

Discharged Sailors Speak Up

“The Constellation Eight” emerged today as the new heroes of the militant peace movement to end the war in Southeast Asia.

To the strains of a 12 string guitar, a folk singing couple from San Diego opened a Berkeley press conference yesterday with a song about the eight sailors who refused to leave with their ship bound for Vietnam last summer.

They were gathered at the University Lutheran Chapel at College and Haste Streets, which has offered sanctuary to those servicemen who refuse to go to Vietnam.

Sailors' Views

All in their early twenties, the sailors explained how they were unexpectedly mustered out of the Navy last Monday after receiving

“general discharges under honorable conditions.”

“We won over the Navy because they were unable to break us,” declared group spokesman Jim Mikell, 20, who also claimed:

“The Navy is totally unable to cope with a man's individual conscience.”

“The reason we got off so light is that the Navy didn't know what to do with us,” Mikell said.

Expected Prison

He said he expected to spend two years in prison and receive a dishonorable discharge.

The group, including a ninth man, sought sanctuary in a San Diego church last October rather than return with their 5000 fellow crewmen to the huge aircraft carrier before it sailed to Viet-

nam waters.

They were arrested shortly afterward by federal agents in an early morning raid on the church.

The ninth sailor changed his mind and returned to the ship.

Most of the crew said they planned to continue work in peace efforts.

“The reason we received the discharges under honorable conditions was because what we did was honorable,” claimed Mikell.