

Room 16-413

March 25, 1965

Dr. Linus Pauling  
Center for Advanced Studies  
Santa Barbara, California

Dear Linus,

You have probably heard of several protest actions on Vietnam that a group of us in Boston has recently taken. The ad that I enclose has now been republished by about 1000 professors from Eastern Universities.

We now feel that the time for polite questioning is past and that something more drastic and dramatic is needed. Also, most of us feel the need to bear witness publicly of our personal refusal to acquiesce in a policy that is immoral and criminal. The situation in my mind has the same nightmare quality I felt in Germany in the 'thirties and in France during the Algerian war. In both situations not enough intellectuals were able or willing to stand up and be counted.

I thought that a possible move to stir public conscience would be for a group of members of the National Academy to resign from membership with a public announcement stating their reasons for doing so. Do you think this would be wise? Could one get enough support? I can think of at least 10 members I could ask. Since I have not discussed this with anyone yet, however, I cannot even guess how many might agree. I think one could try to get also some foreign associates to resign.

Please let me know your reaction to this suggestion as soon as possible because if anything is done it would be well to announce it just before the April meeting of N.A.S.

Best regards, also to Mrs. Pauling,

Sincerely,

sel/na

S. E. Luria