Wear green band for disarmament

To the Editor:

A group of graduating seniors and graduate students, along with faculty participating in commencement, who are opposed to the arms buildup, and who support the actions of the European disarmament community, call on others attending commencement to join us in a symbolic action in solidarity with the European disarmament movement.

We are asking seniors and graduating graduate students, and faculty and staff attending commencement (especially faculty members who are marching) to wear a green armband to signify their support for solidarity with the European disarmament movement:

- Reverse the military buildup
- End superpower intervention.

The commencement speaker is Helmut Schmidt, former Chancellor of West Germany. His group in the Social Democratic Party supports the basing of United States missiles in Germany. Strong grassroots disarmament organizations throughout Europe and Britain have opposed the basing of Pershing II and cruise missiles in Western Europe, and at some time called for a nuclear-free Europe including the Warsaw Pact countries.

Despite a show of opposition from large sectors of the European populace, governments in Europe have yielded to United States pressure to base the missiles, out of the control of the governments in question.

A symbol of this opposition is the Green Party in West Germany, a growing party which calls for:

- International disarmament negotiations, arms reductions, and weapons control.
- As international disarmament ban on the storage and production of atomic, chemical and biological weapons.
- No production and no stationing of middle-range missiles — like Pershing II and cruise missiles — by NATO and the elimination of middle-range missiles — like the SS-20 — by the Warsaw Pact.
- The creation of a demilitarized zone in both Eastern and Western Europe.

In the past German election, despite the gains of the rightist Christian Democrats, the Green Party won several seats in the Bundestag.

We plan to hold several educational forums around the time of commencement. We will also distribute armbands to those wishing to wear them. We hope that everyone who supports the cause of disarmament will join us.

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Barbara Fox G
Mark Halperin G
Thomas Deeseen '83
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Bethlehem Project

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