

Vietnam

SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN



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V.S.C. Activities

Recent Activities in Glasgow.

Two delegates from Glasgow V.S.C. attended the Scottish V.S.C. committee meeting in Edinburgh on 12th May, where the main discussion was on medical and technical aid. It was decided to call a Trade Union conference in Glasgow in the autumn, for medical and technical aid to Vietnam - and prominent Scottish Trade Unionists are being asked to sponsor this. Ian Millar, National Council member and Secretary of Edinburgh V.S.C. was interviewed on Scottish Television last week, and the various newspapers have taken up the question of technical aid and volunteers for Vietnam and as a result a number of new contacts have been made.

On Friday 19th May in the Trade Union Social Centre, Glasgow, the film "The Threatening Sky" was shown, preceded by a talk by Lawrence Daly which was enthusiastically received by an audience of 80 people, mostly Trade Unionists. Literature was sold and a Glasgow V.S.C. newsletter was given out. On Saturday 20th May, V.S.C. collected money for medical aid around the Glasgow pubs, and raised nearly £15. This was a pilot scheme, and proved so successful that a week of collecting is being organised for the autumn, culminating in a flag day on the Saturday. Sunday May 21st saw V.S.C. debating with the SPGB before 70 people on the motion, "Should Socialists support V.S.C." On June 3rd a Scottish Vietnam demonstration was held in Glasgow followed by a rally in Queen's Park. 1,000 people took part in the march in which V.S.C. played a prominent part. Speakers included Lawrence Daly, Secretary Scottish N.U.M., Russel Stetler, I.W.C.T. and Karen Wald, Berkley University Students' Peace Movement.

Photographic Exhibition in Pontypridd.

Following the success of the Photographic Exhibition at the L.P.Y.S. Conference in Llandudno at Easter, Pontypridd L.P.Y.S. sponsored the exhibition and held a public meeting in their home town during May. Andrew Price, Pontypridd L.P.Y.S. Secretary, said the exhibition was a success from the very start and influenced the thinking of a large number of people. Some of the local councillors were not so happy about this "outside" influence and Derrick Lewis a Liberal (sic) councillor attacked the exhibition viciously for being one-sided. "The Pontypridd Observer" also attacked the exhibition but this has led to an enlightening exchange of views via its columns. On Saturday May 20th a public meeting was held with speakers from both the International War Crimes Tribunal and V.S.C. Despite opposition from their local Labour Party, Pontypridd L.P.Y.S. took constructive action to make the people of their town think about the Vietnam War. They have also increased their membership and are planning to form a local branch of V.S.C.

London Activities.

A Hammersmith Vietnam Solidarity Committee was formed during May to replace the former Committee for Peace in Vietnam. The Solidarity Committee is affiliated to V.S.C. and the founding meeting was supported by three local Councillors and seven other prominent members of the local Labour Party. In the two weeks since its formation the committee has been given considerable publicity in the local press and has caused controversy within the Labour Party ranks. A meeting was held on May 6th with Geoff Coggan, Press Officer of the International War Crimes Tribunal. A public meeting and the Photographic Exhibition are planned for July.

V.S.C. took part in the Youth For Peace in Vietnam demonstration in Trafalgar Square on May 21st and the V.S.C. Youth Sub-Committee has now become an associated organisation of Y.P.V.

Future Action.

On October 21st a massive March on Washington calling for immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam is being organised by protest groups in the U.S. V.S.C. is initiating an International Day of Protest in support of this demonstration and through our contacts with the International Bureau in Brussels and other European organisations, (see page twelve for report on a recent solidarity demonstration in Denmark). It has been proposed that all of our activity during the summer should be organised to culminate in an international march and meeting on October 21st. Money raised for medical aid could be handed over to the North Vietnamese representative at this meeting and our list of people volunteering for service in North Vietnam publicised (see page three for details).

A booklet putting forward the arguments for immediate withdrawal and opposing negotiations is being prepared and will be ready for sale during the B.C.P.V. Vietnam Week at the end of June. Further details of our October 21st demonstration will also be distributed in a leaflet. B.C.P.V. week ends with a mass mobilization in Trafalgar Square at 2.30pm on Sunday July 2nd followed by a march to Hyde Park with four platforms of speakers. We have 2,000 N.L.F. flags and 5,000 V.S.C. badges and will want the help of all our supporters in the London area both to sell these and to sell and distribute literature during the week June 24th - July 2nd. We will also be having a literature stall at the Angry Arts Week being organised by the American 'Stop It Committee' at The Round House, Chalk Farm and will require helpers to man this - further details of the Angry Arts on our back page.

Emergency Demonstration

We have already received a very good response to our request for telephone numbers of people who are ready to come out at a moment's notice in case of the invasion of North Vietnam or the visit to this country of President Johnson. Any members who have not already sent us their numbers (both work and home) should do so and I would suggest that all local branches organise a similar system. Y.C.N.D. has suggested that if the North is invaded we should assemble at Hyde Park corner at 7pm of the same day with no further notification for a march on the American Embassy. We are supporting this and have asked that this be extended to include a visit to the U.K. by President Johnson.

