

END ROTC NOW

For many years now the anti-Vietnam War movement has been trying to end the slaughter of the Vietnamese people and the American soldiers. We've learned much about that war in the process. We discovered that there is more involved than just one unexplainable war in one foreign country. There is something happening all over the world which we call imperialism--that is, the exploitation and oppression of other countries by American troops and corporations. We have become angered by this exploitation. We've marched, written, voted, and yelled, but the wars and invasions go on, despite our best intentions, despite our large numbers.

53 It has come to the point where we can no longer be content with intellectualizing. The Vietnamese people are involved in a struggle for their lives and liberty. We have to match their efforts with an honest, aggressive struggle of our own. We need to find a way to positively and effectively stop the war and to end Western imperialism all over the world.

MSU-SDS would like to propose that a campaign against the Reserve Officer Training Corps is just such a way to do more than continually engage in sterile debates and unheard protests.

ROTC supplies 85% of all junior officers for the war effort. To totally abolish ROTC all over the country would dry up a major source of officer material and make it much more difficult to continue oppressing the people of Vietnam. The Army cannot easily find a replacement for this important training program. As Brig. Gen. James D. Hittle, a graduate of MSU-ROTC and assistant secretary of the Navy for manpower and reserves, has stated, "In my opinion, the Armed Services cannot function properly without the ROTC system. Efforts to destroy ROTC cannot help but pose a potential threat to the effectiveness of national security." In other words ROTC is essential for the continuation of wars of aggression.

All over the country, students are moving against this military training program. ROTC is already staggering under the attack. MSU should be no exception.

ROTC must be abolished completely, not merely deprived of credit status. It should be made clear that we are not against ROTC because it maintains poor academic standards. This is irrelevant to the main consideration, which is the role of ROTC in providing officers to maintain U.S. economic domination of underdeveloped countries. Abolishing ROTC will help end the war in Vietnam and prevent the initiation of similar wars in Thailand, Guatemala, Brazil, and elsewhere.

We are calling upon ROTC to discontinue its program NOW. The classes and drills and military maneuvers must stop. The right of an MSU student to study military science must be balanced against the right of the Vietnamese people to self-determination. When such rights come into conflict, a choice must be made. Nobody has a right to study ways of oppressing people. We should not be tricked into feeling sorry for ROTC cadets whom we propose to deprive of their "educational" opportunities. Their education is directly counter to the interests of the people of the world.

We repeat: ROTC must go now! We can't wait for it to wither away, as ASMSU wishes. We can't waste time with phony committees and meaningless "reforms." The Vietnamese people can't wait. Join us today at 1:00 at Demonstration Hall.

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October, 1969.

SMASH R.O.T.C. -

NOW!
RALLY: 1 P.M. THURS.

SDS

DEM. HALL