

PLEASE POST

May 7, 1970

TO: Management and fellow engineers in industry

FROM: Students and faculty of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences, University of California, Berkeley

This is a stark moment in our history. The invasion of Cambodia and the killing of students at Kent State University have triggered an unprecedented state of turmoil on university and college campuses across the face of the land. You have witnessed scene after scene of violent confrontation on TV. You have read about them in newspapers. In this letter, we want to tell you directly and in our own words about our feelings.

We view the war in Vietnam as a travesty on the humanitarian ideals upon which our country was founded. In the name of defending democracy, we have killed, maimed and burned hundreds of thousands of civilians. We have shot, in cold blood, defenseless men, women and children. The shame of My Lai will live forever with us.

While we are spending billions of dollars and the lives of our young people to save our face in Asia, we are neglecting the critical problems facing us at home. Our cities are deteriorating. Our ghettos are spreading. Our air and water are becoming polluted. Our schools and hospitals are crying for funds. Our economy is in trouble. The conflicts between generations, between classes and between races are growing in intensity. Clearly, we are standing at the brink of a moral and physical breakdown such as our country has never experienced before.

We are deeply disturbed by the many instances of deception by our government in the conduct of our foreign and national affairs. We are revolted by our willingness to provide covert support to regimes, no matter how undemocratic and corrupt, which are willing to side with us. We are distressed by the divisive tactics of the highest officials of our government who are bent on gaining political advantage by appealing to bias, prejudice, chauvinism, and intolerance of dissent.

The violence on American campuses is borne of the deep-seated frustration of our youth over the Vietnam war, the ills of our society and the

