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The Tanyas of Vietnam

To the Editor:

Faced with the cold-blooded demagoguery and hypocrisy of "this great President" who is so confident of his re-election, one is left with a sense of utter despair. Not only is he arrogantly claiming to be "on God's side," but he is also exploiting, for his demagogic purposes, the deep anguish and suffering of a little Russian girl with shameless false sincerity. "She was a beautiful child. Her name was Tanya. I read her diary. It tells the terrible story of war. . . . And finally, these were the last words in her diary: 'All are dead, only Tanya is left.' Let us think of Tanya and of the other Tanyas and their brothers and sisters everywhere in Russia and China and in

America as we proudly meet our responsibilities for leadership in the world in a way worthy of a great people." *

It has apparently slipped Mr. Nixon's compassionate, peace-searching mind that in Vietnam, too, there are Tanyas. Their unspeakable suffering is caused principally by the tons of American bombs dropped on their country each day. Each day more Tanyas are created. By sacrificing the Tanyas of Vietnam to slake the "honor" of America he has, indeed, selected a macabre way of building "a peace that our children and all the children of the world can enjoy for generations to come."

ELISABETH MANNSCHOTT
 Rutherford, N. J., Aug. 25, 1972

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