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## Rogers Hears 175 At Colgate Reject Role in Asian War

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HAMILTON, N. Y., May 30—More than a third of Colgate University's graduates—175 out of 479—stood up quietly this afternoon to confront Secretary of State William P. Rogers with a pledge, "If drafted, we will not accept a combat role in Indochina."

Hundreds of parents, faculty members and visitors arose after them in a sympathy demonstration at the call of the class valedictorian, Thomas W. O'Brien, a 22-year-old Rhodes Scholar-designate from the Bronx. Thirty-one hundred persons filled the Reid Athletic Center.

Earlier, Secretary Rogers, the principal speaker, gave a wide-ranging foreign policy address that touched on Vietnam, the Middle East, relations with Communist China, and United States initiative toward negotiations to limit antiballistic missiles and to reduce western and Communist forces in Central Europe.

Mr. Rogers noted that he was outlining Nixon Administration views in the belief that "you will agree with our foreign policy more than you realize."

On the Vietnam war, Mr. Rogers said:

"President Nixon is getting

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## 175 at Colgate Inform Rogers They Won't Fight in Indochina

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the United States out of the war in Vietnam. There will continue to be debate and public discussion on the pace and details of the withdrawals, but our course has been carefully charted by the President, and our course is irreversible."

Despite the recent signing of a treaty between Egypt and the Soviet Union, Mr. Rogers said he saw no need for changes in United States policy in the Middle East.

### Will Attend NATO Meeting

He said he would fly to Lisbon on Tuesday to attend a ministerial meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty allies, adding that the ministers hoped to formulate a new initiative to open talks with the Soviet Union on reducing forces in Central Europe.

The Secretary also cited plans for the withdrawal of 20,000 American troops from Korea, 16,000 from Thailand, 12,000 from Japan and 9,000 from the Philippines.

What is needed for the future, he said, is not a United States neo-isolationism from world affairs, but "a more creative and realistic American participation" with broad public backing, and he appealed for foreign-policy support from the young.

Mr. Rogers, a 1934 graduate of Colgate who is now on leave as a trustee of the university, had been forewarned of the demonstration at the exercises, and said:

"I'm glad to be here, I guess," adding: "I am quite convinced that because of six years of exhaustive debate, no minds can be changed on the subject of Vietnam by further argumentation. Future events will change minds. Today's discourse will not."

### Bishop Joins Protesters

Among those standing to support the graduates' pledge against going to fight in Vietnam was Episcopal Bishop J. Brooke Mosley, president of Union Theological Seminary, one of three recipients of honorary degrees. His son, Peter, was one of the seniors who had signed the pledge.

Colgate's University's president, Dr. Thomas A. Bartlett, told the 150th commencement's audience after the demonstration, that the action had been a "misuse of me, a misuse of the occasion and a misuse of

the Secretary of State." Apparently strongly affected by the demonstration, he spoke in an almost inaudible voice.

Mr. O'Brien told newsmen the action had been voted by a meeting of the senior class on May 13.

He said Secretary Rogers had accepted it last Monday, but had objected Friday when Dr. Bartlett, in Washington, told him the students planned to expand it to ask for faculty and parental support. But Mr. O'Brien said that at a student-administration meeting yesterday he had insisted on going ahead.

Secretary Rogers sought to defuse any bitterness by emphasizing at the outset that he had been invited by the graduating class, and by the interpolating at different points his confidence that most graduates would agree with a particular Administration policy.

### Once Led a Demonstration

Before the commencement, Mr. Rogers had walked around the campus lake, recalling conversationally that he once led a demonstration here himself. It was as an undergraduate in Depression days, protesting successfully against a 5-cent rise in movie admission prices.

Mr. O'Brien in his quietly delivered eight-minute valedictory, following Mr. Rogers, said "many of us respect the person and statements of the Secretary of State" but disagree with his views.

The sacrifices of drafted young Americans' lives in Vietnam, Mr. O'Brien said, "might make some sense if this war had any conceivable connection to the cause of freedom in the world or the real security of the United States."

Mr. O'Brien, who lives at 545 West 236th Street, the Bronx, said universities had trained young people to question. To applause, he asserted "we begin to question, in the religious tradition, what does it profit a society to gain the whole and lose its soul."

Then he announced that seniors "wish to go on record as expressing their extreme dissatisfaction with American foreign policy in Southeast Asia."

He began reading names, and seniors stood up: "Robbie Gaines, Mark Landau, David Rosengarten, Al Francendese, Ron Bookbinder, John Vandais . . ." Mr. Rogers, behind him, sat poker-faced.