

Asian Coalition

Asian Coalition is a coalition of independent Asian American individuals and groups who are committed at this time to the stand of Asians Against the War in Indochina. This is a statement of our beliefs.

1. The war against the three Indochinese peoples is the most barbaric and repressive in the history of Mankind. It uses everything from ruthless and indiscriminate aerial bombing to brutal political repression to wholesale massacre of innocent civilians to prevent the Indochinese from achieving independence. It is an illegal, immoral, and racist war. It violates the sovereignty and the right to self-determination of the Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian peoples.

2. Asian Americans feel a particular solidarity with the struggle for self-determination and national salvation of the Indochinese peoples because these are struggles of our peoples. The same forces which are responsible for the war against the peoples of Indochina are responsible for the racism committed against Asians and other Third World peoples in America. Furthermore, as an Asian in the United States, we feel particular solidarity for the struggles of Third World peoples around the world and within the United States. However, the entire American peoples suffer from the war. Therefore, we must unite as one group and link up the struggle of all the American peoples to end the war.

This war is being fought for interests of a handful of powerful and privileged few, the military-industrial complex. Its purpose is, as former American ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge said, "to secure the resources of Indochina for the United States."

3. The war against the three Indochinese peoples goes against the

humanity of the vast majority of the peoples of the world. Countless protests in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America, as well as in the United States, shows the people's determined opposition to this war. In the United States, over 80% of the peoples are against this war. We make a distinction between the American people and the American government. The American government does not serve the American people but only a handful of big businessmen.

4. The war is against the interests of the American people, especially the poor and working people. The American people have to bear the burden of heavy taxation, rampant inflation and war casualties. Furthermore, the resources and labor of the American people do not go where they are needed—to health, housing, education and other vital social services. It is clear that the American government does not respond to the wishes and needs of the people and in fact goes directly against the interests of poor and working people.

5. The international situation is changing every day. Everyday, the political, economic and military strength of the United States around the world is decaying. Everyday, the independence of the Indochinese people draw closer. Everyday, domestic problems worsen. Still the American government persists in its blind, genocidal policies in Indochina. Therefore, it is an ever greater responsibility on our part to intensify the struggle against the war based on the interests of the vast majority of the American peoples and the poor and working people in particular.

6. We pledge ourselves in full support of the right to self-determination of the three Indochinese peoples. The problems of the Indochinese should be settled by themselves without American interference. We demand the complete withdrawal of all American troops and material from Indochina

and ^{an} ~~to~~ ^{to the} end/support of puppet regimes.

7. The Asian Coalition stands in unity with all peoples opposed to the war of aggression against the struggle for independence of the Indo-chinese peoples. Only the solidarity of all peoples will bring victory of the cause of self-determination for the Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian peoples.

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The Asian Coalition which began two years ago in a loosely-knit way, bringing Asians together against the Vietnam War, is continuing to do so except in a more structured manner and with a declaration of principles in building a more solid Asian front with a wider out-reach.

To bring out more Asians with varied backgrounds, the Asian movement participants, like the Third World Front, are discarding elitist attitudes so that potential allies will not be turned away. ~~Also, racism, rather than an ideological position, is being used as the common denominator of understanding in waging the first steps in the Asian anti-war movement.~~

A steering committee, representing different Asian backgrounds and organizations, is being developed. Decisions on actions, ^{with} (1) mass, integrated but largely white; (2) Asian only; and (3) Third World--will be decided by the whole body. ^{At} This last meeting, the Coalition endorsed a teach-in; and also the April 1st demonstration in Harrisburg in consideration of supporting ^{AAA} ~~AAA's~~ (but not necessarily participating with) AAA).

Meetings have been held almost weekly on Sundays, at 7:30 p.m., at the Asian Lounge in Carmen Mall, 114th and Broadway (Columbia University). All Asian organizations are asked to send representatives. Unattached Asian individuals (not belonging to any group) are also welcomed.