

31 May 1968

Dear Colleague:

The undersigned members of the faculty believe that if the faculty is to take an intelligent position upon concrete issues of academic and educational policy, it is important to be familiar with the declared objectives of groups like SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) as currently put forward by some of the more influential spokesmen for the movement at the national level. We believe that the attached materials are self-explanatory, and they are circulated for information.

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* I do not know that any Stanford student subscribes to these statements, and I believe that some do not. The information is nevertheless important.

In a statement entitled "Two, Three, Many Columbias," Tom Hayden, former President of SDS and author of the Port Huron Statement (1962), says the following:

"The Columbia strike represented more than a new tactical movement, however. There was a political message as well. The striking students were not holding onto a narrow conception of students as a privileged class asking for inclusion in the university as it now exists. This kind of demand could easily be met by administrators by opening minor opportunities for 'student rights' while cracking down on campus radicals. The Columbia students were instead taking an internationalist and revolutionary view of themselves in opposition to the imperialism of the very institutions in which they have been groomed and educated. They did not even want to be included in the decision-making circles of the military-industrial complex that runs Columbia: they want to be included only if their inclusion is a step toward transforming the university. They want a new and independent university standing against the mainstream of American society, or they want no university at all. They are, in Fidel Castro's words, 'guerillas in the field of culture.'"

FROM 'RAMPARTS'

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