

FEB 28 1974

NY Times
Of Dissidents and Havens

To the Editor:

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn has been expelled from the Soviet Union as a traitor. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has announced that Solzhenitsyn would be welcome in this country and that he could enjoy here the political, religious and literary freedom so clearly denied him by the Soviet Government.

As men who were all political prisoners in the jails of the United States because of our opposition to the Vietnam war and who have friends still in prison for reasons of conscience—or in exile in Canada, or living underground in this country—we would like to ask the Secretary of State when American citizens will have the same right of conscience which he now extends to a Soviet citizen. Would it not be ironic if the United States were to become a haven for political dissidents from the Soviet Union while Canada is the haven for political dissidents from our own system?

We fully support Solzhenitsyn's right of conscience—and that of any other citizen living in the Soviet Union. May we, perhaps, ask Solzhenitsyn to intercede with our Government on behalf of our own friends still in prison or exile?

GLENN PONTIER

New York, Feb. 16, 1974

The letter was also signed by eight other men who served prison time during the Vietnam war.
