

Viet GIs Sign Anti-War Petition

SAIGON — (AP) — A petition signed by nearly 1000 soldiers, sailors and airmen opposed to continued U.S. military involvement in Southeast Asia will be sent tomorrow to Navy Secretary John Chafee for forwarding to Congress.

The signatures were collected in the Saigon area by Navy Radarman James Mohler II, 24, of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, and Ens. Philip Geier III, 23, of Cincinnati.

The petition is being sent to Chafee because Navy regulations require that all such petitions be submitted through the secretary.

The text of the petition, ad-

ressed to the Congress, reads:

"We, the undersigned American servicemen on duty in Vietnam, wish to express our opposition to further United States military involvement by air, sea or land forces in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia or other countries in Southeast Asia.

"We petition the United States Congress to take whatever action is necessary to assure an immediate cessation of all hostilities in Southeast Asia; to set a near date for final and complete American withdrawal; to insure a rapid and peaceful return of and to assume and assert its

American prisoners of war; responsibility for determination of future American foreign policy."

Rep. John Seiberling (D-Ohio), Mohler's congressman and a member of the non-partisan "Members of Congress for Peace Through Law," has said he will give personal attention to getting the petition to Congress.

Geier said today he hopes the petition will call attention to the fact that despite new troop cuts to be announced next week by President Nixon, in Geier's view a residual force will remain in Vietnam, along with U.S. air support based in Thailand and

flown from Navy carriers.

"Americans will still be killing Asian people and being killed themselves," he said.

"I think it's obvious the residual force is largely an excuse for a continued U.S. air war, under the guise of protecting American lives," Mohler added.