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US advisors catch last train from Quang Tri.

VIET CONG YOUR ENEMY?



(May 15)

On April 3 Vietnamese liberation forces launched a gigantic four-pronged offensive which is sweeping from the DMZ to the Mekong Delta. In battle after battle, the US-backed puppet troops (ARVN) have fled before the advancing Vietnamese. Repeatedly entire units have stripped off their uniforms, thrown aside their American weapons, and faded into the countryside while thousands of troops have gone over to the 'enemy' weapons and all. Retreating without reserves, ARVN has produced nothing but a list of defeats.

...Quang Tri, a provincial capital just below the DMZ, fell on May 1 after puppet officers and US advisors abandoned thousands of Saigon troops in besieged Quang Tri city. One American newsman described the fleeing brass, 'With horns blaring and headlights glowing in the midday sun they raced down the center of the road, pushing other vehicles out of the way.' Thousands of ARVN troops streamed down Highway 1 to Hue, the ancient capital of Vietnam, where they looted the city and fought among themselves. Hue is expected to be attacked at any moment. It is the last line of defense between the advancing Vietnamese and the huge US air base at Danang, one of the few bases in Vietnam still in American hands.

...In central Vietnam the Vietnamese have liberated the whole area from the central highlands to the coast with the exception of Kontum and Pleiku, the site of another American base. US correspondents in the area agree that the Saigon regime has already written off Kontum.

Referring to the coming battle, one American advisor at Pleiku said, "I'm afraid we would have to make a horrible decision and shoot them [ARVN troops] down" if they retreat toward the American base. In Binh Dinh province on the coast, the most populous in Vietnam, the puppet troops scattered into the hills. An American advisor summed up the situation, "Some broke and ran, just ran and didn't know where to go. Some deserted to the VC."

...In the Saigon area liberation forces are drawing a tighter and tighter noose around the city. An Loc, a provincial capital 60 miles north of Saigon, is 80 per cent captured. A relief column sent to break the encirclement of An Loc has come under repeated attack and is stalled more than 20 miles from An Loc. The Mekong Delta has been abandoned for all practical purposes while hundreds of small attacks by liberation forces have destroyed ARVN bases and strategic hamlets. In Saigon itself, President Thieu has declared martial law desperately lashing out at anyone opposed to the unnecessary slaughter.

ARVN, the Saigon puppet army commanded, supplied, and financed by the US since the Vietnamese defeated the French in 1954, is just about finished. Nixon's Vietnamization policy is on the brink of total collapse. And the small clique of reactionaries, militarists, dope peddlers, and profiteers surrounding President Thieu, Vice-President Ky, and Premier Kiem are fighting for their lives. These are facts that no one can dispute.

But how do you deal with our beloved leader, Richard Nixon, when he goes on Nationwide TV, his jowls twitching, and tries to justify his latest murderous air and naval attack on the Vietnamese people by claiming that 'the communist armies of North Vietnam launched a massive invasion of South Vietnam'?

When he claims that he ordered the escalation to keep from 'turning 17,000,000 South Vietnamese over to Communist terror and tyranny'?

When he claims that the US will not give in to 'the enemy's demand to overthrow the lawfully constituted government of South Vietnam and to impose a Communist dictatorship in its place'?

Just who are the so-called enemy that the US has been fighting for so long with so little success? Why did President Eisenhower, a Republican, write in his memoirs, 'Had elections been held at the time of the fighting [1954] possibly 80 per cent of the population would have voted for the Communist Ho Chi Minh as their leader'?

Why did Senator Stuart Symington, a Democrat, say, 'It has been my impression, after visits to Vietnam, that one of the problems is that a majority of the people support the guerrillas in the countryside but do not support the Thieu government'?

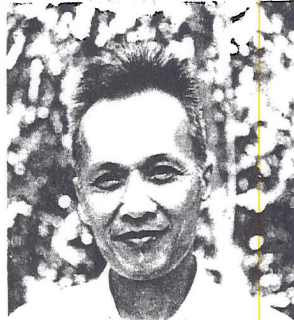
Why did US News and World Report (October 27, 1969), a very conservative magazine, describe the Viet Cong as 'the most developed political structure in South Vietnam'?

And why did Major George Watkins, an advisor in Binh Dinh province, tell a US correspondent, why did a lifer WHO WAS THERE say, "When the Communists were here before, from 1945 to 1954, the people didn't have much to eat or good clothes on their backs, but morally they were happy, because the Communists brought justice to this land, not the corruption we have here now?"

