

Dellums' Peace Lobby

In the Halls of Congress

Washington

It looks like dozens of other rooms in dozens of other cities staffed by casually dressed long-haired youths.

But this particular anti-war nerve center is in an office building of the House of Representatives.

Posters display photographs of maimed Vietnamese children, wounded American GIs and burned fields — all in stark black and white. One picture shows a half dozen U.S. soldiers standing over four Oriental heads that have been severed from their bodies.

Half-empty coffee cups and ashtrays litter the tables in the room.

Representative Ronald V. Dellums (Dem.-Calif.) has turned over the small room on the fourth floor of the Longworth Office Building to a group of Vietnam veterans called The Citizens' Commission of Inquiry on U.S. War crimes in Vietnam.

The room doesn't even have a number. It's between 1419 and 1421. It is part of the new congressman's suite of offices.

Dellums, a black activist from Oakland who ran as a peace candidate, turned the room over to the group in an attempt to add a little clout to its efforts to get congress-

sional hearings on alleged U.S. war atrocities.

"I'm committed to making the war the Number One issue of the 92nd Congress," Dellums told a new conference in the room yesterday.

"We prosecuted people in World War II for much less than is being done in Vietnam," he said, calling was "a totally absurd instrument for solving international dif-

ferences."

Mike Uhl, a 26-year-old veteran who was in an Army intelligence unit in Vietnam, said the group considers the much publicized My Lai massacre not an aberration but "the kind of thing that happens all the time, except to a greater degree."

"These atrocities result in the total distrust and hate the Vietnamese have for the

Americans," he said.

Uhl, Bob Johnson, a West Point graduate and former Army captain, and others working out of the Longworth Building office say they will use the space as a base for seeking congressional support. They have already met with 40 different congressmen or their assistants.

Specifically, they are working with Dellums to drum up support for full congressional hearings into the allegations. And the group has a bundle of those, reprinted from hearings it held in 13 different cities in 1970.

"We're trying to say to Congress there's no way to escape," said Jeremy Rifkin, 26, a national coordinator for the organization. "They can no longer say the information wasn't available to them."

Associated Press



DELLUMS AND LOBBYIST JIM RIFKIN
An anti-war center on Capitol Hill