

May 1970

President Richard M. Nixon  
The White House

Mr. President:

As dedicated members of America's great academic community, we address you here with one voice:

We recognize the burden of responsibility and decision which history has made yours in this time of crisis.

We wish to add our voice to the urgent warnings of the young whom we have helped to educate.

We agree with the stand of many that the health of this nation depends on a swift disengagement from war in Southeast Asia, although the violent tactics used by some to express this are repugnant to us.

We have been increasingly troubled as more and more young people, including many of the most promising representatives of our educational system, have turned away from that system to the streets, to jail, and to exile in opposition to the war.

We share the difficulties of many young people in justifying the apparent inconsistencies in recent official statements and actions concerning U. S. plans and expectations in Southeast Asia. We also share their profound uneasiness over military actions taken without wide acceptance within government circles, including especially the Congress--actions which have further aggravated the already severe and unhealthy political division within our Country.

We ask simply and urgently that you rise to the heroism that these times demand and take swift and decisive steps to restore a unity of vision and purpose--not in the exercise of power, but behind this nation's historic and best values. We believe this necessitates a rapid termination of U. S. participation in the Southeast Asian war.

Luis W. Alvarez  
Berkeley, Calif.

Felix Bloch  
Palo Alto, Calif.

John Bardeen  
Urbana, Ill.

Konrad Bloch  
Cambridge, Mass.

George W. Beadle  
Chicago, Ill.

Melvin Calvin  
Berkeley, Calif.

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H. K. Hartline New York, N. Y.	Frederick C. Robbins Cleveland, Ohio
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Joshua Lederberg Palo Alto, Calif.	Harold C. Urey San Diego, Calif.
T. D. Lee New York, N. Y.	Selman A. Waksman New Brunswick, N. J.
Fritz Lipmann New York, N. Y.	George Wald Cambridge, Mass.
S. E. Luria Cambridge, Mass.	Chen N. Yang Stony Brook, N. Y.
Edwin M. McMillan Berkeley, Calif.	

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