

Text of a letter delivered to the U. S. Attorney in New Haven, Conn., Nov. 28:

The undersigned wish to respectfully bring to your attention that under the Act of June 15, 1917, (40 Stat 220) as amended, and the regulations in Part 6, Chapter 1, Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, and under Section 2, Title II of the Act of June 15, 1917, as amended, 50 U.S.C. 192, we as "agents" and "persons in charge" of "any such vessel," having failed to comply with any regulations or rule issued or order given under the provisions of this title, are legally implicated in the charge now resting against the nine young pacifists who were engaged in civil disobedience on November 22 in the New London Harbor, New London, Connecticut, as a protest against the moral outrage of "holding millions of men, women and children as hostages for the crimes of their leaders," to quote George Kennan. The occasion was the launching of the Ethan Allen, Polaris missile submarine designed for this specific purpose.

We wish to make it clear that each member and supporter of the Committee for Nonviolent Action acts upon his or her own individual responsibility, but we freely admit to being influenced by such persons as Thoreau, Tolstoy, and Gandhi. We, who gave not only moral support but practical help to these young people in this demonstration, wish to point out that under the law, if these young people are indicted on this charge, then you, sir, are in duty obligated to indict us also.

Sincerely, (signed) Robert Swann, Marjorie Swann, Kenneth Meister

Text of a Christmas letter sent to U. S. Attorneys McDonald and Hultgren, Jr.:

On Dec. 21, a Federal grand jury announced indictments of eight fellow pacifists with whom the undersigned have cooperated in demonstrating against Polaris missile submarines in New London, Conn., during the summer and fall of 1960.

We have encouraged others to commit civil disobedience; we have participated in supporting demonstrations during civil disobedience; we have been intimately involved in developing the project "Polaris Action" with its openly announced plans to sponsor civil disobedience; we have participated in policy discussions and meetings during which specific plans for civil disobedience were made. Some of us have repeatedly and openly violated laws by trespassing into forbidden areas around the Polaris submarines George Washington, Patrick Henry, Ethan Allen and Robert E. Lee.

We are not asking to be imprisoned. On the other hand, we point out that public officials are in duty bound to enforce laws impartially. Therefore, we declare that the Government and its officials have only three honorable choices before them:

- 1) Refuse to prosecute any pacifists for civil disobedience, on the ground that the pacifists are following a higher law than the law they are charged with violating.
- 2) Prosecute all pacifists who have openly planned and carried out Polaris Action.
- 3) Resign their positions.

We are making this statement of solidarity with our friends because of the urgent need for people everywhere to be awakened to the immoral and suicidal nature of war preparations, and especially Polaris missile submarines. We recognize that both sides in the Cold War are deeply sinful; that either side may at any moment, through design or accident, start a war. We believe that our first responsibility as Americans is to overcome our own sin, that of threatening destruction against our enemies and all women and children besides: the whole world. After we have purged ourselves of armaments, and begun to act for the benefit of our present enemies, then we will know whether the power of good is enough to overcome evil. We believe that a great enough good will succeed.

On this day it is fitting to recall the words of the Prince of Peace. "Whoever takes the sword will perish by the sword."

David Dellinger, Madeline Gins, Arthur Harvey, Margaret W. Haworth,
Kenneth Meister, A. J. Muste, F. Porter Sargent, J. Kathryn Sargent,
Marjorie Swann