

STATEMENT TO THE ASIAN COALITION

We, a group of Asians, are planning to occupy the Saigon Mission for a short period of time to show our solidarity with the Vietnamese struggle for national liberation. We ask for the support of our people when we carry this action out. As our sisters and brothers we know you feel as we do about the war, a struggle which has been an important focus of our movement; a struggle which has helped us see our own contradictions as Asians living here in America.

Our enemy is the same. As Asians, in America, we also face economic exploitation, racism, and repression of our ideas and culture; we have met our oppression through the constant brainwashing of the media, in the schools, on the job, and in the communities; but the Vietnamese have had to face the physical force of the U.S. military.

It is time for us to escalate our struggle and show our solidarity with the Vietnamese struggle. The Vietnamese are fighting and dying for us as well as themselves. They recognize the two struggles as one, as we should.

We must find ways to express our solidarity and show the American public the racist nature of the war. So far we have demonstrated our views through rallies and teach-ins. These have been effective to a point. But there is now a need to take things to a step further. So many of us have felt the frustrations of past rallies which have been organized by white, liberal anti-war groups who concentrated on only "bringing the boys home". We have felt lost and helpless in being able to express the Asian perspective on the war. We should no longer depend on these groups to organize and plan for us, but, as Asians, we should initiate actions ourselves. Realizing that our numbers are small, we cannot depend on mass actions to be the most effective. There are many other methods of protest that we should explore .

There are many symbolic reasons for occupying the Saigon Mission.

One is the obvious exposure of the Saigon regime; demanding that Thieu get out, etc. Furthermore, it is an opportunity for us to show the American people, our communities, and ourselves that Asians in this country identify with the Vietnamese people and support their struggle against the racist and imperialist U.S. government.