Cont'd next page...



In early 1967 Katsuichi Honda, a Japanese correspondent from one of the three Tokyo dailies, became one of the few reporters from any country to visit extensively in a liberated zone, an area controlled by the 'Viet Cong'. He made contact with the 'VC' in Saigon where Honda said they "moved around quite openly and easily in broad daylight." In an area supposedly secured by ARVN posts, Honda met a 24-year old Viet Cong company commander (above). This young 'officer' (there is no ranking system in the Viet Cong), a Saigon high school graduate, displays US-made weapons, an M-1 carbine, Ranger dagger and grenade. He explained to the reporter that "these friends [in ARVN] pass along, without fail, 2 out of every 10 grenades supplied by the Government." At this time areas between liberated zones and areas held by ARVN were considered safe recreation areas for Viet Cong guerrillas. Honda wrote that the guerrillas enjoyed the closest relationship with the peasants in the countryside since almost all of them were recruited from the areas in which they fought. *Le Monde*, authoritative French daily, reported (April 25) that the Viet Cong's 230,000 soldiers outnumber North Vietnamese troops in South Vietnam by two to one.



NGUYEN HUU THO, 62-year old lawyer and chairman of the National Liberation Front ('Viet Cong'), has fought for Vietnamese independence since 1949. During the anti-French resistance he spent two years in jail for organizing a demonstration against US support for the French colonialists. During the early years of US intervention he was kept under arrest and moved from place to place until he was liberated by guerrillas in 1961. An independent noncommunist nationalist, he was born in the south.



By one estimate 895,000 Vietnamese have died, 60% of them children and 80% by American firepower, since the US intervened. Through massive air attacks and search and destroy missions (above) approximately 4 million peasants have been rounded up or driven into refugee centers near a few major cities still controlled by the Saigon regime.

SAIGON RIP-OFF...

To Nixon the US-backed Saigon regime of President Thieu is 'the lawfully constituted government of South Vietnam.' To anyone in their right mind, they are a notorious bunch of reactionaries, landlords, militarists, dope peddlers, and profiteers dependent for their survival on the US dollar and US military might.

Take, for example, the family of Tran Thien Khiem, the prime minister of South Vietnam:

- Tran Khiem Khoi, Khiem's brother, for three years was director of the Office of Fraud Repression in the Customs Bureau. His job was to stop drug smuggling through Saigon's airport. Once a destitute tax official, Khoi now has three wives and a huge Swiss bank account. Needless to say drug smuggling increased while Khoi watched over the airport. Last July, Khoi was removed from his post 'under strong American pressure' and made chief of the customs station in Cholon, Saigon's twin city, giving him control over another important part of the drug and black-marketing business.

- Colonel Tran Thien Thanh, another brother, has been appointed deputy commander of the Capital Military District and assistant to the military government of both Saigon and the nearest province. His credentials include being in charge of the Saigon municipal bus company in 1964 when it collapsed under the weight of massive corruption. He now controls all traffic in and out of the capital.

- Colonel Tran Thien Phuong, a third brother, is director of the port of Saigon, another post which puts the Tran Thien family in virtual control of smuggling operations in and around Saigon.

And there's more. A relative of Khiem's wife recently became head of the national police. Another brother-in-law is mayor of Saigon and this brother-in-law brother is head of the Fraud Repression section of the national police.

All of this information came from a report put together in the Provost Marshall's office of US MACV. For some reason, the report was never published. Funny thing. (San Francisco Chronicle, May 1, 1972)

THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE

"WE WILL EAT THE EARTH ITSELF BUT WE WILL NOT SOIL OF OUR ANCESTORS. WE WILL FIGHT AND OUR GRANDSONS WILL NOT SEE THE INVADER TAKE OUR COUNTRY."

The true nature of the so-called enemy is probably the most closely kept secret in a war in which the government has systematically lied to us for almost twenty years. We have read millions of words and seen thousands of feet of TV film, but still we only know of the existence of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam as the Viet Cong, a slang term roughly equivalent to Vietnamese commie. Our heads are filled with racist stereotypes of stealthy, fanatical guerrillas who have somehow slipped by the tens of thousands across the international boundary' into the territory of the lawfully constituted government of South Vietnam'(Nixon) to terrorize the people.

