

THE INDOCHINA QUESTION AT  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Background: In May 1970, the U.S. movement into Cambodia (together with the Kent State killings) precipitated a wave of student unrest on college and university campuses across the nation. At Michigan State University, the events took the form of demonstrations, sit-ins, vandalism and an unsuccessful effort to shut down the university through "strike" action. While a number of other issues were involved, such as ROTC, the strike, armed campus police, etc., the U.S. presence in Indochina remained a prime cause of campus activity and discussion.

In an effort to channel these discussions into a more constructive form and to better determine the attitudes of the university community, it was suggested that petitions stating positions on the Indochina question be circulated and signed. President Wharton promised to make the results of such a petition drive available to Michigan's Congressional delegation.

A number of petitions were put into circulation by various campus groups. While not all contained the same phraseology of the questions, the subject matter was generally the same. Subsequently, the student government, the Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU), sponsored a campus-wide "referendum" in which the Indochina issue was one of the questions.

As a consequence of these activities, a fair sampling of the attitude of MSU students and faculty regarding U.S. involvement in Indochina has been obtained. These findings are outlined below.

<u>Question</u>	<u>Signatures</u>
Amendment to End War-----	273
President should have consulted Congress on Cambodia	
Yes-----	319
No-----	28
Approve of Cambodia	
Yes-----	40
No-----	307
End military involvement in Indochina-----	439
U.S. troops in Cambodia	
Opposed-----	3,659
Favor-----	34
Against Cambodia and bombing of North Vietnam-----	60

ASMSU "REFERENDUM"

Withdraw from Indochina-----	3,984
Withdraw by June 30, 1970-----	2,743
Withdraw gradually-----	1,353
Apply more military pressure-----	441
Achieve military victory-----	257
 TOTAL-----	 8,778*

\*Note: At the time this poll was taken, the student population at M.S.U. was approximately 37,500.