

16 Vietnam Vets Seize The Statue of Liberty

Reuters

New York

Sixteen Vietnam veterans have locked themselves inside the raised arm of the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor as a gesture of protest against continuation of the war, a spokesman for them said last night.

Ed Damato, regional coordinator in New York for the nationwide Vietnam Veter-

ans Against the War organization, said the 16 men "infiltrated" the statue during the day, posing as tourists.

He said the veterans would try to stay there until Friday to protest U.S. involvement in Indochina.

Damato said the veterans hid themselves in the arm, which is 42 feet long, 12 feet

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thick and holds 30 to 40 persons, until the statue closed at 4:30 p.m.

They were discovered by a nightwatchman shortly after closing time but they then locked themselves in the arm, which towers 151 feet over New York harbor.

Damato released the text of a statement issued by the veterans which said: "We, as a new generation of men who survived Vietnam, are taking this symbolic action at the Statue of Liberty in our effort to show support for any person who refuses to kill."