

**Merry-Go-Round****U.S. Still Pouring  
Oil Into Vietnam****Jack Anderson**

**D**ESPITE the critical oil shortage at home, the United States is able to spare more than 20,000 barrels a day for South Vietnam. Each barrel contains 42 gallons.

The fuel shipments to Vietnam have dropped only moderately since U.S. forces pulled out. At the height of our B-52 raids last January, for example, the Pentagon shipped 995,000 barrels of oil to Saigon. This dropped to 681,000 barrels in August and nearly 600,000 barrels in September.

But these figures, the latest available, don't reveal the full extent of the drainage. For the U.S. supplies much of South Vietnam's civilian oil needs, too. These figures, apparently, are known only to the oil companies.

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**W**E HAVE DETERMINED, however, that the Agency for International Development shells out \$80 million a year to purchase petroleum products for South Vietnam's civilians.

Of course, the bulk of U.S. oil shipments to Vietnam are used to fuel South Vietnam's war machine. At the height of our involvement in the Vietnam War, in 1969, we shipped nearly 44 million barrels to the Saigon regime. This figure dropped to 20 million barrels by 1972. During the 1973 fiscal year, 12 million barrels were delivered for military use.

The U.S. government is still handling fuel procurement for South Vietnam's armed forces, letting contracts to U.S. companies. A Pentagon official told us that the amount of oil going to Vietnam hereafter will be determined by the scale of the fighting.

South Vietnam is bracing for a renewed offensive from the north. More than likely, it will take bigger oil shipments, literally siphoned from the gas tanks of American civilians, to keep the South Vietnamese tanks, trucks, ships and planes going.

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**T**HE FUEL CRISIS has caused alarm in the nation's country clubs. For the fatcats, who turn duffers on weekends, may also have to sacrifice.

Things are so bad they may not be able to fuel up their golf carts or heat their clubhouse lounges.

An alarmed U.S. Golf Association has complained to the House Commerce Committee: "Clubhouses and professional shops have to be heated and lighted; golf carts have to be supplied with either electrical or gasoline energy..."

Projecting the unthinkable, the association complained that fuel priorities now being considered "would presumably eliminate the sport (golf) for the duration of the crisis."