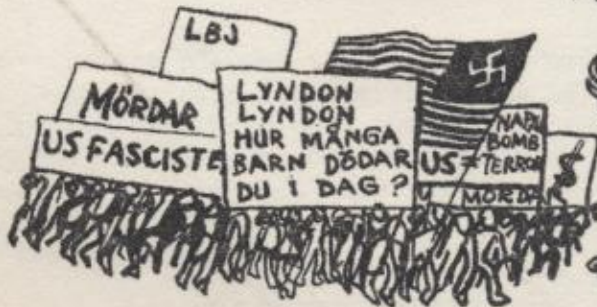
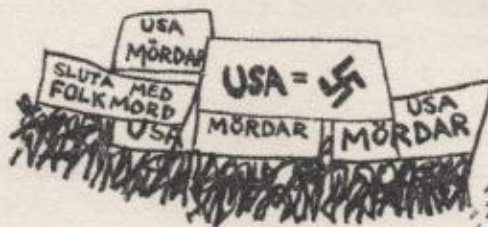


# VIETNAM

SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

FEBRUARY 1968.

bulletin number 11



Solidarity with the  
Vietnamese people against  
American aggression

Sunday, March 17, Trafalgar Square  
2.30 pm



VIETNAM SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN BULLETIN No. 11 - February, 1968.

All correspondence concerning the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign, including contributions for the Bulletin should be sent to:

David Robinson, V.S.C., 22, Sarre Rd., LONDON, E.1.2.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

As you will see from the above address we have now moved from Rivington St. Unfortunately, we do not yet have a permanent office but hope that this will be remedied during the next few weeks. In the mean time all mail sent to the old address is being forwarded; 22 Sarre Rd., however is a postal address only. During the week I can be contacted at 8, Toynbee St., E.1., telephone B13 9845.

The response to last month's appeal for bankers' orders has been very encouraging and we now have sufficient money guaranteed each month to cover general office expenses (including rent - but not yet enough to ensure the payment of a full-time secretary.) Our immediate efforts, of course, must be all directed at making a success of the demonstration on Sunday, March 17th. Through the support we gain for this action we are sure - with your help - to gather the extra cash needed to keep the campaign going.

Militant local actions are planned in many areas during the weeks leading up to March 17th - on page nine there are details of some of these. Recent events at Cambridge and Sheffield have shown the kind of reception Harold Wilson can expect when he ventures out of Westminster. We must make it clear to the Labour Government that this form of greeting will intensify and lead up to a massive condemnation of American and British policy on the afternoon of Sunday, March 17th.

This Bulletin is sent to members of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign every month. Members are also sent details of local activities and given assistance in organising local branches, holding meetings or Vietnam weeks, etc. If you are not already a member NOW is the time to join:

The subscription is only 10/- per year to the above address.



## LOCAL V.S.C. ACTIVITIES.

Falkirk Vietnam Conference. A Falkirk Peace in Vietnam Committee was formed at a conference on January 27th. Speakers included Lawrence Daly, Secretary of the Scottish Mineworkers Union, and David Smith, Provost of Dalkeith, who both put forward a solidarity line. Support has been received from prominent local personalities including the Secretary of Falkirk Trades Council and the Provost and Treasurer of a neighbouring burgh, Denny. V.S.C. supporters in the area should contact Nan Milton, Post Office, Avonbridge, nr. Falkirk, Stirlingshire.

Sheffield Universities Vietnam Conference. More than 160 people attended a weekend conference called by the Sheffield University Vietnam Action Committee on January 27/28th. A very lively discussion took place about the nature of future protest activity and full support was pledged for the demonstration in London on Sunday, March 17th. It is expected that coaches will be organised from many of the Northern Universities - those doing so should send us details and we will publicise this in the March Bulletin. A Coordinating Committee has been set up on the basis of one delegate from each Northern university. The Convenor is Dave Clark, 67 Egerton Rd., Fallowfield, Manchester, 14.

Support for March 17th. Already a number of supporting committees have been formed throughout the country and many of them will be organising local demonstrations in the week preceding March 17th. In London local groups are being organised in Camden, Kilburn, Hackney and Richmond. Supporters in these areas should contact V.S.C. for further details. In Nottingham a meeting is being held on Tuesday, February, 6th to form an Ad Hoc Committee and organise at least one coach to London. The meeting will take place at The Lion, Clumber St., and the Convenor is Frank Gorton (Nottingham V.S.C., 45 Bingham St., Sherwood).

