

July 17, 1968

I AM REFUSING INDUCTION TODAY AND WISH TO EXPLAIN THE REASONS
FOR MY ACTION.

I am motivated, first of all, by an absolute refusal to cooperate with the American war effort in Viet Nam, a war which involves nothing less than the physical destruction of Viet Nam, and the destruction of an entire culture and way of life. Since the American war in Viet Nam is in essence a war against that country's population, the outcome that we are approaching is that of genocide. Not necessarily as a result of a carefully planned policy as was Nazi Germany's "final solution", but as the result of the decisions of political and military leaders in this country who believe that any act in the name of anti-Communism is justified. As the New York Times has noted, "The 'kill-ratio', getting more of them than they get of you.....has become the United States' major strategy in South Viet Nam."

Furthermore, I am refusing induction not only out of personal revulsion to this war, but because I am convinced that resistance of this kind is the most effective political way to oppose the war effort. If America's youth in sufficient numbers say No to the draft, this country will be forced to place thousands of her young men in jail. Confronted with this alternative, it is possible that any administration, whether Republican or Democrat, would be forced to reconsider its action in Viet Nam, or at the very least, to reconsider the continuance of the draft.

Finally, I feel that resistance to the draft is the best means to force upon this country a total reevaluation of its foreign policy. Viet Nam is no accident or mistake, but rather the logical outcome of a global policy in which the United States has assumed that it is its role to suppress all revolutionary movements and to prop up practically all right wing dictatorships. One can cite in addition to United States actions in Viet Nam, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic the fact that Americans have taken over the training of the Bolivian army, that American corporations have recently increased their investments in South Africa and Angola, or that the United States has recently increased its commitments to the governments of Iran and Thailand. Clearly, unless an effective resistance movement is formed within this country, Viet Nam will not be the last country that will see its land and civilization destroyed under the impact of American bombs. President Lyndon Johnson stated on October 25, 1967: "I wish that every American could have a chance to see in distant Asia the battlefields of this and other wars. All the remote fields and hills where Americans have died for freedom--in Viet Nam, in Korea and in the Phillipines."

LET US REFUSE INDUCTION IN THE HOPE THAT NO MORE SUCH BATTLEFIELD
SHALL BE VISITED BY AMERICANS!

David Goldberg--returned draft
card January 14, 1968