

Stanford President's Warning on War

Stanford president Richard W. Lyman warned yesterday that the continuing Vietnam war threatens the future of democracy in the United States.

"This comes about, not because of a unique villainy on the part of the protagonists in this particular war, but because war itself is antithetical to democratic values," Lyman wrote.

His warning was made in a letter to the editor sent to the New York Times Lyman signed it as president of Stanford.

Lyman said college students, ever since they became old enough to become politically conscious, "have

experienced an unending spate of misinformation and false prophecy with regard to Vietnam."

He added: "The tortured elaborations of Pentagonese have brought palpably closer the notorious era of double-think foreseen by George Orwell in his book, '1984.'"

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A historian by training, Lyman said "if the growth of cynicism and doubt continues through another period of years, we will suffer further subtle but ineradicable wounds here at home..."

"will make American democracy in the 20th century as much a casualty of prolonged warfare as was Athenian de-

mocracy in the Fifth century B.C."

The letter said "eight years of war abroad have produced a marked deterioration in the political life of our own country.

"This deterioration is nowhere more marked than on the leading campuses, where the argument that only force counts is heard from young people whose cynicism in this regard is a deadly threat to the future of a democratic policy.

"In particular," Lyman continued, "students today are either disgusted by or themselves infected with the disease of prevarication and contempt for honest dealings."