### Swansea University - Vietnam Protest Week

A week of very concentrated activity against the war in Vietnam has been planned at Swansea University from February 26th to March 2nd. The Vietnam Solidarity Campaign photographic exhibition will be on display all week and literature from V.S.C. and information on the March 17th demonstration will be available. Other events include a folk song concert, the Cartoon Archetypical Slogan Theatre, a public meeting with Malcolm Caldwell and a teach-in with Dr. Martin Birnstingl, Tony Cliff, Neil McBride, M.P., and the Third Secretary from the Russian Embassy. For further information contact: Roger Trask, Students Union, Swansea Univ.

### Campaign Against Dow Chemicals.

Dow Chemicals, which has an office in Wigmore St., London, and a factory at Kings Lynn, is the major producer of napalm in the U.S. In Britain they make, among other products, building materials, mainly polystyrene and polyurethane based. One of the best known is Roofmate FR, an insulation board. Dow's stand at the Building Exhibition last year was picketed by members of V.S.C. and Stop-It. There are now two groups of architects mounting a coordinated campaign for the boycott of Dow products: Architects Against the Vietnam War, 130 University Ave., Glasgow W.2. and Dick Hobin, 85 Fitzjohn's Ave, London, N.W.3.

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# VIETNAM SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN.

## CONFERENCE FOR TRADE UNIONISTS.

Sunday the 3rd of March 1968. From 10-30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m..  
At Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London. (Near Holborn Tube ).

The resolutions passed at both the Trades Union Congress and at the last Labour Party Conference, reflect the growing opposition in the British labour movement to American policy in Vietnam, and a growing awareness on the part of British trade unionists of their responsibilities in this field.

This conference will consider means by which the influence of the Vietnam protest movement can be further extended in the labour movement. It will also consider the situation in Vietnam and the question of the Labour Governments complicity in American policy. It is hoped that by calling this meeting of active trade unionists, that a firm basis can be laid for future work in this field. Resolutions and proposals for action are invited and should reach the organisers by Monday the 26th of February.

Trade unionists may attend either as voting delegates from Trades Councils, Shop Stewards Committees, Trade union branches or similar organisations, or as visitors with the right to speak. Application for credentials should be made in advance of the Conference. There will be a general charge for admission of 2/6..

### SPONSORS SO FAR INCLUDE:

(all individuals in their personal capacity ).

South Wales Area N.U.M.  
Hugh Scanlon (A.E.U.)  
Lawrence Daly (N.U.M.)  
Tom Watkinson (N.U.R.-Docks)  
Mick Neve (T&GWU- Fishing Section)  
Jack Ashwell , , , , ,  
George Andrews (T&GWU-Docks) . . .  
Ernie Roberts (A.E.U.).  
Gordon Norris (N.U.S.).

It is planned to have leading speakers from the Trade Union movement, including recent visitors to North Vietnam, and a Vietnamese representative.

All applications, resolutions etc., should go to Mike Martin  
c/o 22, Sarre Rd. London. N.W.2. (01-247-9845 ).

N.B.; We would be interested to learn of instances where resolutions, in support of the Vietnamese people against the American aggression, are due to be discussed at Trade Union conferences.



President Johnson is to give the State of the Union message on Wednesday evening and it is just possible that he may have something optimistic to say about peace talks in Vietnam." Thus wrote the "Times" Washington correspondent about the theme that has perhaps dominated press coverage of the War during the last few weeks. In the full glare of the international press the US Government has been squirming and contorting itself in an effort to satisfy two incompatible demands; that of the Saigon regime for the War to be stepped up, and that of peace movements throughout the world for the Americans to show that they do want peace by taking up the offer by Nguyen Duy Trinh. The answer came convincingly in Johnson's State of the Union speech, yet what was actually said does not seem to have received the publicity it deserved. Only the London "Evening Standard" made the issue clear with a headline "LBJ Switches His Viet Peace Plan". Jeremy Campbell wrote: "But while he reported that intense diplomatic probing was still under way to see whether peace talks could be held, it appears that the US raised, instead of lowered, its price for a halt in the bombing of North Vietnam ... In background comments US officials indicated that a specific military counter-proposal was now wanted from Hanoi to prove the honesty of its intentions." Some people might think that the time has come for the charade to end; for the Americans to prove the honesty of their intentions, or drop talk about a negotiated settlement and accept the war as a fight to the end. Still, the last weeks have done much to discredit US statements on peace in the minds of readers of the British press.

