



By Ken Felt -The Washington Post

Members of American Friends Service Committee stand silently outside White House in Quaker protest yesterday.

Quakers to Flout Law on Viet Aid

By Marjorie Hyer

Washington Post Staff Writer

The chairman of the American Friends Service Committee said yesterday the Quaker agency, which repeatedly has been denied government permits to send humanitarian aid to Vietnam, will risk government prosecution for sending help anyway "as the (Holy) Spirit dictates to us to do."

Wallace T. Collett said the Philadelphia-based agency has already sent to Vietnam 16.5 tons of yarn to be made into children's sweaters and has arranged for purchase overseas of 220 tons of powdered milk for Vietnamese children. Both shipments violated the law since the agency was refused licenses for them.

Collett and Louis Schneider, AFSC executive director,

sought to discuss what the latter termed the "inhumane restrictions" on Vietnam aid with President Ford, while 250 silent, placard-carrying supporters stretched the length of the north White House fence in a noon hour vigil.

They were refused admittance to the White House as they had been informed earlier they would be.

The Quaker leaders were accompanied by representatives of several other church agencies including the National Council of Churches.

The AFSC has applied for and been refused licenses to send self-help equipment and provisions to the Vietnamese:

—Fish nets to help rebuild the fishing industry and provide needed protein food.

—Agricultural implements, including small tractors and rototillers for rice farming.

—Machines to make wood screws for use in a cooperative employing war handicapped people in Hanoi.

Schneider said that under present U.S. policy, religious and other aid groups could send food or clothing to Vietnam but not supplies that could contribute to the country's economy.

"We were granted a license to ship food, but the license to ship fish nets, which would provide food for many people for a longer period of time has been denied," Collett explained.

Schneider particularly was critical of the political motivation of present U.S. policy toward Vietnam.

He said the AFSC had shipped the same kind of agricultural implements to South Vietnam during the war

that they now are prevented from sending.

The Quaker delegation left at the White House copies of more than 2,500 donor forms, each signed by a contributor who acknowledged that his donation "may be interpreted as a violation of the law."

Collett said the appeal for funds for Vietnam brought the greatest response in the AFSC's 58-year history.