

Petition protest organized

# Vietnamese face deportation

**RON RIDENOUR**

Threats of deportation to their native land, where death awaits them, have been renewed for anti-war Vietnamese students residing in the U.S. Last May, when President Thieu attempted to silence all Vietnamese by a campaign of jailing, torturing and executing tens of thousands, Nixon put Vietnamese on notice here that any opponents could expect to be deported. Specifically, some Vietnamese students were sent letters from the U.S. Agency for International Development, the sponsoring agency for many of the students. It read:

"... The Government of the Republic of Vietnam has requested that the Government of the United States terminate your training under the sponsorship of the Agency for International Development. In compliance with this request, your program has been terminated effective June 1, 1972. An international ticket for your return transportation to Vietnam is on hand in this office."

While only a handful of students received this notice, additional hundreds were given notice that they would be deported unless they muted their opposition to the war. Aid was cut off for a few but none of the recipients of the above letter was deported because of legal opposition and the threat of unified action across the nation by the anti-war movement.

(The Immigration and Naturalization Act (section 243) authorizes the Attorney General to withhold deporta-

tion to any alien within the U.S. if he would be subjected to race, religious or political persecution. There is no doubt, nor even any government denial, that Thieu is mercilessly torturing to death those who seek immediate end to the war.)

However, just last week, five Vietnamese living in California including three in L.A. have been told to report for deportation interviews next month at the Immigration Office.

Most of the South Vietnamese youths who come here are from the middle and upper classes in Saigon. They and their families are thoroughly screened by both Thieu's intelligence forces and the CIA. They must pass rigorous standards of loyalty before being admitted. Some are awarded "leadership scholarships" by the CIA controlled AID program.

But once inside the U.S., many of the students find it difficult to keep quiet about their knowledge of Thieu's brutal dictatorship, the corruption in Saigon and about the U.S. war. Eventually, some of them speak out.

Despite the threats in May, some of the youths formed the Union of Vietnamese to inform Americans about what is happening in their country under Thieu. They are especially concerned about the hundreds of thousands of political prisoners of the Thieu regime. Most of these are S. Vietnamese intellectuals, peasants and students who, they claim, are being horribly tortured. The youths would like Americans to pressure Congress to investigate the crimes against so many innocent Vietnamese.

Even as the U.S. Government moves against members of the Union of Vietnamese, the Union continues to speak to various groups of Americans about the war. They also have a cultural program which presents an impressionable picture of Vietnam's history and culture. Their program of songs, music, poems, and pictures brings an understanding of the current nature of the war as well and presents their reasons why the nine point peace proposal should be signed.

Members of the Union feel their only weapon is their ability to communicate with people and their effectiveness in reaching previously uncommitted Americans is evident in the new attempts of the U.S. Government to deport them.

The youths know the great personal risks they are taking. Not only are they cut off from an advanced education and comfortable living but they have seen a list of their own names, published by the Saigon government. It is a list of all the

Vietnamese who speak out against the war in Vietnam and calls for "court-martial by a military tribunal, and our deaths," said one Vietnamese youth.

Anti-war groups are urging all humanitarians to support these brave people and force the U.S. Government to allow them to stay here until Thieu can no longer murder them.

Petitions are being circulated by various anti-war groups which read:

Whereas there are South Vietnamese students in the United States who are speaking out publicly against the war in Viet Nam;

Whereas many of these students are in immediate danger of being deported to South Vietnam;

Whereas President Nguyen Van Thieu has publicly stated his intentions to "beat to death" those asking for immediate peace (*N.Y. Times*, July 16, 1970); and more recently his police machine has arrested and murdered thousands of patriots whose only crime is advocating peace (Agence France Press reported that in one month, "300 political prisoners have already been liquidated (Nov. 22, 1972);

Whereas we support the right of all people to speak out without fear of reprisals and repression;

Therefore we demand the U.S. Government not deport any South Vietnamese students who will be subjected to political persecution.

(Get or return petitions to Peace Action Council, 3505 W. Pico, Los Angeles, Cal. 90019. Phone: 734-4540)

## Ask investigation about prisoners

**BERKELEY (LNS)** — The Bay Area Committee of Inquiry into Political Prisoners in South Vietnam and American Responsibility is calling for groups across the country to pressure their congresspeople and senators into sponsoring an investigation of the political prisoner situation under the Thieu regime. The call comes at a time when reports published in the U.S. press indicate that Thieu is preparing a massive round-up of political opponents to be arrested in case of a cease fire.

The Committee has prepared a flyer which discusses the prisoner situation in South Vietnam and has sample letters to Nixon and congressional representatives. For sample flyers and help organizing local campaigns, contact the Committee, c/o Women for Peace, 2302 Ellsworth St., Berkeley, Cal. 94704, or phone (415) 849-3020.