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A Series of Suits to End Vietnam War

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The National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee is filing a series of lawsuits in federal courts across the nation—one of them in San Francisco—to bring an end to the Vietnam War on the grounds that it was never legally declared by Congress and is therefore unconstitutional.

The suits, one of which was filed in U.S. district court here yesterday, are on behalf of numerous taxpayers and against President Nixon and Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird.

The suits seek permanent injunctions against further war expenditures by Congress and judgments that the Vietnam war is in violation of both the U.S. Constitution and the United Nations U.N. Charter.

Victor Rabinowitz, attorney for the NECLC, a New York-based national organization, said yesterday that the strategy of multiple suits was designed to lead ultimately to differing appellate opinions and this increase its chances of being heard by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Although several cases alleging that the Vietnam war is illegal have gone up to the Supreme Court, it has never consented to hear one.

Identical suits have been or will be this week filed here and in New York, New Haven, Conn., Philadelphia, Baltimore, Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis, Denver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Tucson, Ariz.

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