

[Abhimanya Manchanda]

Statement on the walkout from the VSC Conference

First Published: Britain-Vietnam Solidarity Front, June 1966

Posted <http://abhimanyumanchandaremembered.weebly.com/manu-vs-bertrand-russell.html>

Transcription, Editing and Markup: Sam Richards and Paul Saba

Copyright: This work is in the Public Domain under the [Creative Commons Common Deed](#). You can freely copy, distribute and display this work; as well as make derivative and commercial works. Please credit the Encyclopedia of Anti-Revisionism On-Line as your source, include the url to this work, and note any of the transcribers, editors & proofreaders above.

Tel.: GULLIVER 1609

The following is a statement issued by all those who found it necessary to walk out from the conference called on June 4-5, 1966 at the Mahatma Gandhi Hall, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1, to launch a Vietnam Solidarity Campaign in Britain.

Delegates attending this conference did so for the purpose of forming in Britain an organisation with the aim of campaigning amongst the British people on the basis of giving full support to and solidarity with the heroic people of Vietnam in their just struggle.

We are convinced that, to render successful support to the people of Vietnam, it is essential and decisive that such a campaign for solidarity should have in its aims the following political demands of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam, which are as follows:

FOUR-POINT STAND OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

1. Reaffirmation of the basic national rights of the Vietnamese people: peace, independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. In accordance with the Geneva Agreements, the U.S. Government must withdraw all U.S. troops, military personnel and weapons of all kinds from south Vietnam, dismantle all U.S. military bases there, cancel its "military alliance" with south Vietnam. The U.S. must end its policy of intervention and aggression in south Vietnam. In accordance with the Geneva Agreements, the U.S. Government must stop its acts of war against north Vietnam, cease all encroachments on the territory and sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.
2. Pending the peaceful reunification of Vietnam, while Vietnam is still temporarily divided into two zones, the military provisions of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam must be strictly respected: the two zones must refrain from joining any military alliance with foreign countries, and there must be no foreign military bases, troops and military personnel on their respective territory.
3. The internal affairs of south Vietnam must be settled by the people of south Vietnam themselves, in accordance with the programme of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation without any foreign interference.
4. The peaceful reunification of Vietnam is to be settled by the Vietnamese people in both zones, without any foreign interference.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam declare that any approach contrary to the above-mentioned stand is inappropriate; any approach tending to secure a U.N. intervention in the Vietnam situation is also inappropriate because such approaches are basically at variance with the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam.

FIVE-PART STATEMENT OF THE SOUTH VIETNAM
NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

1. The U.S. imperialists are the saboteurs of the Geneva Agreements, the most brazen warmonger and aggressor and the sworn enemy of the Vietnamese people.
2. The heroic south Vietnamese people are resolved to drive out the U.S. imperialists in order to liberate south Vietnam, achieve an independent, democratic and neutral south Vietnam, with a view to national reunification.
3. The valiant south Vietnamese people and the South Vietnam Liberation Army are resolved to accomplish to the full their sacred duty to drive out the U.S. imperialists so as to liberate south Vietnam and defend north Vietnam.
4. The south Vietnamese people express their profound gratitude to the wholehearted support of the people of the world who cherish peace and justice, and declare their readiness to receive all assistance including weapons and all other war materials from their friends in the five continents.
5. To unite the whole people, to arm the whole people, continue to march forward heroically and be resolved to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors and Vietnamese traitors.

In his opening address to the conference, Lord Russell described the courageous struggle which the Vietnamese people have been waging against imperialism, and in particular U.S. imperialism. He pledged unqualified support to the fighting people of Vietnam, under the leadership of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

We found ourselves in a position of being unable to participate in the conference when a faction sought to impose on the movement a set of aims which were contrary to the views expressed by Lord Russell in his opening statement to the conference and as agreed previously in the Preparatory Committee.

We, as always, dearly wish to co-operate with all those who desire to see a successful conclusion to the just struggle of the Vietnamese people, which can only end in complete victory for the National Liberation Front, the sole representative of the people of Vietnam.

At the same time, we must resolutely oppose all those who refuse to accept the programme of the Vietnamese people as the only basis for waging a successful campaign for solidarity in Britain, and so contributing to the inevitable victory of the Vietnamese people and a just and lasting peace.

While those who disrupted the conference are a faction organised around the Nottingham journal 'The Week', those of us who found it necessary to disassociate ourselves from their unprincipled stand included trade unionists, members of peace committees and delegates from solidarity with Vietnam committees, and members of organisations from Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. In addition, all of the fraternal representatives from Belgium, Holland, Italy, Switzerland and Haiti, unanimously decided to withdraw from the meeting and to continue to give full support to a genuine solidarity movement in Britain, based on the aims of the Vietnamese people themselves.

In order to ensure the carrying out of this work, the above-mentioned/delegates met in conference and elected a Provisional Committee. They unanimously adopted this Statement. /78

We are confident that our principled stand will contribute to the development of a powerful movement in Britain, capable of cementing the friendship of the British and Vietnamese people, whose fundamental interests are the same.

ENDS