

## A GAY STATEMENT OF POSITION ON THE SOUTHEAST ASIA WAR

The basis of the U. S. war machine is economic. It exists primarily as the police force of an economic system that can exist only by constant expansion of its markets. The current war in Southeast Asia is an excellent example of American colonial capitalism forcing itself upon helpless victims. It has resulted in the urbanization of southern Vietnam, thereby creating a previously non-existent market for American business.

The Vietnamese people, who have traditionally been agrarian in lifestyle and culture have been turned into refugees and driven off their land and into cities against their will; turned into consumers and producers of American products, and subjected to the American idea/ideal of progress. As a result of this process, Saigon has grown from a city of 600,000 people at the beginning of the war to currently over 3,000,000. The Republic of Vietnam which was recently the world's second largest exporter of rice, is now the world's largest importer.

What this does to people, of course, (besides kill and maim them) is change them into consumers--into markets--into objects--people defined only by their abilities to use objects or produce objects. It is this ultimate and inhuman objectification of people, so exemplified by the American colonial imperialist war, that the Gay Liberation Movement does condemn and fight, for it has resulted in the oppression, exploitation, and death of Blacks, Chicanos, Native Americans, women, and Gay men in this country as well as oppression and death throughout the world. We must stop the rape of Southeast Asia, and we must attack the male-supremacist attitudes and institutions which are responsible for it. It is no coincidence that the word "chauvinism", first used to describe "belligerent patriotism or blind enthusiasm for military glory", is now applied to the sexist assumptions and actions of the American "Man". For years the Gay Movement and the women's movement have been fighting the sexism which forces some people into becoming "Fighting Men" who kill in the name of their Manhood. If Manhood is defined in this way by this country, then we refuse to be called Men, so that we can all become human.

Furthermore, after nearly 200 years of maltreatment, degradation, humiliation and less-than-honorable discharges heaped upon our Gay sisters and brothers in military service, the U. S. Military, since the escalation of the Southeast Asia war, is now indulging in the practice of attempting to draft openly Gay men against the will of those men, and indeed, against the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Clearly this is an overt example of exploitation of the most severely oppressed minority in this nation.

Let it be understood among Gays and nongays everywhere, that Gay men and women will no longer allow themselves to be society's dormat in peace time, and weapons of their wars when capitollism needs expansion. No longer will we kill and die for those who hate us for our very nature--a nature superior to their own.

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To our Gay sisters and brothers who are now in the military we say, "Stand up proudly and announce your Gayness and demand immediate return to civilian life." To our Gay brothers who are of draft age we say, "Refuse induction. You are not welcome in the military. After you have been used you will be abused." We agree with the Uniform Code of Military Justice when it declares us unsuitable for military service--those whose lifestyle is built on love can never be suited to a lifestyle designed for killing and plunder.

To our oppressors we say, "You can no longer find us easy targets for your sadism. Our revolution has been a success. We are organized. We are united. We speak with one voice. We stand hand in hand and grow stronger by the day. And we are not afraid anymore!"

Therefore we do demand that the U. S. Government immediately withdraw all U. S. and U. S.-supported troops, military personnel, weapons, and war materials, and those of its allies from Southeast Asia; we also demand that the U. S. end its intervention in the internal affairs of South Vietnam and all Southeast Asia.

Gay Liberation Front of San Diego

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