

U.S. 'TRUTH TEAM' DEBATES IN IOWA

Drake Reception on Vietnam Milder Than at First Stop

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Special to The New York Times

DES MOINES, Iowa, May 5—The State Department's "truth team" got a breather today.

It caught some pointed shafts in five sessions here with Drake University faculty members and students, but most were mild

by comparison with the heavy attack, including picketing, that was encountered yesterday during the team's first stop, at the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

The three-man team is touring Middle Western universities

to explain the Government's policy on Vietnam. The Administration has been subjected to strong criticism from the academic community ever since the war was stepped up in February with bombings in North Vietnam.

Picketing was averted here today, students said, when the team agreed to a formal debate with Drake faculty members.

No winner was declared in the debate, but the most prolonged applause from the 400 students in the auditorium was for a faculty member's plea for peace even if the Vietnamese chose to enjoy it under the Communist-led Vietcong.

"This Is Our War"

"The desperately felt cry of the Vietnamese, who are indifferent to where peace comes from is for peace, not war," said Dwight Saunders, professor of economics.

"This is not their war; this is

our war," he said. "The million dollars a day we have been spending, before escalation, for the military part of our program could be used to aid not only South Vietnam but North Vietnam."

Thomas F. London, State Department officer leading the Government team, commented in an interview that debate consumed a lot of time that could be used for answering questions.

But it was lack of opportunity for debate yesterday that angered University of Iowa professors and students. They charged that the Government was not interested in what the public thought, only in defending its position.

The team then changed the format. Last night statements from the floor were allowed. Today the debate was added. Paul J. Young of the Agency for International Development,

a member of the team, said he thought the changes had reduced the emotional tension that charged the atmosphere yesterday afternoon.

At question-and-answer sessions today, some students distributed photographs purporting to show South Vietnamese torturing prisoners. What about it? one asked.

"I certainly would not deny the validity of any of these pictures," answered Lieut. Col. Thomas M. Walt, the third member of the team. "I am not going to portray us as good guys on white chargers. But those of us who have acted as advisers deplore torture and attempt to discourage it."

He said Communists tortured more.

Frequently questions concerned self-determination. "How can the United States Government justify its official position that it is fighting for

freedom and democracy in South Vietnam," asked Mel McDonald, who was graduated from Drake last year. "When there is no elected representative government in South Vietnam, when there have been no elections in South Vietnam, when the Saigon Government does not even control half the population of the country, and when the Saigon Government is in fact a military dictatorship representative of no one except themselves and the economic and political forces they support?"

Mr. Conlon replied that the United States was not seeking to impose democracy, that elections could not be held while terrorism reigned, and that in the interim Washington could not allow aggression to go unchecked lest it lead to world war.

The team will take its case to the University of Wisconsin tomorrow.