Change of Address - Change of Address - Change of Address - Change of Address - Change

From June 23rd V.S.C. Head Office will be at 49 Rivington St., London, E.C.2.

V.S.C. MEDICAL SUPPLIES FUND

Following discussion at the V.S.C. Youth Conference a Medical Supplies Fund has been set up under the supervision of Andy Smith. A separate bank account has been opened for the fund and all donations collected during the summer will be handed over to the North Vietnamese representative in London at our demonstration on October 21st. All money collected will be sent direct to North Vietnam for use in the North and in the liberated areas of the South as the Vietnamese people require. We have already received a number of donations from individuals and, as reported on page one, Glasgow V.S.C. raised £15 in a pub collection on May 20th. It has been suggested that the holding of "Flag Days" would be a very good way for small groups to collect money for medical supplies. If there is sufficient response to this we will have a large quantity of very small N.L.F. flags made for this purpose.

A leaflet is being prepared explaining the object of the fund and how the money is to be spent. We have a list, which was sent to us by the N.L.F. representative in Paris, of medical supplies urgently required by the N.L.F. and North Vietnam. This will be published in the next Bulletin. We will send this information, together with a supply of leaflets to anyone who is planning an activity to raise money for medical supplies.

Call for Volunteers

Also as a result of discussion at the V.S.C. Youth Conference we are making a call for people to volunteer to go to North Vietnam if and when called upon by the Vietnamese people. Although we would like as large a list as possible of people who would be willing to go if called on, it is most likely that skilled workers, engineers etc., would be the first to be requested. We are in touch with the North Vietnamese and will report further on this in our next Bulletin. In the mean time we would like local branches and sympathetic organisations to start collecting names. These will be publicised at the October 21st demonstration.

A great deal of work has been done by Hull V.S.C. in organising the Hull & Haiphong Campaign. This links the dockers in the two cities and could be the basis for an exchange of trade unionists and technical experts. For further information contact Alan Rooney, 12, Sunnybank, Hull, Yorks.

New Leaflets.

We are building up a stock of leaflets which will be suitable for demonstrations of different kinds. At the back of this Bulletin you will find a leaflet headed, VIETNAM: U Thant or Solidarity. This has been produced to counter those who say that although they agree with us in principle it is more realistic to call for negotiations and that this is what the Vietnamese want us to do. The quotes in this leaflet make it very clear that U Thant's proposals provided a tactical success for the United States. These leaflets are available in bulk, free of charge although we would appreciate a donation to help cover their cost.

South Vietnam - Position Exposed.

On June 7th Tran Van Do, South Vietnamese Foreign Minister, was interviewed on the BBC programme 24 Hours. Asked whether the Saigon Government would under any circumstances negotiate with the National Liberation Front he replied that the N.L.F. could not be accepted as a party to negotiations nor as a participant in South Vietnamese politics.

U.S. C. M. H. J. S. V.

VIETNAM BOOK LIST

- "From Yalta to Vietnam" by David Horowitz, 10/6 - Penguin Special.
First published as "The Free World Colossus", David Horowitz's reappraisal of American policy in the era of the atomic bomb questions the whole foundations of the foreign line to which Britain is at present committed. All of the U.S.'s powerful agencies have been ranged on the side of repressive regimes and against social reform. Hence the unendurable tensions of Berlin, Guatemala and Cuba, the hot wars in Korea and Vietnam.
- "War Crimes in Vietnam" by Bertrand Russell, 12/6.
The catalogue of atrocities is one of the best-documented to appear in the West, but this is far more than a compilation of horrors; it is an examination of the whole Cold War setting in which the conflict occurs.
- "Vietnam: Inside Story of the Guerilla War" by Wilfred G. Burchett, 15/-.
The author spent eight months in the areas of South Vietnam held by the National Liberation Front, mostly with the National Liberation Army. (With eight pages of photos.)
- "Vietnam: Between Two Truces" by Jean Lacoutre, 15/-.
A detailed account of the struggle in Vietnam from the signing of the Geneva Agreements to 1965.
- "Immediate Negotiations vs. Withdrawal" by Caroline Jenness, 1/-.
The argument for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam given in a question and answer form.
- "The Dirty War in Mr. Wilson." by Ken Coates, 1/-.
The remarkable Mr. Wilson said on May Day, 1954, "Asia... is in revolution, and what we have to learn today in this country is to march on the side of the peoples in that revolution and not on the side of their oppressors." subtitled, "How he stopped worrying about Vietnam and learned to love the dollar", this booklet contains some very useful quotations together with their sources.
- "How the United States got Involved in Vietnam" by Robert Scheer, 4/-
American journalist, Robert Scheer, reveals the background to the steadily mounting American involvement in Vietnam.
- "The Fort Hood Three" - 1/9.
Full details of the case of the three American GI's who refused to go to Vietnam. Already their stand has set an example to many other young Americans who have refused the draft.

