

Mr. President:

We have a stake in America's Youth—

We can't build emotionally healthy adults while our youth face death in Indo-China and frustration and despair at home.

As mental health workers deeply committed to improvement in the quality of the lives of young people, and as human beings who see disruption and despair deepening daily in our nation, we are impelled to speak out against the Administration's widening of an immoral war in South East Asia . . . a war which has been so cruelly destructive to the mental health, the physical wholeness, and indeed the very lives of our youth. The death and demoralization of so many of our young is in no way justified by any goals that have been enunciated by the government.

We feel we must express our deep concern over the Administration's unilateral decision to extend the Vietnam conflict across the boundaries of another nation. The decision to resume bombing of North Vietnam undermines the credibility of all previous pronouncements of peaceful intent, and makes a mockery of all previous initiatives for peace. No matter how rationalized, the decision to extend the war represents a clear abdication of any guiding national moral purpose.

It is unrealistic and untenable to believe that the end of the war can be hastened by extending it. Violence abroad has increasingly begotten violence at home. Two weeks ago four innocent protestors at Kent State University lawfully exercising their right to peaceful dissent were killed. The death of these students portends an even more ominous turn of events.

We deplore the irreparable damage and the unbounded suffering that five years of escalated war has caused, and which have brought about an unparalleled and ever deepening division in our nation.

We, therefore, as concerned mental health workers and as responsible citizens, register our strong dissent to the recent presidential policies and pronouncements which reflect more concern for the tactics of power than for such principles as respect for the right to self-determination of other nations and the right to vocal dissent in our own country.

MENTAL HEALTH WORKERS FOR PEACE
c/o JBG Staff Committee for Peace
120 W. 57 St., N.Y. 10019

Enclosed is my contribution to help disseminate your message further.

I would like to participate in future activities. (Please note if a member of mental health or other organization.)

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MENTAL HEALTH WORKERS FOR PEACE

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