

CALL FOR ACTION TO STOP NIXON'S NEW WAR ESCALATION

THE PEOPLE ARE DEMANDING PEACE, SO WHAT DOES NIXON & CO. DO? THEY PUBLICIZE THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOME OF THE INACTIVE TROOPS TO PLACATE THE PEOPLE AND, AT THE SAME TIME, THEY MANUFACTURE EXCUSES TO START BOMBING RAIDS AND TROOP LANDINGS IN NORTH VIETNAM.

Nixon's "protective reaction" bombing raids to punish the Vietnamese for shooting down "unarmed reconnaissance flights" over north Vietnam is nothing but a phony fabrication. Everybody knows that violations of air space is against international law and in this case is another provocative act of war by Nixon Inc.

Similarly, Nixon's landing of troops in north Vietnam supposedly to "free mistreated prisoners of war" is a Big Lie. Everybody knows that prisoners are liable to be shot in jailbreak attempts. If Nixon & Co. were really concerned with the wellbeing of the soldiers, they would stop invading and killing these poor, oppressed people, end the war, bring all the troops home and exchange prisoners. Hachetman Laird's justification of these raids as "humanitarian" based on "honor" and "dedication to the troops" is hypocritical demogogy and a signal that there is more to come.

These recent acts of war escalation must be seen as trial balloons put up by the ruling circle to see if the people will let them get away with it. It is obvious that the war will not end automatically, but will require self-sacrificing and courageous acts by many sisters and brothers. Now is the time for those who really love good people to stand up and stop this new round of bloodletting. Justice demands that the Guilty be stopped by any means necessary. The innocent people have had enough!

WHY THIS WAR IS WRONG TO START WITH

Vietnam has been fighting for self-determination and against colonialism for over 25 years, against the Japanese, the French and now the U.S. The U.S. financed over 80% of the French (Indo-China War) attempt to recolonize Vietnam after Ho Chi Minh issued a Declaration of Independence which reads exactly like America's.

After the French were defeated in 1954, an international conference convened (the Geneva Accords) which RECOGNISED ALL OF VIETNAM AS ONE COUNTRY and named the 38th parallel for division of combatants only. The Accords specifically stated that free elections to unite the country were to be held in 1956. The U.S. refused to sign this international agreement, but signed a separate statement saying that the U.S. "would not break the provisions of the agreement by force or threat of force."

The U.S. then went back on its word by sending ex-patriot Diem from New Jersey to Saigon to become dictator of "south" Vietnam and supporting him with arms, money and "advisors." Diem, under U.S. tutelage, then denounced the proposed elections and proceeded to seize the land, slaughter the people and jail all opposition. The reason the U.S. sabotaged the elections was explained by Eisenhower when he said: "If elections were held at the time of the fighting (1954) perhaps 80% of the people would vote for Ho Chi Minh."

When the great majority of Vietnamese rose up in outrage over Diem's treachery, the U.S. manufactured the "two Vietnams" myth (see *The Two Vietnams* by Bernard Fall), said that the "north" was invading the "south", and invaded Vietnam with U.S. troops. When the U.S. did this, they not only violated their agreement with the Geneva Accords, but violated the United Nations Charter which states that unilateral aggression of one country by another is outlawed. They thereby violated the U.S. Constitution which states that treaties like the U.N. Charter, being ratified by the Senate, are "the highest law of the land".

Not being satiated enough, the U.S. then manufactured the "Tonkin Incident" (see Sen. Fulbright's Hearings in the Congressional Record), the fabricated provocation now known to be a Big Lie in order to dupe Americans into supporting 4 years of saturation bombing of "north" Vietnam. Eventually exposed, they were forced to stop these bombings.

Where are we now? Under the phony cover of "graduated troop withdrawals", Nixon has expanded the war throughout South East Asia, into Cambodia, Laos and Thailand. There are secret and non-secret bombing raids being made in all these countries, U.S. military personnel being increased and vast sums of money and equipment being pumped into the reactionary dictatorships.

Some people may feel that anything is justified in fighting "communism", but the facts show that Ho Chi Minh's National Liberation Front enjoys the support of the overwhelming majority of Vietnamese because they have redistributed the land previously held by oppressive landlords, defended the country against foreign aggression, put power in the hands of farmers and workers, and built thousands of schools, hospitals and factories.

PEOPLE LEARN FROM HISTORY: The successful labor struggles of the last century were accompanied by illegal acts: bombing of capitalist and government property; shooting of pigs in self-defense; stoning of demagogic politicians; stopping the oppressors machinery by any means necessary.

PEOPLE LEARN FROM HISTORY: The threat of an act is often just as effective as the act itself and telephones can be used very effectively for this purpose.

PEOPLE LEARN FROM HISTORY: If each does his or her own part in his or her own way in his or her own neighborhood against imperialism, then the system will be stopped. Imperialism can be stopped in our families, our schools, our work places and our neighborhoods.

SEIZE THE TIME -- THE TIME IS NOW -- BRING THE WAR HOME

'He who holds or has influence in Vietnam can affect the future of the Philippines and Formosa to the east, Thailand and Burma with their huge rice surpluses to the west, and Malaysia and Indonesia with their rubber, ore and tin to the south. Vietnam thus does not exist in a geographical vacuum—from its large storehouses of wealth and population can be influenced and undermined.' (Henry Cabot Lodge, Chief US negotiator at the Paris Peace Conference, and former US Ambassador to South Vietnam, *Boston Globe*, Feb 28, 1965.)