All these books are available from Vietnam Book Service, 49, Rivington St., London EC2
Cash with all orders please, add 5% for postage and packing.

VERDICT OF THE STOCKHOLM SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL

The International War Crimes Tribunal during the session held at Stockholm from the 2nd to the 10th May 1967, studied the two following questions included in its programme, adopted in London on the 15 November 1966:

"Has the United States Government (and the Governments of Australia, New Zealand and South Korea) committed acts of aggression according to international law?"

"Has there been bombardment of targets of a purely civilian character, for example hospitals, schools, sanatoria, dams, etc., and on what scale has this occurred?"

Having heard the qualified representatives of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and noted the official refusal of the government of the United States of America to make known its point of view, and this despite the various appeals addressed to it,

Having heard the various reporters, the experts, numerous witnesses, including members of the investigating teams which it had itself sent to Vietnam, as well as Vietnamese victims of the war.

Having examined several written, photographic and cinematographic documents, together with numerous exhibits, and having decided on publication of the whole of its documentation,

Having heard the highly valuable summing up report of Mr. Lelio Basso, considers itself able to take the following decisions:

On the first question

Resort to force in international relations has been prohibited by numerous international agreements, the chief of which is the 1928 Pact of Paris, known as the Briand-Kellogg Pact.

In its article 2, the United Nations Charter solemnly recalled the said principle immediately after the Second World War.

Article 6 of the Statute of Nuremberg qualified as crimes against peace "the conduct of, preparation for, starting or pursuit of a war of aggression or a war in violation of international treaties, pledges or agreements, or participation in a concerted plan, or plot for the accomplishment of any of the foregoing acts."

Finally, it must be recalled, as in the United Nations resolution of December 1960, that all peoples have fundamental rights to national independence, to sovereignty, to respect of the integrity of their territory, and that breaches of these fundamental rights may be regarded as crimes against the national existence of a people.

The accession to independence and to national existence of the people of Vietnam dates back to 2 September 1945. This independence was called in question by the old colonial power. The war of national liberation then embarked upon ended with the victory of the Vietnam army.

The Geneva Agreements of the 20th and 21st July 1954, intended to put an end to the previous conflict, created in Vietnam a state of law the respect of which was incumbent on all, and particularly on the United States. These Agreements recognised the guarantees, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Vietnam (Articles 6 and 7 of the final Declaration). Although a line of demarcation divided the country into two parts on a level with the 17th parallel, it was expressly stipulated that as the essential aim of this division was to settle military questions, it was of a provisional nature "and could in no way be interpreted as constituting a political or territorial boundary." (Article 6 of the final Declaration).

The Geneva Agreements stipulated that general elections should take place over the whole of the country in July 1956 under the supervision of an international commission, and that consultations on this subject were to take place between the competent representative authorities of the two zones as from July 1955.

The Agreements specifically excluded all reprisals or discrimination against persons and organisations by reason of their activities during the previous hostilities (Article 14 of the Armistice Agreement). They formally prohibited the introduction of fresh troops, of military personnel, fresh arms and munitions, as well as the installation of military bases (Article 16 of the Armistice Agreement) and the inclusion of Vietnam in military alliances, this applying to the two zones (Art. 9 of the final Declaration).

This state of law, intended to create a peaceful situation in Vietnam, was replaced by a state of war in consequence of successive violations of the various aforesaid stipulations of the Geneva Agreements.

For the reasons set forth hereunder the Tribunal considers that the responsibility for these violations and for the passage to a state of war lies with the government of the United States of America.

It transpires from the information of a historical and diplomatic nature that has been brought to the knowledge of the Tribunal:

- that numerous proofs exist of the American intention prior to 1954 to dominate Vietnam;
- that the Diem government was set up in Saigon by American agents several weeks before the conclusion of the Geneva Agreements;
- that the Saigon authorities subservient to the United States systematically violated the provisions of the Geneva Agreements which prohibited reprisals, as has been established on several occasions by the International Control Commission;
- that in defiance of the Geneva Agreements the United States has, since 1954, introduced into Vietnam increasing quantities of military equipment and personnel and has set up bases there.

The elections that were fixed for July 1956 and which were to be the subject of consultations in July 1955 did not take place in spite of numerous diplomatic notes from the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam calling for the said consultations. Information from United States' sources makes it possible to ascribe to the U.S.A. the refusal by Saigon to respect the most essential provisions of the Geneva Agreements.

In this manner there was created in South Vietnam a situation of foreign intrusion by force against which the people of Vietnam had to launch a struggle of national liberation in a political form until 1959 and in the form of an armed struggle since that date, a struggle led by the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam since 1960, which has succeeded in controlling vastly greater territories than those controlled by the United States.

