

VIETNAM BACKERS URGED TO 'SHOUT'

Freedom House Statement Signed by 104 Notables— Rights of Critics Upheld

By **RALPH BLUMENTHAL**

Those who oppose American policy in Vietnam have a right to speak but those who support it have an obligation to shout, according to a statement circulated by Freedom House.

The statement, put out about two weeks ago, has been signed, so far, by 104 national figures, among them Richard M. Nixon, Dean Acheson, Lucius D. Clay, James B. Conant, Douglas Dillon and Rex Stout.

It was prepared by five leaders of private educational and service agencies and distributed by Freedom House, a non-partisan educational center here.

"This is no longer merely a question for domestic debate over national policy," the statement said. "Across the world, friend and foe alike are watching intently to gauge the strength of our national purpose.

Commitment Defined

"The consensus, which is clear to all experienced observers, must not be obscured by the behavior of a small segment of our population. They have a right to be heard, but they impose on the rest of us the obligation to make unmistakably clear the nation's firm commitment."

The commitment, the statement goes on, is to help the South Vietnamese resist subversion and terror "plotted, directed and supplied from the North;" to demonstrate that the aggressors cannot win; and to seek the end of the war by honorable agreement.

"Only when the essential unity that exists on these points is hammered home will the aggressors consider withdrawal," the statement asserts.

To express this unity, it appeals for action by the majority "that will ring as loudly in Peking as in Peoria, that will be understood in Hanoi as in Houston."

The aggressors, said George Field, executive director of Freedom House in a telephone interview, must not be confused by the protests here of those opposed to American policy in

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The New York Times

Published: November 29, 1965

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Vietnam. He re-emphasized that those who signed the statement had no quarrel with the protesters.

"Instead," he said, "we are placing the onus on those who remain silent and fail to make clear the American consensus."

However, in an additional comment yesterday, Mr. Field said:

"In the main we would characterize Saturday's marchers in Washington as the same sort of people as those who cheered loudest when Neville Chamberlain returned from Munich and brought home his peace pact with the Nazis."



THE NEW YORK TIMES
BACKS U.S. AIMS: Dean Acheson signed statement on American policy in Vietnam.

Two hours later he amended the comment to compare the marchers instead "to those de-

cent people of England who cheered loudest..."

In terms of constructive action, the statement urges Americans to do the following:

¶ Speak up in local discussions on Vietnam.

¶ Express their views in person or in writing to their Congressmen.

¶ Draw up and circulate a short resolution addressed to President Johnson expressing support for "whatever national resources are required."

¶ Contribute to voluntary agencies serving the poor and the injured in South Vietnam.

The statement was drawn up after a private conference three weeks ago attended by Mr. Field of Freedom House; Frank R. Barnett, president of the National Strategy Information Center; Leo Cherne, executive director of the Research Institute of America; Frank N. Tragger, a professor at New York University; and William van-

den Heuvel, president of the International Rescue Committee.

It was sent to 300 national figures, including writers, union leaders, university professors, corporation presidents and former Government officials.

The 104 signatures, Mr. Field said, constituted the first response and was "beyond what we expected."

Among others who signed were Michael V. DiSalle, former Governor of Ohio; John Dos Passos, author; Roscoe Drummond, syndicated columnist; Dr. Harry D. Gideonse of Brooklyn College; Sidney Hook, professor of philosophy at New York University; Max Lerner, professor of politics at Brandeis University; Whitelaw Reid, former editor and publisher; Samuel I. Rosenman, president of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York; and Whitney North Seymour, past president of the American Bar Association.

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