

# sweden

## A STATEMENT TO THE AMERICAN DESERTERS COMMITTEE FROM THE AMERICAN MOVEMENT

The growth and development of the desertion movement in Sweden over the past year has added an important new dimension to the American struggle against this nation's war in Vietnam.

On one level, your emergence reveals the international nature of our struggle. It demonstrates to the American movement that the forces against which we are pitted, the forces of American military and economic might, must be challenged publically throughout the world, for the threat is worldwide. By refusing to be silent, you have exhibited the courage upon which a movement to end American domination must be based. Moreover, your decision to build a political organization of deserters aimed at ending the war in Vietnam stands as an example to Americans, particularly those still in the military, throughout the world.

On another level, you represent an affirmation of the values for which the American anti-war movement is fighting at home. In your work, we see a parallel to our own struggle. The courage to stand by convictions, the determination to assert one's humanity when called upon to perform inhuman acts against another people, and the willingness to translate that stand into political action show American militants that their own convictions are shared by a significant proportion of the troops being called upon to fight in Vietnam.

As events of the past year have demonstrated, international ties are essential to the development of a strong and vital movement for freedom, human dignity, and peace. Our struggle is one because we share common objectives and because our enemy is the same the world over. We believe that the existence of the American Deserters' Committee and your continued efforts in coming months will serve as a vital element in the development and consolidation of these ties. A campaign to inform the American public about your work is being undertaken to open the way for much closer contact and better coordination of our activities.

We also take note of the important effort of Swedish organizations in mobilizing the Swedish people against the war in Vietnam. We support their endeavor and hope that there will be close ties between the Swedish anti-war movement and the young men in the ADC who have been forced into exile and are continuing to fight for their convictions. Such cooperation will help to create the international solidarity that is essential to our ultimate success.

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Tom Hayden, founder & former pres.  
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