This attack against the South was followed by an attack against the North, begun in 1964, and intensified since 1965 in the form of aerial bombardments and naval and land shellings in circumstances which form the subject of the second question studied by the Tribunal. The United States has not ceased to increase the power of these attacks by practising what it has itself called a policy of escalation.

The Tribunal has made a point of examining scrupulously the arguments put forward in American official documents to justify the legality of their intervention in Vietnam. Special attention has been paid to the document entitled: "Juridical Memorandum on the legality of the participation of the United States in the defence of Vietnam", which document was submitted to the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee on the 4 March 1966. The main argument formulated by this text consists in claiming that the American intervention in Vietnam merely constitutes aid to the Saigon government against aggression from the North. Such argument is untenable both in law and in fact.

In law, it is hardly necessary to recall that Vietnam constitutes a single nation which can with difficulty be seen as an aggressor against itself.

The fact is that no proof of this alleged aggression has ever been produced. The figures stated of infiltration of personnel from the North into the South, often contradictory, mixing up armed men and unarmed men, are thoroughly disputable and could in no case justify the plea of legitimate defence provided for in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, an Article, moreover, none of the other conditions of which are complied with.

From the foregoing it follows that the United States bears the responsibility for the use of force in Vietnam and that it has in consequence committed a crime of aggression against that country, a crime against peace.

It has therefore violated the provisions of International Law outlawing the use of force in international relations, in particular the Pact of Paris of 1928, the so-called Briand-Kellog Pact, of which it was however the author, and the United Nations Charter (Article 2, para.4). This violation of the general principles has been accompanied by violation of the special Agreements relating to the territory in question, Vietnam - that is to say, the Geneva Agreements of July 1954.

In acting thus the United States has undeniably committed a crime against peace within the meaning of Article 6 of the Statute of Nuremberg, a provision sanctioned by international jurisprudence (Judgment of Nuremberg and of Tokyo) and acknowledge as international law by all, by the unanimous resolution of the United Nations of the 11 December 1946.

The United States has furthermore committed a crime against the fundamental rights of the people of Vietnam.

It should be added that States such as South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, which have in one form or another provided aid to the American aggression, have rendered themselves accomplices.

The Tribunal has concerned itself with the situation in Cambodia. It has heard the report of the investigating teams which it sent to that country and the depositions of a qualified representative of the General Staff of the Cambodian army. It considers that the forces of the United States and those of the governments subordinate to it at Bangkok and Saigon are engaging in continuous and serious acts of aggression against the Kingdom of Cambodia. This aggression constitutes not only an attack on Cambodian neutrality and independence but also an extremely serious threat to the peace in South East Asia and in the world.

On the second question.

The Tribunal has gained the conviction that the aerial, naval and land bombardments of civil targets is of a massive, systematic and deliberate nature.

The massive nature of these bombardments is attested by innumerable reports from American sources on the tonnage of bombs dropped and the great number of American aerial sorties.

The systematic and deliberate bombardment of civil targets is established by extensive evidence to the effect that in the vast majority of cases they are preceded by reconnaissance flights: according to a report of American origin, the aircraft stationed at a single base in Thailand alone utilise 300,000 metres of film every month to photograph Vietnam. If it is borne in mind on the one hand that most of the aircraft are equipped with automatic firing devices and, on the other hand that the aircraft return persistently and furiously to the same targets, which are sometimes already almost completely destroyed, no doubt is possible as to the deliberate intention to strike the targets in question.

Besides the aerial bombardments, intense pounding by the artillery of the 7th fleet is progressively ravaging the coastal zones.

All of the witnesses heard, in particular the members of the investigating teams, have confirmed that the greater part of the civilian targets (hospitals, schools, churches, pagodas) are very obvious and very clearly distinguished from the rest of the Vietnam countryside.

The extent of the bombardments is considerable and the Tribunal has had a close study made by its investigating teams of the results published by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Proceeding by the method of soundings, the investigating teams have been able to verify at places of their choice the information received. Thus, for example, so far as hospitals are concerned, out of 95 establishments mentioned as destroyed by the Vietnamese Commission of Inquiry into War Crimes, 34 have been verified by the Tribunal's investigating teams, i.e., 36%. The great value of these soundings lies in their dispersion, since the 34 hospitals checked relate to 8 provinces out of the 12 involved in the bombardments.

Apart from the extensive private evidence submitted to it, the Tribunal has heard general reports on the distribution of the various categories of civilian targets: hospitals, schools, places of worship (pagodas or churches) and dams, as well as of the bombardment of the civilian populations of urban centres and in the countryside. It has also heard combined reports on the bombardments in the two provinces of Nghe-An and Thanh-Hoa. All of these reports were accompanied by documents, statements and material evidence.

The Tribunal ascertained the vital importance to the people of Vietnam of the dams and other hydraulic works, and the grave danger of famine to which the civilian populations were exposed by the attempted destruction by the American forces.

