Chomsky challenges Bundy proposal

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Professor Eric Hansen, Assistant Professor of Political Science and an expert on international relations, expressed the view that Bundy's note was not a complete solution to the problem since there would still be fighting going on; that is, the solution was quantitatively and not qualitatively. Professor Hansen then suggested that the present state of decision making in foreign affairs consisted of a sort of inverse internationalism. He said that an isolationist totally avoids any involvement and therefore does what is not in his best interest. This implies a lack of discrimination between what is good and what is bad and entails total rejection. In the opinion of Professor Hansen the opposite is taking place now. The United States is involving itself everywhere and not always in its best interest, with some lack of discrimination which made the isolationist refuse to act in its best interest. Since the Bundy solution includes no determination of the worth of involvement, it too does not discriminate between what is in the best interest of the United States. It is in this sense only a partial solution and still lacks direction.

The fourth point of view was presented by Professor Irinel Pool, Head of the Department of Political Science. Professor Pool noted that we must find solutions which solve without destroying, such as Mr. Bundy's proposal. Professor Ford pointed out that the difficulties in the implementation of the idea that Mr. Bundy discussed had prevented the accomplishment of plans for elections in Vietnam on the district level and a number of similar proposals since these were never dramatic or simple enough to attract public support. The process of taking expert opinions and translating them into action is, according to Professor Pool, made more difficult by the tendency for the Executive to close itself into higher and higher groups as a crisis worsens, thus effectively shutting all effective communication. After each of the participants had presented his views a panel discussion was begun during which the velocity of not only ideas but evidence on all sides was challenged.

The trend and effect of opinion in the world, Vietnam and the United States was also discussed and it was pointed out that a large segment of world opinion favors a direct and immediate pullout of United States. Bundy noted that since it is possible to predict a military victory correctly or not, it is very difficult to convince the public that we are not on the verge of winning and hence it would be wasteful to pull out.

The discussion was then thrown open to the audience and after twenty minutes of questions the panel adjourned to the Student Center for coffee.

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