

VIETNAM - 1967

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods has many times expressed its firm belief that war in general is inhumane, causing needless death and destruction as well as the brutalization of combatant and non-combatant alike. Unremitting effort should always be directed to prevent it or, once it has begun, to limit and swiftly to terminate it.

Regarding the conflagration which for more than two decades has so long and tragically engulfed the people of Vietnam, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods affirms that:

1. Increasing escalation of the war makes negotiation extremely difficult;
2. The war has serious adverse effects upon domestic programs of the United States, especially in the fields of social welfare;
3. The Secretary-General of the United Nations has unequivocally stated that unconditional cessation of the bombing of North Vietnam is an essential prerequisite to negotiations; and
4. The United States Government has made a verbal commitment to negotiate anywhere at any time.

Therefore, in the name of its United States affiliates, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods requests the Government of the United States to:

1. Focus its Vietnamese policy not only on containment of the war but on prompt de-escalation, toward which end substantive moves must also be forthcoming from North Vietnam; and on relaxation of international tensions and the revision of some former concepts, now outdated, of the "Cold War" period;
2. Take steps to end the bombing of North Vietnam in order to test again—and if necessary, again; and again—the possibility of moving all parties concerned from battlefield to conference table;
3. Produce new initiatives to bring about negotiations among all parties in the conflict, leading to a political settlement; such initiatives might include but not necessarily be limited to efforts under the auspices of the United Nations or the reconvening of the Geneva Conference;
4. Urge that North Vietnam and the National Liberation Front respond promptly and substantively to any new initiatives toward a permanent cease fire and that South Vietnam respect and join in these efforts;
5. Call for the continuation and acceleration of large scale economic, social and humanitarian efforts to lessen the suffering of the people of Vietnam and to promote their welfare.

As inheritors of the concept that Israel's mission is peace, as well as women who take pride in the democratic tradition of commitment to principles of human dignity and welfare, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods feels a tragic sense of dismay that the United States with its long and honorable record of service to other nations, is now engaged in a war in which the complex issues have placed its citizens in unprecedented conflict of opinion. In the name of humanity, we pray to God that peace, rehabilitation and redevelopment for the benefit of all peoples of Vietnam, North and South, will soon be achieved.