The Tribunal has received all necessary information in the diversity and power of the engines of war employed against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the circumstances of their utilisation (high power explosive bombs, napalm, phosphorus and fragmentation bombs, etc.). Seriously injured victims of napalm bombs have appeared before it and medical reports on these mutilated people have been provided to it. Its attention in particular has been drawn to the massive use of various kinds of anti-personnel bombs of the fragmentation type, also called in American parlance, C.B.U., and in Vietnamese parlance pellet bombs. These devices, obviously intended to strike defenceless populations, have the following characteristics:

- containers, called by the Vietnamese the "mother bombs" release a hundred small oblong or spherical bombs ("pineapple" or "guava" bombs) which in turn release hundreds of small pellets. A single "mother bomb" can therefore cause the dispersion of nearly 100,000 pellets; these pellets can cause no serious damage to buildings or plants or to protected military personnel (for example, civil defence workers behind their sandbags). They are therefore intended solely to reach the greatest number of persons in the civilian population.

The Tribunal has had medical experts study the consequences of attacks with these pellets. The path of the particles through the body is long and irregular and produces, apart from cases of death, multiple and various internal injuries.

The Hague Convention No.4 of the 18 October 1907 laid down the principle that belligerents may not have unlimited choice so far as the means of injuring an enemy are concerned (Art.22); the said Convention specially

prohibits the use of arms, projectiles and material deliberately destined to cause pointless suffering (Art.23); attacks on or bombardment by any means whatsoever of towns, villages, dwellings or undefended buildings are prohibited (Art.25). During bombardments all necessary steps must be taken to spare, so far as possible, buildings devoted to religion, art, science or charitable purposes, historical monuments, hospitals or places where sick and injured persons are assembled, provided that these places are not used for military purposes (Art.27).

Article 6 of the Statutes of the Tribunal of Nuremberg has qualified as war crimes the destruction without reason of towns and villages or devastation not justified by military requirements.

The Geneva Convention of the 2 August 1949 also laid down the principle of absolute prohibition of attack on civilian hospitals (Art.18) and private and collective property not rendered absolutely necessary by the conduct of the operations (Art.53).

The government of the United States cannot override such Treaties, to which it has subscribed, whilst its own constitution (Article 6, para. 2) gives them pre-eminence over domestic law. Furthermore, the Official Manual (Department of the Army Field Manual) entitled "The Law of Land Warfare" published by the U.S. Ministry of War in 1956, under reference F.M. 27-10, refers to all of the foregoing provisions as being obligatory on all members of the American army.

In consequence, the Tribunal considers that in subjecting the civilian population and civilian targets of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam to intensive and systematic bombardment, the United States of America has committed

a war crime.

Apart from condemnation of this war crime, the Tribunal makes a point of declaring that fragmentation bombs of the C.B.U. type, which have no other purpose than to injure to the maximum the civilian population, must be regarded as arms prohibited by the laws and customs of war.

Meeting with the resistance of a people who intended to "exercise peacefully and freely its right to full independence and to the integrity of its territory" (United Nations resolution of the 14 December 1960), the government of the United States of America has given these war crimes, through their extent and frequency, the character of crimes against humanity (Article 6 of the Statute of Nuremberg).

These crimes cannot be regarded merely as a consequence of a war of aggression, whose prosecution is determined by them.

Thanks to their systematic employment with the object of destroying the fundamental rights of the people of Vietnam, their unity and their wish for peace, the crimes against humanity of which the government of the

United States of America has rendered itself guilty, become a fundamental constituent part of the crime of aggression, a supreme crime which embraces all the others according to the Nuremberg verdict.

FINDINGS OF THE TRIBUNAL

1. - Has the government of the United States committed acts of aggression against Vietnam under the terms of international law?

- YES (Unanimously)

2. - Has there been, and if so, on what scale, bombardment of purely civilian targets, for example, hospitals, schools, medical establishments, dams, etc?

- YES (Unanimously)

We find that the government and armed forces of the United States are guilty of the deliberate, systematic and large scale bombardment of civilian targets, including civilian populations, dwellings, villages, dams, dykes, medical establishments, leper colonies, schools, churches, pagodas, historical and cultural monuments.

We also find unanimously, with one abstention, that the government of the United States of America is guilty of repeated violations of the sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia, that it is guilty of attacks against the civilian population of a certain number of Cambodian towns and villages.

3. - Have the governments of Australia, New Zealand and South Korea been accomplices of the United States in the aggression against Vietnam in violation of international law?

- YES (Unanimously)

The question also arises as to whether or not the governments of Thailand and other countries have become accomplices to acts of aggression or other crimes against Vietnam and its populations. We have not been able to study this question during the present session. We intend to examine at the next session legal aspects of the problem and to seek proofs of any incriminating facts.

Endorsed "ne variatur"

The President of the Tribunal

Jean Paul Sartre.

