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tesque" response by "deranged" people — a "caricature" of the dedicated, organized mass action still required to end the war.

We are writing about one of those indicted—a former student at Princeton and a good friend, Eqbal Ahmad, now a Fellow at the Adlai Stevenson Institute of International Affairs.

Everything we know about Dr. Ahmad is contrary to that of which he is accused. He is a scholar in political science who has established an international reputation with his published work on revolution. He has also translated his analysis into action.

He was one of the first to denounce romantic revolutionaries for substituting personal heroics for the truly difficult task of fashioning new links among the exploited, the powerless, the excluded and those who know what sustained work is required to transform individuals and society.

His writings have analyzed the disadvantages of conspiracy and terror when used by revolutionaries and emphasized the need to concentrate on isolating all unjust regimes morally and politically. A group of extreme leftist students last year stormed into the Adlai Stevenson Institute, and deliberately destroyed Eqbal Ahmad's research notes.

In our view, Eqbal Ahmad understands well the underlying social forces that impel rulers to persist in ruinous wars; and allow revolutionaries with deep roots among their own people to succeed despite the might brought against them by great powers. This, among other things, has made him a first-rate teacher and analyst and also one of the most persuasive opponents of the Vietnam war on campuses in this country and abroad.

Eqbal Ahmad's public record of scholarship and advocacy makes the accusation appear highly implausible to us.

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Princeton, N. J., Feb. 1, 1971

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Eqbal Ahmad: A Defense

To the Editor:

Leaders in the movement to end the prolonged, cruel and useless violence against millions in Indochina have now been indicted by the Justice Department for a conspiracy to blow up a heating system and kidnap a Presidential adviser. As Fathers Daniel and Phillip F. Berrigan have already rightly said, such a plot would be a "gro-