

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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EDITORS: Text of Professor Franklin's letter available on request.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD --

Associate Professor H. Bruce Franklin, who faces disciplinary proceedings at Stanford for allegedly disrupting a Jan. 11 speech by Henry Cabot Lodge, admitted Thursday, Jan. 21, he had "made certain demands" on Lodge, but said "it is criminal not to take action against the murderers of the Vietnamese people."

Professor Franklin, an English professor, called an open-air press conference in front of the office of President Richard W. Lyman, and with more than 500 persons listening, said:

"I'm sorry that what I did was so little."

Asked if he thought he would lose his job, Professor Franklin replied that "those of us who are committed to revolution have to recognize there's an excellent chance that we'll die in the revolution. The threat of a loss of a job is very insignificant."

But he assured the crowd that "I'm going to fight to keep my job," although he felt the chance of getting a fair hearing was "ridiculous."

He asked to have his case heard by the Stanford Judicial Council, a nine-man student-faculty group, rather than the Advisory Board, a seven-man panel of full professors which President Lyman described earlier as "the appropriate forum."

In a letter to President Lyman, Professor Franklin demanded to be heard with 10 students, who are scheduled for a hearing Jan. 28 before the SJC. Speaking in shirt sleeves with a large red-and-black "Venceremos" flag as a backdrop, Professor Franklin told the crowd: "The issue is not me—it is the peoples of Southeast Asia."

He said that because of alleged "heckling of a war criminal," students might be thrown out of school, employees might lose their jobs, and a faculty member—Franklin—might be fired.

"I would agree that whatever I and others did on Jan. 11 constitutes inappropriate behavior," he said in his letter which he handed to reporters. "The appropriate response to war criminals is not heckling, but what was done to them at Nuremberg: they should be locked up or executed. All of us are indeed guilty of allowing the antiwar movement to slip and slide to the point where our rulers think they now have an open invitation to commit genocide against the peoples of Southeast Asia."

Professor Franklin drew a broadly favorable response when he asked the crowd, "How many people here want us to get out of Southeast Asia?" Those who keep this commitment eventually will become revolutionaries, he said.

Later, a loud but relatively small segment of the crowd applauded his indictment of Lodge and others for "the massacre of the men, women and children of My Lai, the fire bomb and herbicide raids on the countryside of Vietnam."

When Professor Franklin observed that in communist China "it's illegal for a person to be fired from his job" except for criminal acts, a lone voice asked, "How about incompetence?" drawing widespread laughter.

Professor Franklin referred several times to the University president as "LIE-man," and charged him with failing to follow the University's own policy on campus disruptions in suggesting the case go to the Advisory Board, rather than the SJC.

In his letter, Professor Franklin demanded "as public a hearing and as close a semblance to a fair trial as I can get."

"In the end," he added, "we will all be judged not by an arm of the dinosaur of U.S. imperialism, but by the peoples of the world, who will bury all such ghosts and monsters."

After he spoke, Aaron Mangianello, a leader of Venceremos, said community tribunals would be established to pass sentence on those trying Professor Franklin, with the sentences to be carried out later.

President Lyman was not in his office during the press conference and rally. A copy of Professor Franklin's letter was delivered inside by a University publicist at Professor Franklin's request, after he declined to give it to the president's executive assistant at the front door. The president had no immediate comment on the letter.

In a Jan. 18 letter to Professor Franklin, President Lyman noted that a faculty member's participation in this disruption, if proven, "may warrant" dismissal from the University or discriminatory reduction in pay—penalties covered by the University's tenure policy which can only be imposed after an opportunity for a hearing before the Advisory Board.

"On the other hand," President Lyman wrote, "it seems obvious that if the Advisory Board finds participation in a disruption not so grave as to warrant a salary reduction or dismissal, it can recommend a lesser