Interesting information has emerged about just how intransigent the Saigon regime has become. They rightly recognise that once the NLF has been 'granted' a place in a South Vietnamese government, its popular support would soon ensure that it had sole power; or at least that Thieu and co would be ousted. One Saigon newspaper pointed out that "Militarily we are strong, but politically we are too weak to venture ourselves into a coalition with the communists because we are divided." At just the time when Johnson was rehearsing his 'man more sinned against than sinning' face before a White House mirror, his Vietnamese ally, President Thieu, was calling for an intensification of the war in a speech in Saigon. David Bonavia of "The Times" heard the speech, and took it as a call for a land invasion of North Vietnam. Thieu also asserted the right of hot pursuit into Cambodia, and objected to an International Control Commission presence there.

Washington has more cause to be dismayed at the activities of the Saigon regime. The trouble seems to be that Thieu and co do not know that its all very well being a puppet government totally propped up by the US, but one must try not to look like one. Various news reports have just how great is the gap between the ideals that the US

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claim to be defending in Vietnam, and the realities of the system that they uphold. Four months since the 'elections' show little to encourage faith in Saigon democracy. The House of Representative and the Senate have so far done little except ratify their own election, vote their salaries, and pass house regulations. They have also passed one or two resolutions criticising the government, drawing from Thieu the remark that their business was law-making, not politics. Economically, it seems that the country will continue to depend on American-financed imports to hold back inflation. The US are not too keen on Saigon officials having control over import deals anyway, believing that they would use them to stack away private funds in Swiss banks. The most significant development has been of what is all but a colonial administration in Saigon. American agencies there and in the provinces are taking over more and more of the day to day administration, controlling ever more of the funds. The remnants of the system of administration constructed by the French, inefficient and uncontrolled, are made worse by the sapping of talent through the new conscription laws which make every man liable to enter the army at 18 and fight for 15 years. Veterans can be recalled.

More US Congress members of influence are calling for attempts to get out of the war. Mike Mansfield, one of the most prominent Senators, said in mid-January: "I advocate a permanent stop in the bombing because I think that militarily it has not accomplished its objective, politically I think it is very risky and morally I think it is quite calamitous." One reason for demands such as these was reported by Richard Scott from Washington. Mr. Katzenbach, Under-Secretary of State, admitted that Vietnam accounted for one and a half billion pounds, or about 35%, of the expected balance of payments. This was worse than the money which went to Europe, for, as Secretary of Treasury, Fowler, observed, by the law of refraction every dollar spent in the Western hemisphere came back to the US.

Robert Kennedy is the perfect politician; he has sat on more fences than most of us believed existed. In recent interviews he said that he saw no inconsistency in supporting Johnson and agreeing with McCarthy's criticism of Johnson's policy in Vietnam. He remarked cautiously: "I have to analyse how I can accomplish more good and be the most useful. I have the feeling that I am not accomplishing a great deal." But then we can't really judge that until the 1972 Presidential election.

US radical weekly, the "National Guardian", quoted Thomas Watson Jr., president of a firm which produces bombsights for B-52 bombers, who criticized college students for demonstrations against Dow Chemicals. "I submit", he said, "that there is almost no major corporation that is not contributing in some way to the Vietnam war."

Not that there are not some people who realise why there are demonstrations about Dow. A member of the US Air Force explained to the New York Times that napalm "is a terror weapon. People have this thing about being burned to death."



NOTES ON BRITISH COMPLICITY IN VIETNAM from Dave Slaney.

U.S. productive capacity has so far been unable to meet the demands of the war. Therefore, British production for the war or for war-related industries is crucial in that it relieves the strain on U.S. industry. In that respect, the following figures are highly significant.

British exports to U.S.	1964	1965	1966	1967
Pesticides, plant killers, etc.	£730,986	£1,054,677	£1,881,468	£2,739,949
Chemical products and preparations, organic and inorganic.	£618,869	£707,175	£968,358	£2,549,185
Bombs, grenades, mines, torpedoes, guided weapons etc.	£53,517	£68,808	£119,689	£553,146

It will be noted that the sharp percentage rise in these crucial exports coincides with the escalation of the war in Vietnam.

I have already made a list of 39 specific firms with defence department contracts, or McDonnell Aircraft Corp. sub-contracts. Of these, the following are perhaps vulnerable to anti-war action.

- Bristol-Siddeley - producing barbed wire.
- Westland SAircraft Ltd. - helicopters.
- British Hovercraft Ltd. - hovercraft.
- Decca Navigator Co. Ltd. - Helicopter guidance systems for Vietnam.

Twenty of the top twenty-five U.S. corporations in terms of net value of U.S. military Prime Contract Awards have subsidiaries or associates in the U.K. Several of these U.S. corporations do nothing but military production, and almost all of them get at least 50% of their total income from Defence Department contracts.