Stockholm, 10 May 1967.

For two days on May 14th and 15th, at least 6000 people, almost entirely youth marched under the banner of solidarity from Helsingors to Copenhagen: about 50 kilometres. The Whitsun march was organized by a number of Vietnam committees in Denmark, but it was a truly international event, with hundreds of participants from Sweden, Norway, Germany, Belgium, France, Greece, England, and even some students from Bahrain and Angola. The Vietnam Solidarity Campaign was the only British organisation represented both on the march and the platform. The atmosphere of the march was gay and fraternal, even the passers by were often smiling and waving at us as we passed. The Cops too were also very friendly, in fact there were only two or three of them escorting us on their motor-bikes until we reached Copenhagen. Many of the participants were wearing vests of the N.L.F. flag, and several musical groups added to the attraction.

On reaching the suburbs of the city on the second day, we stopped outside the house of the U.S. ambassador, and speeches were made over a loud speaker, in English and Danish, denouncing the aggressors and expressing solidarity with the N.L.F. in full view of the ambassador and other residents. Shortly after this, as we marched towards the embassy itself we were caught in a tremendous thunderstorm which lasted for two or three hours until we reached the Town Hall square itself for the final ceremony. However, inspite of the heavy downpour which soaked everybody to the skin, the march did not disintegrate and a meeting was held outside the embassy in the rain. We then continued the march to the Town-hall square but unfortunately the thousands who had lined the streets to wait for us had gone home because of the rain, however, on arrival at the square there were at least 3000 marchers.

The N.L.F. ambassador to the U.S.S.R. Ngyen Van-Dong gave a speech in which he applauded the marchers and welcomed the event as a great act of solidarity with his compatriots in Vietnam. The marchers responded in a thunderous chorus: Viva F.N.L..... Viva F.N.L. ! Later Van Dong was presented with a collection of 25000 Kroner (about £5000) for the N.L.F. He returned the compliment with a magnificent flag of the N.L.F. colours which he presented to the Organizer of the march. This was the first march of its kind to be carried off in Denmark, and it was certainly a significant success considering that Scandinavia like this country has the bulk of the anti-war movement under the banners of "stop the bombing" and "negotiations" rather than "solidarity". The marchers lived up to their slogans of solidarity by marching through to the finish, completely soaked!

(The success of this march, which was based on a minimum programme of solidarity with the Vietnamese revolution, shows the movement in this country that it is possible to hold a massive demonstration without compromising on the political line providing sufficient work is put into the preparation. See page two for details of the International Day of Protest in support of the March on Washington. Ed.)

U Thant or Solidarity (leaflets available, bulk....donations appreciated)

On the back of this bulletin we have fixed a leaflet that has been distributed among various left wing circles where official positions on Vietnam tend towards support for the proposals of U Thant rather than support for the Vietnamese, who have rejected the proposals on the grounds that there can be no compromises with the aggressors.

EWAN MacCOLL

1bj looks after me

This world is just a vale of tears and freedom is a snare,
The road is full of pitfalls and man's lot is only care —
In spite of his intentions a man can go astray
Unless he has a friendly hand to guide him on the way:
L.B.J. looks after me,
With Uncle Harold, George Brown and Marshal Ky —
They have got be well protected
From the mean and disaffected
They're my buddies and they're looking after me.

O thought is a delusion, it's injurious to health,
A barrier to peace of mind, an obstacle to wealth —
When I feel an idea stirring, to myself I firmly say:
"Uncle Harold would not like it — nor would L.B.J."

There's malcontents who say the Labour Party is a farce,
They say George Brown has got his nose stuck right up Lyndon's
what-you-call-it,
But George is just obedient and always does agree
To back the President and that is good enough for me:

There's rumours that the Isle-of-Man's the latest candidate
For independent status — yes, they want a Manx Free State!
But I don't let it worry me nor spoil my pleasant dreams,
If things get out of hand they'll send United States Marines:

I own a little property, I let it out for rent,
Fifteen quid a week per room, the tenants call me bent,
They talk of organising and say they will not pay,
But the President has promised to send in the C.I.A.:

The country isn't what it was, the place has gone to pot,
It's full of Pakistanis and West Indians — the lot,
They'd violate your mothers, and your sisters they'd betray —
The only thing that stops them is the thought of L.B.J.:

While cowards flinch and traitors sneer at Uncle Harold's freeze,
They're only trying to drag our dear old country to its knees,
And B.M.C. Shop Stewards who dare to start a row,
Are mostly secret agents in the pay of Chairman Mao:

Lyndon cannot bear to hear young children cry for bread,
This tender-hearted President would rather see 'em dead,
And so he has a few more thousand butchered every day,
And Harold's right there by his side explaining it away:

My advice to you is 'Never kick against the pricks',
Thought will overtax your brain and lead to Commie tricks!
But Uncle Harold's double-talk will soothe your fears away
And you'll maybe even be allowed to die for L.B.J.:



General Westmoreland has sent an urgent request to Washington for between 200,000 and 250,000 more men, bringing the total to almost 700,000. The military is unable to raise these combat forces now or in a reasonable period without a call-up of reserve forces. Without this added manpower, General Westmoreland insists the military has gone as far as it can with the war and a stalemate is the best that can be expected.

