

400 College Leaders Condemn War Policy in Letter to Nixon

By JOHN KIFNER

More than 400 student presidents and college editors have signed an open letter to President Nixon condemning his policies in Vietnam and charging that the Administration "seriously misinterprets the mood of both the campus and the countryside."

The letter, which was signed by student leaders at both prestigious and little-known colleges, attacks the President's "Vietnamization" policy, contending that "changing the color of the corpses does not end the war."

"Yet it is apparent that our policymakers have never considered the cost in Asian lives of the policies they pursue," the letter said.

The statement, to be released in Washington today, is signed by the largest number of student leaders to sign such a protest against the war.

In December, 1966, 100 student leaders sent an open letter to President Johnson expressing anxiety and doubts over the war. In the spring of 1967, 200 student leaders signed similar letter, and in April, 1969, 253 student presidents and editors signed a statement saying that they would go to jail rather than be drafted "as long as the war in Vietnam continues."

Organizers of the current drive said yesterday afternoon that they had 448 signatures and hoped to have 500 tomorrow.

The letter calls on the President to "reverse futile and immoral policies and use your authority to end the bloodshed in Vietnam"

"If not," the letter goes on, "you will have to take respon-

sibility for an intensification of public divisiveness and disunity which will further weaken the already torn moral and social fabric of American life.

"The outrage and the purposefulness emerging from beneath the surface despair on our campuses, when it is coupled with the widespread loss of public confidence in your Administration, cannot be deflected or contained."

The signers of the letter represent schools as disparate as Harvard and Grace Bible Institute; Berkeley and West Texas State; Dartmouth and Central Bible College in Missouri, and Duke University and Alaska Methodist University.

Other Schools Listed

Among the other schools represented are: Brown University, U.C.L.A., University of Colorado, Louisiana Tech, Syracuse Georgetown, Boston College, University of Iowa, University of Texas, Indiana State, Clemson, Rice, Ohio State, Sheridan College in Wyoming, Vanderbilt, Brandeis and Pawson College in Glendive, Minn.

And there were three schools where students have been slain in campus demonstrations: Kent State University, Jackson State College and South Carolina State in Orangeburg.

The campaign was organized by David Hawk, one of the organizers of last year's Moratorium and Dennis Riordan, a former student president at Colgate University. The young men, both draft resisters who are now studying at Union Theological Seminary, began drawing up the letter soon after the invasion of Laos in February.