IMMEDIATE ACTION IS REQUIRED TO STOP INCREASING U.S. MILITARY AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM

The Paris Peace Agreement to end the Vietnam war was signed over a year ago. At that time there was widespread feeling across the nation and in Congress that America's role in Vietnam would be winding down. Yet, during the first year of the "ceasefire", the Pentagon has continued spending vast amounts on weapons, ammunition and American civilian advisors to keep President Thieu's massive military machine in full operation. And now the Pentagon is proposing an even higher level of U.S. military aid for South Vietnam.

The Pentagon is currently asking Congress to add $474 million to the over $1.1 billion we are already spending for military aid to the Thieu government this year (fiscal 1974). At the same time, the Pentagon is requesting $1.6 billion in new appropriations for the next fiscal year, starting July 1.

$474 million + $1.6 billion = over $2 billion of our tax money that the Pentagon is currently requesting for continuing support of the Saigon military.

The first Congressional battle, with a vote coming possibly in early April, will be over the $474 increase for this year. Opposition is strong in the Senate, and an amendment has been proposed by Senators Kennedy and Pearson to knock out the entire $474 request. On March 19, nine senators appeared before the Senate Armed Services Committee to express their firm opposition to the Pentagon's request. Concerned members of the House of Representatives are expected to move into action soon.

URGENT PEACE ACTION: Write or phone your Representative and Senators to urge them to vote against the $474 supplemental military authorization for South Vietnam. Pass the word on to other peace-minded individuals and organizations. The Pentagon will be putting strong pressure on Congress to get this legislation through, so Senators and Representatives will need to know that constituents support a position against increased military aid to Saigon.

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"The United States, far from phasing out its military involvement in South Vietnam has descended from a peak of warfare to a high plateau of substantial support, dispatching not only huge quantities of weapons and ammunition but also large numbers of American citizens who have become integral parts of the South Vietnamese supply, transport and intelligence systems. . . . These valuable military goods and services have a sharp political impact. They are indispensable to the South Vietnamese Government's policy of resistance to any accommodation with the Communists. Militarily, the extensive aid has enabled President Nguyen Van Thieu to take the offensive at times, launching intensive attacks with artillery and jet fighters against Vietcong-held territory."