



National Council for Universal and Unconditional Amnesty

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NATIONAL VIGIL FOR VETERANS RIGHTS

Washington D.C.

February 1-10

MEMO TO WASHINGTON, D.C. AMNESTY ACTIVISTS AND VETERANS

The Toronto conference January 29-30 will respond to the limited action by President Carter in his pardon of draft resisters.

A more extended action following the Toronto conference is planned by representatives from veteran self-help groups from throughout the country.

We look forward to your support and participation in this action. If you are unable to attend, you may wish to plan local activity around the issues of amnesty and veterans rights.

Following is a description of the vigil:

Vietnam veterans representing veteran self-help efforts from throughout the country begin a vigil for veterans rights Tuesday, February 1, 1977, in front of the central office of Veterans Administration, 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. in order to point out discrimination against Vietnam veterans by society and government.

An office will be set up on the sidewalk outside the V.A. in order to dramatize the immunity of the V.A. from access by Vietnam veterans groups, advocacy by attorneys and review of decisions by the court system.

Veterans are responding to the most recent act of discrimination against them -- the president's failure to include veterans with less than honorable discharges and veterans in exile in his pardon of draft resisters.

The vigil begins after the international conference of exiles, amnesty supporters and veterans in Toronto on January 29-30, 1977.

An organizational meeting for the vigil takes place at Luther Place Church, 14th and N Streets, NW, Washington, D.C., Monday, January 31st, at 7 p.m. This church has agreed to provide sleeping ~~space~~ for 15 people over the ten day period of the vigil.

The schedule of events from February 1 through 11 includes:

- February 1st Opening of the vigil and press conference at the Veterans Administration, 810 Vermont Ave.NW, Washington, D.C. 11 A.M.
- February 5th Benefit showing of "Tracks" starring Dennis Hopper as a returning Vietnam vet and a speaker, Biograph Theater, 2819 M St.NW, Washington, D.C. 2 P.M.
- February 9th Opening of the Appeal for Reconciliation conference, Lutheran Church of the Reformation, 222 E. Capitol St., Washington, D.C. 9 A.M.
- February 10th Delivery of the Appeal for Reconciliation petitions with 100,000 signatures to the White House from assembly at Luther Place Church, 14th and N Streets NW, 9 A.M.
- February 11th Closing of the vigil and press conference with religious leaders, 10 A.M., place to be announced

Communications with members of the vigil can be directed to Veterans Vigil, c/o NISBCO, 550 Washington Building, 15th and New York NW, Washington, D.C. 20005, telephone (202) 393-4868. Contact Ron Bitzer or Duane Shank.