Despite the bombing of North Vietnam and the massive U.S. activity in the demilitarised zone N.L.F. action has increased. Substantial elements of U.S. troops have had to be shifted from the Cambodian border, from the Central Highlands and from coastal regions to deal with enlarged N.L.F. operations in and near the Demilitarized Zone in the Northern Provinces of South Vietnam. American flexibility has been further restricted by the N.L.F. positioning their battalions cleverly in key spots. The entire U.S. Fourth Division, for example, is in the Central Highlands on guard against a possible midsummer attack, doing little else. The war, in other words, with 450,000 U.S. troops involved (not to mention the Australian, New Zealanders, South Koreans and the 154 South Vietnamese battalions), has turned into a holding or stabilizing operation. The problem of getting on with a major cleanup in the South, or with "pacification" in the countryside has been abandoned.

With the realisation that unless mobilization is authorised the U.S. will be incapable of making a breakthrough in the fighting, President Johnson is considering accepting the present situation by announcing a major change in strategy. Political capital could be gained by announcing a halt to the bombing of North Vietnam, which has been totally ineffective in easing pressure on U. S. troops. The war could then be "frozen" at its present level. It might then drag on for years, but at a "manageable" level. With a Presidential election looming up next year Johnson just cannot afford General Westmoreland's demands. Even with a 10% tax increase, which in itself would be political suicide, the budget deficit next year would jump to \$21 billion compared to \$16 bill. without any tax increase if the war is "frozen". On top of this American casualties reached a record total of 2,941 in the last week of May and could well pass the 100,000 mark in 1967.

A report from Da Nang shows that scepticism is growing about the practical use of a "free fire" buffer area now being carved along a line just south of the Demilitarized Zone. At present the buffer area stretches 7 miles between Gio Linh and Con Thein. The four mile stretch from Gio Linh to the coast will be cleared next but plans to extend the zone across South Vietnam and Laos may well be dropped after U. S. experience with this trial stretch. Although the area has been cleared by bulldozers and mined the first fourteen watchtowers, erected half a mile apart to give a panoramic view of the landscape, have already been destroyed. Further use of watchtowers is in doubt as a result. This shows the complete impracticality of the idea as the area to the west of Con Thein is rugged and mountainous. It is impossible to bulldoze and it would be an enormous undertaking just to seed the valleys and ridges with mines and flares. (It is very interesting to note the almost complete absence of any comment on the South Vietnamese forces. Their single mention however is quite revealing, "There are 154 South Vietnamese regular battalions. But outside of a few Rangers, Marines and airborne outfits, these South Vietnamese battalions do not count for much in U.S. planning.")

INFLATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM from a U.S. correspondent.

The following report appeared in the New York Times on June 3:

Economic officials have acknowledged that prices are rising in South Vietnam twice as fast as they had predicted.

At the end of 1966, American economists warned that the fragile South Vietnamese economy "could live with" price increases of no more than 30 percent in 1967. Further inflation, they said, would endanger the precarious benefits of last June's far-reaching devaluation and economic reforms.

However, officials said yesterday that price increases this year may reach 50 percent. South Vietnamese economists have said privately for months that holding inflation even to this level would be difficult. Prompting the change in estimates was an 8 percent increase in prices recorded in May.

In May, 1966, prices rose 10 percent, an increase judged so dangerous that the government finally enacted the reforms before the inflation got out of control. Following devaluation of the piaster from 73 to 118 for \$1 prices jumped 35 percent in July, but remained basically stable until the end of 1966.

Prices have risen 25 percent so far this year. The largest single increase was recorded in March, when the delay in American rice imports drove the price level of this staple to a new high.

U.S. GOVERNMENT BANS CATHOLIC CHARITY MEDICAL AID TO VIETNAM *

The post office has refused to transmit money orders to Caritas International, a Roman Catholic relief agency in Rome, because its medical aid beneficiaries include North Vietnam.

Timothy May, the Post Office Department's general counsel in Washington, advised officials here not to send the money orders because it would be "in violation of the Trading with the Enemy Act." "He indicated that if they made it clear that this mailing was intended to reach the civilians of North Vietnam we were not permitted to accept it," a spokesman said.

The decision was made after 25 members of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, a pacifist group, showed up at the post office intending to send the money orders or to mail packages of medical supplies.

Mary Ann McNaughton, a member of the fellowship, said they did not feel that "sending medical aid to suffering civilians" was the same as trading with the enemy.

* Based on a U.P.I. report.

ADVERTISEMENTS

THE ANGRY ARTS FESTIVAL to support a sustained Vietnam campaign this summer.

