

To the Editor:

The following is sent to you for publication in your column devoted to letters from the public. If you see fit to publish it, I would appreciate a tear sheet of it.

Very truly yours,

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### Self-Determination and Freedom

Wood Dale, Illinois, August 18--The right of self-determination) has become a cornerstone of our foreign policy. In the interest of freedom we must recognize this relationship between self-determination and freedom: freedom will always preserve self-determination but the latter can destroy freedom.

There is no doubt as to who wants freedom; when given the opportunity for free expression, the human race pleads for it, demands it. In our assessment of self-determination we must decide to whom we owe freedom.

For this purpose the human race can be divided into four groups of generations, the dead, living adults, the young, and all future generations. The struggle for human freedom is beyond the efforts of the first though our gratitude to those who bequeathed us freedom must never die. The living, if old enough to vote their own choice, know they have to live with it. If they legitimize some form of dictatorship, it will be their last free vote and the end of freedom both for themselves and for the young, a treacherous legacy indeed.

It is the fourth group which must be given special consideration for they are unnumbered, unnamed, unprotected, unborn. They also have rights. If the living have the right of self-determination, the exercise of free choice, so no future generation can be denied

the same opportunity. The problem is how to preserve that right.

In an analysis of all political systems, it is quite obvious that there is only one form of government which can do just that; that form is democracy. Democracy has a multitude of faults; it has failed in many ways. However, it is basic to its substance that there is always provision for redress, that is, a possibility for change through the electoral process. No matter how bad things may be or may become, people in a democracy have the right to change for the better the government under which they live.

No totalitarian government, whether it be communist, fascist, monarchist, or otherwise, will guarantee that right. In fact, it is essential to its survival to deny that right not only to its own citizens but to citizens anywhere over whom it can impose control. It must condemn as mortal enemies those other governments and their citizens who live under a democracy; as long as one democracy exists, the restive citizens of a servile state cannot be trusted. People want to be free. We sustain their hope.

Therefore, it is imperative that we promote freedom if for no other reason than to protect our own. The world "cannot be half slave and half free." Since self-determination can promote freedom, then let us back it, but with this reservation. Not only to protect living adults but also the young and all generations to come, we must reject all forms of self-determination that do not preserve freedom for all time and all places.

Freedom is always a victim of all forms of government except democracy. The "choice" through self-determination is really no choice. The decision must be for democracy.

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