Of the twelve major U.S. producers of atrocity weapons (napalm, fragmentation bombs, etc.) ten have subsidiaries or associates in this country. Of these, the following are the most interesting.

Nuodex Ltd., and British Resin Products Ltd. - both of these companies are connected with Tenneco Chemicals Inc., a U.S. producer of napalm. Both British companies produce plastic-based chemicals which might be used in making napalm.

W.R.Grace Ltd., and Silica Gel Ltd., - both connected with W.R.Grace Co., a U.S. producer of napalm. Both British companies produce various chemical gels which might be used in making napalm.

Distrene Ltd., a subsidiary of Dow Chemicals. Distrene is the major British producer of polystyrene, which is the basic ingredient in napalm.

Armco Ltd., a subsidiary of the Armco Co., a U.S. producer of anti-personnel weapons. Armco Ltd. produces various steel products.

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Bristol Aerojet Ltd., partly owned by Aerojet General, a U.S. producer of various military ordinance equipment.

Whitecroft-Scoville Ltd., a division of Scoville Mfg. Co., which is a U.S. producer of anti-personnel weapons. Whitecroft-Scoville produces various sorts of steel and wire pins, etc. (A basic component of C.B.U.'s?)

Westland Aircraft Ltd., connected with United Aircraft Corp. which is the third largest Defence Department producer and the major producer of atrocity weapons (C.B.U.'s, napalm, etc.) Westland has announced a £48,970,000 contract with the U.S. military for helicopters.

It should be stressed that there is, as yet, no conclusive proof that any of these companies are producing atrocity weapons for use in Vietnam. If such weapons are being produced in Britain, they are probably being made by these companies. Proof that such production is going on can only be obtained by inside information of one sort or another, but such information seems worth looking for. Any production of such weapons would be done through sub-contracts with U.S. companies, rather than contracts with the American Government. In any case, campaigns against Westland, Decca, Bristol Siddeley, etc. might be feasible. Also, a campaign against Pan American Airlines is a possibility. Pan American cancelled many of its commercial flights last year in order to fly troops to Vietnam. In 1962, Pan American gained 50% of its income from Defence Department contracts, and it is likely that this percentage is even higher now.

Although I have so far found no university research in Britain aimed directly at atrocity weapons, there is a fair amount of evidence of general military research in which the U.S. is directly involved. In 1967 the U.S. Air Force purchased more than £343,000 worth of research in British universities and Institutions. In most cases the universities contributed an equal amount of money. In 1965 the U.S. Army purchased £172,368 of British research and development. It was estimated that the total would be about the same in 1966 and 1967.

Total British non-military aid to South Vietnam increased in recent years as follows:

1964 - £65,000; 1965 - £95,000; 1966 - £184,000 + £66,00 to "Mekong Valley."

Mr. Prentice, Minister for Overseas Development, in reply to a Parliamentary question on November 9th, 1967, said: "Other projects are under study. I suspect that these will result in a fairly substantial increase in the amount of aid going to South Vietnam, compared with the present."

In comparison, total aid to North Vietnam - 0.

Work is continuing on the preparation of a detailed pamphlet on all aspects of British complicity in Vietnam. It would help greatly in this if we could be sent any information on production of military material at any of the above firms, details of research projects at British universities and any other relevant information.



## VIETNAM BOOK LIST

"Air War: Vietnam," by Frank Harvey ..... 5/-  
Mr. Harvey, an American writer specialising in aeronautical matters, went to Vietnam at the invitation of the American Air Force to describe the war in the skies. So open and factual were his observations that his report was refused official support. It was subsequently printed as a paperback and has just been published in Britain by Bantam. He goes into almost clinical detail in his descriptions of the use of defoliants, napalm and fragmentation bombs - this is not a book exposing American crimes in Vietnam, not intentionally anyway. Frank Harvey is merely concerned with explaining the new techniques of air warfare being developed in Vietnam, but in so doing he has written a damning indictment of the weapons of mass murder now being used against the Vietnamese peasants.

"Vietnam" by Mary McCarthy ..... 3/6

Now reissued in paperback by Penguin, this book is another report from the official American side - a grand tour of the battlefield, "resettlement" camps, Saigon hospitals and headquarters. This time, however, there is no unconscious rejection of American policy but a clear presentation of the true picture behind the official American facade in South Vietnam.

"Vietnam! Vietnam" by Felix Greene ..... 12/6

A photographic essay on Vietnam with a short history of the conflict. Recommended as an introduction to the subject for the unconverted.

"From Yalta to Vietnam" by David Horowitz ..... 10/6

A detailed history of U.S. foreign policy from the Second World War to the present day. An unrivalled background to the issues involved in the conflict in Vietnam.