But any Vietnamese who is not on the American payroll will tell you that Vietnam was, is, and again will be one country. That Vietnam's greatest heroes and heroines have been its liberation fighters; And that unlike Americans who fought two relatively brief wars against England for independence, the Vietnamese have fought a war after war for more than a thousand years - against China, France, Japan, and finally the US - to win their freedom.

For the Vietnamese there is no country of North Vietnam that is invading South Vietnam. This division between north and south is a cruel hoax imposed on the Vietnamese by the US after the Vietnamese fought a bloody war of independence against the French from 1945 to 1954.

For six years, 1954-1960, the puppet government financed by US dollars and controlled by the US military mission in Saigon, built up a huge army (ARVN), in violation of the Geneva Accords, and tried to wipe out those who had fought against the French. After tens of thousands of patriots were slaughtered because their arms and their weapons had been regrouped in the north, the people of the south organized the National Liberation Front (NLF) in 1960 to throw the US and its puppet armed force.

At the Geneva Conference which ended the war, the country was divided temporarily by international agreement so that the Viet Minh guerrillas of Ho Chi Minh who came from all Vietnam could regroup in the north while French troops were evacuated from the south. Free elections could be organized. The Geneva Accords said specifically that the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between the north and the south 'should not be interpreted as constituting a political or territorial boundary.' But the US prevented free elections and were also called for by the Geneva Accords and established a political boundary between the north and the south, creating the illegal puppet government of South Vietnam.

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For six years, 1954-1960, the puppet government, financed by US dollars and controlled by the US military mission in Saigon, built up a huge army (ARVN), also in violation of the Geneva Accords, and tried to wipe out all of those who had fought against the French. After tens of thousands of patriots were slaughtered because their army and their weapons had been regrouped in the north, the people of the south organized the National Liberation Front (NLF) in 1960 to throw the US and its puppets by armed force.

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The NLF is a coalition of political parties, religious sects like the Buddhists and the Cao Dai, and the various

minority tribes of southern Vietnam, all with the basic program of peace, independence, reform, and the gradual reunification of Vietnam. Three political parties are represented on the central committee of the NLF. One of them is the Revolutionary Party, the communist party of Vietnam. Of the 32 people on the central committee of the NLF, according to CIA sources four are from the north and three were born in the northern part of

The core of the NLF are the people of the peasantry who have been organized since the anti-French resistance. Building on elements of village democracy, the NLF has helped organize themselves on a village by village basis. The NLF has its own military force and also contributes to the People's Liberation Armed Forces (PLAF) main-force Viet Cong. Won to the NLF by the peasants in their age-old struggle against the collectors, landlords, and absentee owners, the NLF have carried out extensive land reform in the rural zones of Vietnam.

After the NLF won a huge military victory in the Tet offensive of 1968, they united with the organizations formed in the cities during the war to form the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam (PRG). The PRG will be the new coalition formed after the collapse of the Saigon regime.

Hidden in the jungles, caves, swamps, and mountains of Vietnam is a vast network of organizations formed in the cities during the war. This parallel government, the real government of South Vietnam, reaches right into the puppet government itself. It has revealed that 30,000 NLF agents were active in the ARVN and Saigon government. Even President Thieu worked as liaison between President Thieu and the NLF discovered to be an NLF agent.

Nixon and the CIA have known all along that the NLF is one of the most sophisticated political organizations ever put together. That is why their strategy is aimed at destroying the popular support of the NLF by totally wiping out rural life in Vietnam. Air strikes, search and destroy missions, and the Phoenix, the CIA's plan to assassinate

organizers, are designed to turn the Vietnamese into rootless refugees herded together into camps where they will be at the mercy of the Saigon regime. The Vietnamese, however, have shown a horrible display of military power ever before in the history of cool determination, and THEY ARE WINNING.

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Members of the NLF are the people of the countryside, those who have been organized since the days of the resistance. Building on elements of traditional democracy, the NLF has helped the peasants themselves on a village by village basis into locally elected "people's committees." Each village committee is a military force and also contributes soldiers to the People's Liberation Armed Forces (PLAF) known as the Viet Cong. Won to the NLF because the NLF fought them in their age-old struggle against tax collectors, landlords, and absentee owners, the peasants demanded extensive land reform in the liberated parts of Vietnam.

When the NLF won a huge military victory during the summer of 1968, they united with several new units formed in the cities during the fighting and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of Vietnam (PRG). The PRG will be the basis of any administration formed after the collapse of the Saigon government.

