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300 Celebrate War's Conclusion

By Elizabeth Becker
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Three hundred persons—some holding political banners, others with children and puppies—sat or stood in Lafayette Park yesterday to hear such traditional antiwar speakers as Dave Dellinger and Fred Branfman.

But the demonstration was actually a celebration, marking the end of the war in Indochina, which some of those gathered had protested for a good part of their young lives.

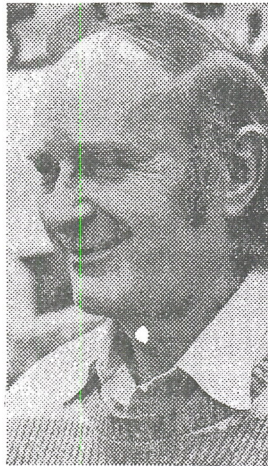
They said it was the last antiwar demonstration. People spoke of milestones, remembering the "big" Washington demonstrations like the counterinaugural in 1972, the May Day demonstration in 1971, and the Kent State demonstration of 1970.

Yesterday was the fifth anniversary of the deaths of four students at that Ohio campus. One of the speakers, Peg Averil, had been there.

"We were meeting in a bar on Water Street to decide if we would hold a rally the next day," she recalled. We were discussing how all of a sudden a small city in the middle of the U.S. was occupied by National Guardsmen . . . we decided to hold the rally . . . and at Kent State the movement lost its baby fat."

Most of the old ingredients that have been a part of local protest were there. The rally was late in beginning because the police had asked the speakers to move toward the other side of the park. A lead wire for the sound system was laid across the sidewalk and created an apparent safety hazard.

"Welcome," said the keynote speaker, "to the most extraordinary demonstration held . . . a demonstration to blow all our minds; in celebration of the victory of the people of Vietnam and Cambodia," said Arthur Kinoy of the National



DAVID DELLINGER
... attends 'last' rally

Lawyers' Guild.

People in the young-to-middle-age crowd, who were mostly dressed in blue jeans with sweaters thrown over their shoulders, greeted each other as if they were at a reunion.

Some wore protest buttons dating back to 1965, one woman wore a feminist T-shirt that read "Women hold up

half the sky," and many wore small lapel pins that from a distance resembled American Legion flags but were actually twin flags of the two governments now ruling Vietnam.

Also milling about in the park in 66-degree weather yesterday were some relative strangers to the antiwar movement. For instance, Milton Shinberg, a Washington architect, said he came to celebrate the end of the war but he "felt guilty . . . because I didn't work hard enough to make it end."

Those who spent their recent years on telephones and at duplicating machines and typewriters to protest the war included Branfman, founder of the D.C.-based Indochina Resource Center.

Branfman, 33, tried to recall before his speech just how many demonstrations he had been involved in.

"Let's see, there was the April 24th demonstration in 1971, Mayday, October, 1971, then a whole series of stuff . . . the problem is there were so many it's hard to remember . . . oh, I know, the last big one was January, 1973 . . . 100,000 protesting," he recalled.

In front of the crowd, Branfman addressed the "new generation, a Vietnam generation that did not grow up on World War II . . . who built up a movement of millions against the war.

"I'm happy to be out of the years of despair," he said, "when we thought the war would not end."