

Vietnam - 1971

Throughout its history, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods has been dedicated to the Judaic concept that Israel's mission is peace. The psalmist of old declared "Seek peace and pursue it." The prophet Isaiah now as in his day reminds governments and their peoples that "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Accordingly, in many Biennial Assemblies, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods has expressed itself on the tragedy of the Vietnam War.

Therefore, Now in convention gathered in Los Angeles, California, in November, 1971, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods declares:

1. Even as we commend the Administration of the United States for the steady withdrawal of troops from Vietnam, we urge a rapid increase in that withdrawal toward the end that:
 1. All American operating forces in and over Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos shall be withdrawn by March 31, 1972, the withdrawal date in the Mansfield Amendment which was approved by the Senate of the United States, both in June and September, 1971;
 2. That this complete withdrawal shall be accompanied by the release of all American and other prisoners of war held by North Vietnam and the corresponding release of prisoners of war held by the United States and its allies.

Further, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods expresses its deep concern, sorrow and sense of conscience over:

1. The horror of warfare for all peoples, civilian and military alike, friend and foe alike;
2. The awful tragedy of My-Lai and other examples of inhuman brutality, whether exercised by some of our own forces or those of our enemies;
3. Defoliation and other forms of despoilment of the vegetation and the land which is a violation of man's guardianship of God's green earth that must not be practiced even in the midst of war.

Furthermore, we recognize:

1. That warfare interferes with the correct ordering of national priorities. It embitters many people of the United States and deeply divides the country; it also estranges those in nations normally deeply friendly to the United States;
2. That Vietnamization, whereby the United States supplies the technology, financial and other aid to a native population which has been torn by war for more than 25 years to continue this awesome tragedy, is open to deepest moral question;
3. That the government of the United States of America and other interested nations must swiftly hold an international conference to guarantee the future of that area which is now called Indochina in order that these countries and their peoples may be helped to develop, according to their own desires, political and economic systems in non-violent pursuit of their aims;
4. That both governmental and private agencies and citizens in the United States must study in depth the problems of retooling the American economy for peace.