Operating in the jungles, caves, swamps, and urban slums, the NLF has a vast network of organizations tied to the existing parallel government, the real government of Vietnam, reaches right into the puppet army and puppet government itself. In 1970 the CIA had 30,000 NLF agents were at work in the hidden Saigon government. Even the man who acted as liaison between President Thieu and Nixon was to be an NLF agent.

And the CIA have known all along that they face one of the most sophisticated political-military organizations ever put together. That is why Nixon's strategy is aimed at destroying the popular base of the NLF by totally wiping out rural life in Vietnam. Massive search and destroy missions, and Operation Phoenix, the CIA's plan to assassinate 80,000 NLF

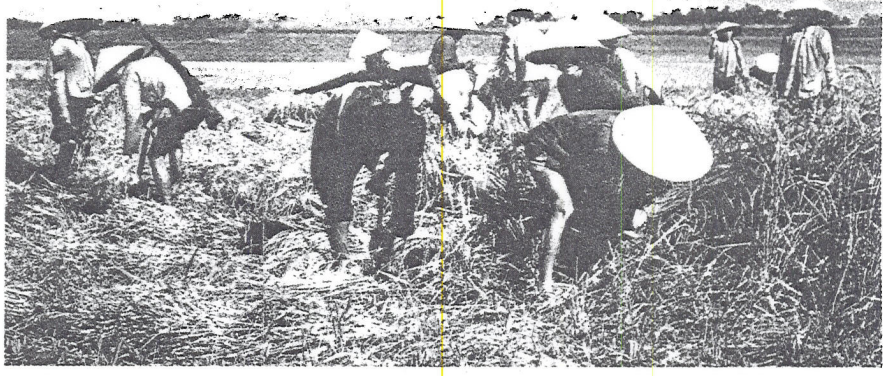
refugees, are designed to turn the Vietnamese into refugees herded together into concentration camps where they will be at the mercy of the Saigon government. The Vietnamese, however, have faced the most display of military power ever assembled with the NLF, and THEY ARE WINNING!

Wilfred Burchett, and Australian journalist who has spent more time than any other reporter with the 'Viet Cong.' wrote the following about the famous guerrilla fighters (above) in Vietnam Will Win! (1968). "Thuong Chien, the regiment's political officer, explained that in discussions before an operational plan, discussion must continue until he was satisfied. During the operation, discipline was total, the rank and file were expected to carry out allotted tasks and execute every command of their superiors without fail. But after the action was over, commanders and men were back on the same equal basis in the critical summing-up sessions which followed each operation.

"In that way we combine democracy with leadership," Thuong Chien said. "Commanders and rank and file are of the same social class origin, mainly peasants. We are united by hatred of the oppressors and foreign aggressors. We live, study, and fight together. Morale is high primarily because of complete democracy within our armed forces... The rank and file know that nothing is being imposed from above, that every suggestion to avoid losses while keeping the main aim in view is welcomed..."

Starting in 1941 with the Kuomintang troops during the Sino-Japanese war, and with troops of many other armies since, I have never experienced the quality of relations that exist within the ranks of the NLF forces in South Vietnam."

A Harvard sociologist interviewing Marine Nam vets in the spring of 1971 found that they had greater respect for the Viet Cong than for ARVN and US lifers.



Armed peasants work in rice paddies (above). Burchett wrote of another conversation with a 'Viet Cong' organizer:

"When we take over a village," Le Van Chien explained, "we ask people to bring everything related to the Saigon regime, photos of Diem and American bigwigs, banners and flags etc., into the village square and burn them. This has a big political effect. We virtually never attack unless the political base inside has first been prepared. We always know who are the worst enemy agents and these are arrested. We get the villagers to nominate their own administration and then encourage them to confiscate the land of the worst of the agents and absentee landlords, distributing it to the peasants, starting with the poorest. This creates a good atmosphere from the start. We announce, in the name of the Liberation Front, the abolition of all taxes and debts and that rent will be reduced following discussions with any local landlords still around.

We announce an amnesty for the families of agents, even of the worst of them. We make a point of never touching or even accusing the family members. Volunteers are accepted into the self defense corps and we usually give them a few weapons to start them off, and before our forces leave, we show them how to manufacture arms and prepare traps. We explain that the new local administration is an organ of the NLF, not linked to any central administration, competent in local affairs only. Some of the people are usually a bit scared as to what may happen when our forces pull out. They worry that their weapons are not sufficient... When they realize they are part of a huge movement sweeping the countryside, then even the most timid gain confidence. We help them to start up their vegetable gardens and orchards again, help them to dig fish ponds, plant bamboo and trees, build pigsties and chicken coops and recreate the sort of physical surroundings they had before they were herded into the 'strategic hamlets'. The new administrative committee immediately forms subcommittees for education, public health, economic affairs, defense and security, and people really feel they are running their own lives."