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Performers will include Peggy Ashcroft, Paul Jones, Paul Schofield, Peggy Seeger, Bishop Ambrose Reeves, a host of folk singers, poets, jazz musicians, pop groups and classical guitarists. In addition there will be peace films, Vietnam discussions and a series of art works (on the theme of war and peace).

For further information contact Aubrey Raymond, 794-2419

T H E W E E K

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HELP!

HELP!

HELP!

Voluntary workers urgently wanted. to help organise the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation press files. This will also give you a good opportunity to see the work the Foundation is doing and to collect leaflets etc.

If you have any spare time please ring Carol, 588-1925.

C H A N G E

O F

A D D R E S S

FROM June 23 the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign will
have its head office at 49, Rivington St., London, E.C.2.

U N T I L

THAT date all correspondence should be sent to:

V.S.C., 11a, Wormwood St., London, E.C.2., Tel. 588 1924.

VIETNAM: U Thant or Solidarity

Why We should not support the demands for negotiations: Here are some news reports, both Vietnamese and Western, with opinions on U Thant's proposals:

From Vietnam Courier : DRV foreign ministry's spokesman on U Thant's statement:

Of late Western reports made known that U Thant had proposed a solution to Vietnam. It is an appeal for a cease-fire followed by a preliminary meeting of parties concerned to discuss the reconvening of the Geneva Conference.

The Spokesman of the Foreign ministry of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam declared: "It is clear as daylight that the U.S. is committing aggression against South Vietnam and bombing the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and that the Vietnamese people are the victims of the aggressions . The whole world has vehemently condemned the U.S. imperialist's war of aggression, and strongly supported the patriotic struggle of the Vietnamese people. The reports by the U.N. information service do not tally with reality in Vietnam and are contrary to the views of the DRV. As the U.S. is committing aggression against Vietnam, the correct way to settle the Vietnam problem is that the U.S. must stop its aggression. That is the basis of the 4-point stand of the Government of the DRV and the 5-point statement of the South Vietnam N.L.F. The world's people fully support this just stand.

"to call on both sides to cease-fire and hold unconditional negotiations while the U.S. is committing aggression against Vietnam and taking serious steps in its military escalation in both zones of Vietnam is to make no distinction between the aggressor and the victim of the aggression, to depart from reality and to demand that the Vietnamese people accept the conditions of the aggressors.

"By the way it is necessary to underline again the views of the DRV which has pointed out that the Vietnam problem has no concern with the United Nations, and the United Nations has absolutely no right to interfere in the Vietnam question"

Le Monde of April 3rd had this to say about U Thant's latest proposals:

"The publication of Mr Thant's new 'peace plan' for Vietnam undoubtedly constitutes a success for the United States. The U.N. secretary-general unquestionably strengthened the U.S. position that any cessation of the bombings should coincide with a reciprocal move from Hanoi..." The paper continued: "Mr Thant's attempt, whose failure was foreseeable, is all the more to be regretted since it is already interpreted in Peking as further evidence of the secretary-general's alignment with 'American imperialism'" (our emphasis)

What is the

VIETNAM

Solidarity campaign?

The Vietnam Solidarity Campaign is a movement committed to the victory of the Vietnamese people against the war of aggression and atrocity waged by the United States. We regard the struggle of the people of Vietnam as heroic and just. We intend to work in all ways available to us in their support. We will campaign strenuously against the British Government's complicity in the Vietnam war.

We declare complete solidarity with the National Liberation Front and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in their resistance to American imperialism.

Only the defeat of this vicious aggression, only the withdrawal of American forces, weapons and bases and the triumph of the National Liberation Front and the Democratic Republic over their oppressors will serve justice and the principle of self-determination. The promotion of these aims is the purpose of our movement.

The Vietnamese people alone have the right to determine the conditions for ending the war. The negotiations proposed by Johnson and Wilson are fraudulent — words of peace to mask aggressive acts of war. We reject them contemptuously.

(The statement of aims adopted at the first national conference of the campaign.)

The Vietnam Solidarity Campaign brings together representatives of those in Britain who have consistently and energetically combatted successive governments' support of American aggression.

Our President is Bertrand Russell; and our Chairman, Ralph Schoenman. The members of the National Council include Ken Coates, Chris Farley, Quintin Hoare, David Horowitz, Pat Jordan, Ted Knight, John La Rose, Ian Millar, John Palmer, Ralph Rosenbaum, Jim Scott, Ernie Tate, Tony Topham and Barbara Wilson.

If you wish to support the struggle of the Vietnamese people, your place is in the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign. If you are not already a member, fill in the form below and either hand it to the person distributing this leaflet or send it to our office. (Please use block capitals.)

To VIETNAM SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN,

11A WORMWOOD STREET
LONDON EC2
TELEPHONE 588 1924/5

I support the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign and wish to become a member.*

I enclose 10/- subscription for one year.

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