

Dear Mr. Snell,

I am requested an application, Form 150, for the classification 1-0, for conscientious objectors. Below I will to the best of my ability try to relate to you the reasons for which I think I am eligible for this classification, as well as the necessity of my obtaining such a classification.

Since I have become a student in college, my religious beliefs have been altered as a result of many hours of discussion with both close friends, and attending services of different religions, and mainly many hours of conscious meditation. I have developed what most would call an independent religion, although in actuality, it is a cross of various existing religions.

I believe in a God, not necessarily as the creator of earth, but as an all powerful unifying force among all earthly things, particularly among members of the same species. More than an aesthetic relationship between man and God, I believe in an earthly relationship, the brotherhood of man, and the brotherhood of all living things, varying according to their intelligent levels. I basically believe that heaven and hell, as are mentioned in most religions, are conditions which refer to man's life on earth. At present, I believe that many men, as has been in the past, are somewhat confused and misdirected as to their relationships toward other men, and therefore exist and act in unnatural, neurotic states of mind. Sometimes these states of mind are developed from negative, survival-of-the-fittest environments, sometimes from improper mental development due to abnormal rearing by parents, and sometimes from misguided imposed disciplines, such as the various compulsory military organizations of the world. I believe that many presently living men, as many men from the past, operate on narrow levels when regarding other human beings lives from different lands, because of being skeptical of the others' different beliefs and modes of life. This, I think, is basically a problem of bad communication, as well as extreme variances in economical levels, and extreme variances in political and military-technological power.

Regarding my intentionally having to kill another individual, I believe that I could only do this in one instance, and that would be self-defense for myself and others from a mentally disturbed person. Do not confuse this with self-defense on a national level however, because I believe

that national military organizations, (which operate on the premise of individuals killing under order), are results of a mass hysteria produced by limited, un-sensitive minds. I personally refuse to be part of a mass-murdering organization which claims to be sophisticated, rational, and God-based, but proves to be viciously inhumane and power-seeking. The death of one man because of another man's misdirected mental state to me is the ultimate of earthly evils, and I will be no part of it. I believe that man in a normal state, as may be achieved in the future due to increased communication and transportation, is a cooperative creature by nature, and will constantly try to improve himself and his surrounding environment. This does not mean that I believe in "the man" of the United States, the "different man" of North Vietnam, or the "even different man" of the Soviet Union; I believe that all human beings are equal, and I could no more contribute to the death of an unknown foreigner, (who is also misled), than I could with an unknown American. Playing with the lives of so many soldiers, (who are human beings), as if playing a gigantic football game, is to me a nationally-based mental disturbance, initially imposed by our conscription system, but then "ground in" under the brainwashing techniques of an insane and archaic military-psychology.

My belief in the brotherhood of man is the sole basis of life on this earth, and I, as a human being, will do nothing to harm another living being, unless forced to defend myself. (This, I will decide at my own discretion). Matters of life and death are the only instances in which I will kill, (not over varying ideologies or different forms of government), and I will avoid my presence in any such situations to the utmost of my powers.

For these reasons, I cannot cooperate in any way toward the murdering of other misdirected individuals, and I can therefore take no cooperative position in our present, aggressive, military system.

Sincerely,