POW

Nixon has often said that the problem that concerns him most is how to get the captured servicemen home. His concern is why we wear these striped pyjamas. The more concerned he is about us, the more my friends will end up here!

—POW Capt Lynn Gunther, USAF

George Smith joined the Army at 17, mostly to get away from home. Then he re-upped into the Special Forces, was promoted to sergeant, and went to Vietnam early in the war. He was one of the first Americans taken prisoner by the National Liberation Front ("Vietcong") of Vietnam. It was pretty simple. His camp was overrun one night in 1963 by a guerrilla team. During the confusion Smith said, "All I could do was wonder if they knew how we'd treated our prisoners at the camp and remember what they taught me at Bragg: 'Guerrillas don't take prisoners.'"

From his training he expected to be tortured and humiliated. "The vision of the Vietcong before the attack was the vision I had got at Ft. Bragg. I connected them with being something strange and remote that was impossible to deal with, people you couldn't reason with, people who would shoot you if you came in contact with them."

The Vietcong weren't anything like what he'd expected. They were well organized, and managed to move easily through villages supposedly under the control of the Saigon regime. Smith and another prisoner were displayed everywhere, but not humiliated. "We ate what the guards ate, they weren't holding any trials, and the people weren't spitting on us or beating us with sticks. Sometimes the people were clearly upset, but the guards made it clear that we were prisoners of the Front and they shouldn't hurt us."

Later Smith was "interrogated" by a frail middle-aged representative of the NLF. Smith described how he learned the Vietnamese version of the war: "The reason they were fighting was to gain back what they had won from the French; they wanted to have elections; they wanted to have a free country rather than the 'neocolonialism' that US involvement was. He explained the thing in great detail." His interrogator said, "This is how it is.



Nguyen Van Troi, a 17-year-old Saigon electrical worker, was accused of attempting to kill Defense Secretary McNamara in August 1964. The NLF said they would retaliate against American prisoners if he was executed. The US, knowing this, refused to "interfere," and Troi was shot without trial. The event POW Smith said, "caused me to lose faith in the US government." It was also clear that the Saigon/US regime treated prisoners differently than the NLF did.



You can believe it or not believe it. If you believe it, I'd like to know about it."

It wasn't long before Smith saw that all the bullshit he'd learned from the Army was just that. He tried to explain what he believed when he came to Vietnam—that the Vietcong were invaders from someplace else.

"Where do you think I'm from?" his interrogator asked.

"Well, you're from Vietnam, huh?" said Smith.

"Yes, this is my country."

He began to understand and respect the Vietcong, wrote a statement, and hoped he'd be released. He wanted to work in the American anti-war movement. And he didn't really dig being prisoner, even though the treatment wasn't too bad.

But the US government wasn't into helping him out. Smith realized that he was a "soldier in an army not at war, captured by an organization that did not exist in the eyes of my government, which was fighting that organization. It was straight out of Catch-22. The US couldn't negotiate over release without recognizing that the NLF was quite real,—something it wasn't about to do."

The NLF was getting ready to release him, though, after he'd been with them for a year. But when the Saigon government executed Nguyen Van Troi in October, 1964, Smith saw his situation differently. [see photo] He wrote "I stopped blaming my captors so much at that point. I wasn't mad at the Vietnamese for not releasing us. They weren't going to have men executed and then go ahead and release Americans. The US would go around executing the hell out of everybody if they thought it would persuade the NLF to release its prisoners.

"As far as I was concerned, the United States and Saigon became directly responsible for our captivity from that point on."

For the next year as the war escalated, life as a prisoner was more dangerous. Their camps were bombed and strafed by US pilots. More prisoners were executed by the US/Saigon regime, and one of the Americans in the group was executed. Finally, in November 1965 he was released in honor of an American who'd burned himself to death to oppose the war. But his troubles had just begun.

For the next six months he was 'debriefed' by the Army on Okinawa, charged with treason for his statements against the war. He was forced to repair a model Vietnamese village used for Special Forces training. He was held long past his ETS date. His real "crime" was that he didn't tell tales of torture, that he was in good health, and didn't hate his former captors.

