. ends its aggression in Indochina.

Although there was general agreement on the above points, differences arose over tactical questions--as to what actions would most effectively propagandize our views to the American people.

The Steering Committee proposes the following course of action for the Coalition:

1. participate in Third World Front demonstration at Honeywell, May 22. One Asian speaker; recommendations: Ngo Vinh Long, Mary Kochiyama, Bea Hsia.

2. Plan more effective Asian actions. At May 21st Coalition meeting, discuss: a) actions that would reach Asian public through media b) mass

organizing actions (guerilla theatre and rallies, newsletter)

3. Form a more disciplined and permanent structure for the Coalition.
Develop means of better communication among Asian organizations.

In order to carry out the above, the Steering Committee will:

1. Draft a program and structure for the Asian Coalition. To be presented at next meeting.
2. After general meeting of Coalition May 21, carry out decision as to what series of actions Asians in New York should take. We should try to arrive at firmer recommendation to the Steering Committee at May 21 meeting.