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Johnson joins 78 others in Nixon anti-war letter

President Howard Johnson joined the presidents of 78 other private colleges and universities in sending President Nixon the following statement calling for a "stepped-up" withdrawal from Vietnam.

"We speak as individuals who work with young men and women. The universities and colleges which we serve take no positions as institutions on the Vietnam war; these are paralysing communities where men speak for themselves alone on off-campus issues."

"There are times to be silent and times to speak. This is a time to speak. The accumulated costs of the Vietnam war are not in men and material alone. There are costs too in the effects on young people's hopes and beliefs."

"Like ourselves, the vast majority of the students with whom we work still want to believe in a just, honest, and sensitive America. But our military engagement in Vietnam now stands as a denial of so much that is best in our society."

"More and more, we see the war draining energies and resources from urgent business on our own doorsteps. An end to the war will however permit us to work more effectively in support of more peaceful priorities. Far from being depressed about our nation's future and our institution's future, we see bold opportunities ahead once the divisiveness of this war is in the past."

"We urge upon the President of the United States and upon Congress a stepped-up timetable for withdrawal from Vietnam. We believe this to be in our country's highest interest, at home and abroad."

MIT CANNOT REVEAL DOD CONTRACT DATES

By Harold Federow

Dean for Student Affairs Daniel Nyhart was asked Friday to reveal the dates the defense contracts at MIT were signed and the dates they will terminate.

Steve Ehrmann '71 acting on behalf of the General Assembly, presented Nyhart with a copy of a motion that will be before the assembly at its next meeting October 21.

The motion has two parts. The first part requests the dates and the second asks a clarification of the word "commitments" in the statement of the Corporation Executive Committee on war-related research at the Institute.

Ehrmann requested that Nyhart prepare an administration position paper on the motion. Instead, Nyhart suggested that Ehrmann find two students to prepare a brief stating the arguments both for and against releasing the dates. Also in the brief will be a summary of the legal problems involved in such a release.

Although one can request data about a specific contract, there is federal law concerning the blanket revelation of defense contract information. There is also some doubt about what information can be revealed concerning secret projects.

Presumably, the brief will be used as a basis for the release of the contract dates.