"Vietnam and Trade Unionists" V.S.C. pamphlet ..... 1/-

New V.S.C. Poster - "Che Guevara Lives!" Red, black and blue on gold ..5/-

Assorted Cuban posters - Mozambique, Apartheid, Asia, World Day of Solidarity with Cuba, Create one, two, three, many Vietnams..... 2/6 each

V.S.C. Badges ..... sell them to your friends ..... 6d.

Please send cash with all orders and add 10% to cover postage and packing. Bulk orders can be supplied to university bookstalls, etc. on sale or return. Write for details.

We can also supply speakers on Vietnam or on specific aspects of the war. Please send requests for speakers at least two weeks, and preferably more, in advance. All expenses must be paid by the organisers of the meetings.



MARCH 17th. MOBILISATION

Programme of Activities

- Thursday, February 8th. Harold Wilson leaves for Washington. The exact time of his departure is uncertain, but we will be assembling outside 10, Downing St. from 8.00 a.m. Please bring suitable banners and be prepared to stay till he leaves.
- Thursday, February 8th. This meeting takes place at Toynbee Hall, Commercial St., E.1., starting at 7.30 p.m. A new Japanese film will be shown, "War Crimes in Vietnam." This will be followed by discussion on preparations for March 17th.
- Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
- Friday, February 23rd. Harold Wilson speaks at Lambeth Town Hall. Details from Lambeth C.N.D., 67A Gleneldon Rd., S.W.16.
- March 11th - 16th. The Stop-It Committee is organising actions on each day of this week starting with a demonstration in support of draft resisters at Downing St. on the Monday. Tuesday, pickets and leafletting of major centres of U.S. industrial interests - Pan Am, American Trade Centre, etc. Wednesday: University activity. Friday: actions at centres of war production i.e. Dow Chemicals. Saturday: actions at U.S. bases and military offices, etc. Details from: March Project, 94, Greencroft Gardens, LONDON, N.W.6.
- Friday, March 15th. Dow Chemicals, Wigmore St. will be the target of a combined, Stop-It/Ad Hoc Committee action. Details from either organisation.
- Sunday, March 17th. International Solidarity Demonstration - Trafalgar Square, 2.30 p.m. followed by march to U.S. Embassy.
- Every Thursday The Ad Hoc Committee holds a discussion meeting and work party every Thursday, from February 15th to March 14th these will be held at the Earl Russell pub St. Pancras Rd. - Kings Cross tube at 7.30 p.m.
- If the American Invade North Vietnam There will be a demonstration outside the American Embassy the same evening if the news breaks in time for the evening papers, otherwise it will be the following day. Don't wait to be told - contact as many people as possible and go to Grosvenor Square. All organisations should take this as a loose basis for action.
- or attack North Korea.

For further information, leaflets, stickers, posters and details of local groups: March 17th Vietnam Ad Hoc Committee, 22 Sarre Rd., LONDON, N.W. 2. (Postal address) or call at 8 Toynbee St., LONDON, E.1, Telephone BIS 9845.



March 17th. Vietnam Ad Hoc Committee

22, Sarre Rd., LONDON, N.W.2. (Postal address only.)  
8, Toynbee St., LONDON, E.1. B1S 9845 (Personal callers.)

You will find enclosed a sample of the leaflet and sticker produced to publicise the demonstration on Sunday, March 17th. It should be understood that it is an offence to paste either the stickers or posters on to any property without the owners permission and we can take no responsibility for the results of such action. The stickers have been produced for use in supporters car windows etc. and every effort should be made to get the posters displayed as widely as possible - in local libraries, notice boards, Labour Party rooms, coffee bars etc.

Our main task with this publicity material is to get it distributed as effectively as possible, but you will realise that it has cost a great deal to produce. Therefore we would ask you to make a payment for material required. If you are unable to do this then we still want your help in getting the demonstration publicised. We are also asking for donations to help offset the cost of supplying material to those who cannot help us financially. Cheques should be made out to Vietnam Ad Hoc Committee.

Price list:

Printed Leaflets ..... £1 per 1,000  
Stickers ..... £1 per 1,000  
Posters ..... £1 per 50

Please order bulk supplies for use by your organisation and give the the demonstration maximum publicity in your publication.

.....  
Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ leaflets, \_\_\_\_\_ stickers \_\_\_\_\_ posters.

I enclose a cheque/postal note for \_\_\_\_\_ in payment/as donation.

The following organisation \_\_\_\_\_  
supports the March 17th Vietnam Ad Hoc Committee.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_