

# Marchers Oppose U.S. Vietnam Stand

By Athelia Knight

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More than 600 persons, mostly youthful followers of the Korean evangelist Sun Myung Moon, demonstrated yesterday across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House and on the steps of the Capitol to call for continued U.S. commitment to South Vietnam.

The marchers who had traveled from points around the country for the "People's March for World Freedom," sang and chanted to the beat of five bass drums as they paraded from Dupont Circle to the Vietnamese Embassy on Lafayette Park and down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol steps.

The purpose of the march "is to awaken the American public to the fact that innocent people are being killed in Vietnam because Communism itself is dangerous and

wrong," said Neil Albert Salonen, president of the Freedom Leadership Foundation, Inc. The foundation is a nationwide nonprofit organization founded by Moon to fight Communism.

Marchers went from Dupont Circle to the Vietnamese embassy where they delivered a "letter of solidarity." In the letter marchers stated, "We cannot deny that the tragic events now transpiring in your country are a direct result of the withdrawal of American support for your heroic struggle for freedom."

The marchers carried banners that read, "Wake Up America, Communism Itself Is Wrong," "Who Betrayed Vietnam," "Great Nations Don't Break Promises," and "Save 2,000 Orphans, But Don't Forget 5 Million Adults."

As the demonstrators rallied in Lafayette Park across from the White House, organizers criticized American leaders, saying they have failed to support South Vietnam.

"We need to give Vietnam any type of aid that is needed," said Tom Palmigiano, 25 of Brooklyn, N.Y.



By Craig Herndon—The Washington Post

Marchers in the "People's March for World Freedom" stand on the east steps of the Capitol to hear speakers.

Palmigiano said if the nation does not support Vietnam, communism will spread.

"America is the guardian angel of the world," he said. "Just our standing there as a Big Brother will stop those attacks."

After marching in front of the White House chanting "communism is wrong," the demonstrators paraded four abreast down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol, tying up midday traffic. Park police estimated that there

were more than 600 marchers.

The situation in Vietnam "is not a civil war as the news media would have you believe," Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) told the crowd on the Capitol steps. "This is a war of commu-

nism against the free people of the world."

Thurmond criticized Congress for opposing the President's request for military aid. The amount the President requested "is chicken feed (compared) to what we have already spent," he said.