An Executive Session of the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania was held on Friday, October 10, 1969 at 1:30 p.m. in the Council Room of the Furness Building.

Present were: Mr. Malcolm Adam, Gustave G. Amsterdam, Esq., Mr. Julian S. Bers, Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, Mr. Henry B. Bryans, Mr. Orville H. Bullitt, Mr. Isaac W. Burnham, 2nd, Mr. Howard Butcher III, Mr. Henry M. Chance, II, Dr. George A. Coleman, Windsor F. Cousins, Esq., Milton T. Daus, Mr. William L. Day (presiding), Robert Dechert, Esq., Mr. Robert G. Dunlop, Mr. John W. Eckman, Mr. Thomas S. Gates, Mr. James W. Gray, Jr., Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr., Dr. Althea K. Hottel, Mr. Reginald H. Jones, Dr. Carl Kaysen, Mr. C. B. McCoy, Mr. Paul F. Miller, Jr., Mr. William D. Patterson, Dr. D. Sergeant Pepper, Mr. James A. Salinger, Ernest Scott, Esq., Mr. James M. Skinner, Jr., Mr. Sarkes Tarzian, Robert L. Trescher, Esq., Senator John H. Ware, 3rd, Morton H. Wilner, Esq., Mr. Charles S. Wolt, Dr. Gaylord P. Harnwell, Dr. David R. Goddard and Mr. William G. Owen (Secretary).

Consideration was given to a series of resolutions adopted by the Student Plenum on October 2, 1969 which condemned the American military involvement in Vietnam, demanded a reversal of national priorities away from militarism, and requested that the Faculty Senate, the President and the Trustees enact a similar statement articulating these views in the interest of the academic community. Various points of view were expressed concerning the Trustees as a body taking a position on a political issue, as well as associated actions involving the lowering of the flag and the holding of a memorial service on October 15.

Messrs. Dechert and Kaysen were asked to formulate an appropriate resolution; the following resolution was subsequently adopted:

Resolution regarding Vietnam war

In response to the resolution asking the Trustees of this University to express their joinder in the views of the student Plenum as to termination of the war in Vietnam, we the Trustees believe it is undesirable for the University as an institution, or the Board as its responsible governing body, to take positions on broad questions of national policy. To do so would in turn invite political interference in the intellectual activities of the University and thus threaten...
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those features of the institution, the integrity of which it is our first duty to defend.

However, we welcome the expression by students and other members of the University community on October 15 of their own deeply felt views on the extraordinary problems arising from our present involvement in Vietnam.

Mr. Day, as Chairman of the Search Committee to Advise the Trustees in the Selection of a University President presented for review a progress report in which groups of candidates were categorized as either having been investigated in some detail by the Committee with an order of priority reflected therein or as not having been sufficiently investigated by the Committee, with a possible order of interest reflected therein.

In response to a question, Mr. Day indicated that it was the consensus of the Committee that a solid scholarly background is deemed to be of prime importance, with the understanding that certain individuals have moved in and out of the academic world in accepting high positions in government and foundations.

Trustees were urged to send to the Chairman any comments they may wish to make about candidates as well as to submit new names for consideration.

Adjourned.

William G. Owen
Secretary