

Voice Of Ghetto Persuades King To Oppose War

NEW YORK, April 4. — (AP) — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said Tuesday night that the United States is on the wrong side of a world revolution and urged an admission "that we have been wrong from the beginning of our adventure in Vietnam."

He called the United States "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today," and pleaded for a greater understanding of the drama and fears of emerging nations.

King said his escalating opposition to the war was sparked in part by his slum organizing campaign in Northern cities.

"As I have walked among the desperate, rejected and angry young men I have told them that Molotov cocktails and rifles would not solve their problems, maintaining my convictions that social change comes most meaningfully through nonviolent action.

"But they asked, and rightly so, what about Vietnam? They asked if our own nation wasn't using massive doses of violence to solve its problems, to bring about the changes it wanted.

"Their questions hit home, and I knew that I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without first having spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today — our own government."

King called again for the United States to take the initiative in ending the war and repeated his five recommendations, including a unilateral cease-fire, and end to the bombing and negotiations with the National Liberation Front (Viet Cong).

But he also called on "all ministers of draft age to give up their ministerial draft exemptions and seek status as conscientious objectors."

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