'Three American Presidents have recognized the great stakes involved in Vietnam and understood what had to be done.' (Richard M. Nixon, Nov 3, 1969.)

Vietnam is a stake not a mistake

- 1½ million Vietnamese killed and maimed
- 11 new bases and 47,000 troops in Thailand
- 400 bombing raids daily over Laos
- Expanding Japanese trade in Southeast Asia
- More US money and arms to the Philippines
- \$200 million invested by US firms in Indonesia

These facts hang together. They spell out United States domination and exploitation of Southeast Asia, a goal pursued vigorously by the US government under Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon. Vietnam is no "mistake," as some claim. It is a ruthless, calculated, deliberate policy. Its aim? To keep the entire Pacific area in the US orbit and integrated into the US market system.

Vietnam: The Key to the Pacific Empire

Vietnam is a stake not a mistake. The US occupies Vietnam to keep its hold on Asia. Vietnam is the keystone of its Pacific empire. The US does not care about the people of Vietnam. The 3.8 million tons of bombs dropped on the Vietnamese have proved that. The empire is what counts. Possession of Vietnam is needed to maintain a hold on riches elsewhere. Eisenhower said it clearly: "If we lost Vietnam and Malaysia, how would we, the free world, hold the rich empire of Indonesia?" And Thailand and the Philippines, he might have added.

Indonesia: The 'Greatest Prize'

Since Suharto's coup in 1965 and the slaughter of 300,000 nationalists, the economy of Indonesia has come under the control of large US corporations. Over a dozen of them—Freeport Sulphur, Alcoa, Gulf, Union Carbide, Chase Manhattan, US Steel, Ocean Mining, Sinclair, Good-year, Singer—have invested more than \$200 million since 1965 to extract oil, copper, nickel, tin, bauxite, and lumber to enrich the West.

'With its 100 million people and its 3000-mile arc of islands containing the region's richest hoard of natural resources, Indonesia constitutes by far the greatest prize in the Southeast Asian area.'
(R.M. Nixon, *Foreign Affairs*, Oct, 1967.)

What do the Indonesians get out of it? \$80 a year on the average, poor schools, poor health services, poor housing, debt, corrupt government, and brutal repression.

Thailand: 11 Air Bases and 47,000 Troops

In Thailand, \$2 billion in US military spending has created growth rates as high as 8%. US spokesmen cite this to justify their policies. But the \$2 billion hasn't helped the Thai people. It has been used to buy off the ruling class, to construct 11 air bases, and support the 47,000 US troops needed to suppress the spreading guerrilla resistance. Along with the soldier comes the businessman, with investments of more than \$195 million. Firestone, Kaiser Aluminum, Banker's Trust, and a new Rama Hilton in Bangkok. They want Thailand's oil, rubber, and tin.

Japan: Junior Partner in the Empire

The United States defeated Japan in WWII and assumed a dominant position in the Pacific. But now the US needs Japan—for trade and for bases to control the rest of the Pacific. Japan is the US' second largest foreign market and has served as a primary staging base for the US wars against Korea and Vietnam. Japan gains too. She trades more with Thailand than the US does. She needs Asian markets for her growth-hungry firms.

"Empire" Means "Profit"

What good is a Pacific empire to the US? Profits—for US corporations. Listen to Rudolph Peterson, President of the Bank of America:

'There is no more vast or rich area for resource development or trade growth in the world today than this immense region, and it is virtually in our own front yard . . . Were we California businessmen to play a more dynamic role in helping trade development in the Pacific Rim, we would have giant, hungry new markets for our products and vast new profit potential for our firms.'

(*Calif. Bus. Mag.*, Sept-Oct, 1968)

And profits there are. Construction firms like Utah Construction and Mining and Morrison-Knudson get rich building war bases. US farmers sell food to the Vietnamese whose fields have been napalmed and defoliated. US industrialists and bankers are expanding their lucrative operations throughout SE Asia—15 banks in Indonesia alone.

Elites in countries heavily dominated by the US—South Korea, Taiwan,

Hong Kong, and Thailand—make a fortune from US military spending while their countries become severely dependent, and in fact, are mere enclaves of the US economy. Nixon praises them for having "accepted the keys of progress . . . prime reliance on private enterprise."

The War Against Vietnam is a War Against the World

According to General Westmoreland, "We are fighting the war in Vietnam to show that guerrilla warfare does not pay." Vietnam cannot be allowed to win independence because other nations might be encouraged to do the same. Nixon said it himself: "For us to withdraw from that effort would mean a collapse not only of South Vietnam but Southeast Asia."

The war in Vietnam is a war to perpetuate US control over the Third World. The same war is being waged in Bolivia and Guatemala where US "advisors" direct "counter-insurgency" campaigns, in the "secret war" in Laos, in southern Africa against African liberation forces, and in the US itself against blacks and the poor. The war against Vietnam is a war against the world.

JOIN THE WORLD

HELP DEFEAT THE U.S. EMPIRE IN VIETNAM

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