The Army tried to force him to testify in a treason trial against his buddy who was with him all that time. Smith refused. And meanwhile people outside were demanding Smith's freedom from the Army. Washington couldn't afford to press charges and open the truth to the American people. Finally Smith was quietly discharged and ordered not to talk about his year with the Vietcong because it was "secret information"—not to the Vietnamese, but to the American people.

[Six years after he came home, George Smith wrote a book. We got the story and quotations from it. POW: Two Years with the Vietcong (Ramparts Press, 1971) is available for ½ price, \$2.95, through the Bulkhead, 968 Valencia, San Francisco, CA 94110. Try it, you'll like it.]

ACES IN THE HOLE

By the fall of 1969 it was clear to most of the world and the people of the US that Nixon had lied about ending the war. So Nixon found an issue he thought would put anti-war pressure on North Vietnam and take it off him. This issue was POWs. The only problem was that released pilots (the great majority of POWs now) didn't have horror stories of mistreatment. In fact, the Vietnamese have been surprised to see that prisoners go through a sort of breakdown, since their expectations about the enemy they're massacring turn out to be incredibly unreal.

Then in August Lt. Robert Frishman and two other prisoners were released who cooperated with Nixon's deception. They condemned the Vietnamese who had taken care of them, and said that their captivity was a nightmare and they were forced to make statements against their will.

In private, Frishman told a different story to pilots who wanted some idea what treatment was like. He told Lt Commander David Hoffman in April 1971 in San Diego that "there is nothing to worry about. I was wounded and was taken care of. My seriously broken arm was healed instead of being amputated. I cannot avoid being grateful to them." Over two years after he was released, Frishman hadn't gained his weight back, and travels around the country trying to look like the picture he paints.

And now Hoffman is among more than 350 airmen downed while bombing the North. He was shot down on December 30, 1971. Less than a month later, he talked to an American journalist who wrote, "Hoffman was in good health and was amazingly cheerful considering that he was a prisoner." Hoffman sent a message to his family: "I think they should try and do all that they can and try and bring peace so that we may be reunited as soon as possible."



One of several buildings of the Thanh Hoa Provincial Hospital compound which were destroyed by US bombing Dec. 26, 1971. Nine people were killed and 11 wounded in the December raids. The Thanh Hoa Hospital was attacked again April 26. Twelve people were killed according to initial reports.

FLASH: This is a statement made by eight recently downed US pilots in Hanoi. They point out the contradictions in Nixon's thinking that bombing will free the POWs. They're also pretty hip to the fact that they may get wiped out by US bombs.

To the people of the United States and the Congress of the United States from American pilots captured in North Vietnam.

Despite the bombing halt announced in 1968 the President ordered the resumption and authorized continuation of the bombing of North Vietnam and a variety of excuses to justify the raids. On Sunday morning, April 16, 1972, the peace of Hanoi and Haiphong were shattered by American bombs. Many innocent people died a totally needless and senseless death. We, the detained Americans in Hanoi, could not help but be struck by the futility of such actions. We have come to know the Vietnamese people, and we know that no bombing, or no threat of death, is going to still the spirit that lives in them. We believe that widespread bombing of North Vietnam serves only to turn world opinion more strongly against the United States, and risks the death and capture of many more Americans, as well as endangering the lives of those already held captive. No bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong will cause the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, or the Government of North Vietnam, to come begging for peace short of freedom and independence. No bombing of North Vietnam serves to make the withdrawal of American forces any safer, and only makes it more likely that they cannot be withdrawn at all, and serves only as an admission of the failure of the Vietnamization policy.

We appeal to the American people to exercise your rights and responsibilities, and demand an end to the war now! We appeal to the Congress to take firm, positive action to go with the words already spoken against the war. The resumption of the Paris peace conference, and serious negotiations based on the 7 Point Proposal of the Provisional Revolutionary Government are obvious first steps. We require these steps and much more. Americas! The hope of the world is in your hands. Bring us home now!

Very Respectfully,

David Hoffman, Lt. Commander USN
San Diego, California

Walter E. Wilbur, Commander USN
Troy, Pennsylvania

Norris A. Charles, Jr., Lt(jg) USN
Tampa, Florida

Kenneth J. Fraser, Captain USN
Brooklyn, New York

Lynn E. Gunther, Captain USAF
Dalles, Oregon

Edison W. Miller, Lt.Col. USMC
Quinton, Iowa

James D. Cutter, Captain USAF
Stillwater, Florida

Edward A. Hawley, Jr.
Birmingham, Alabama

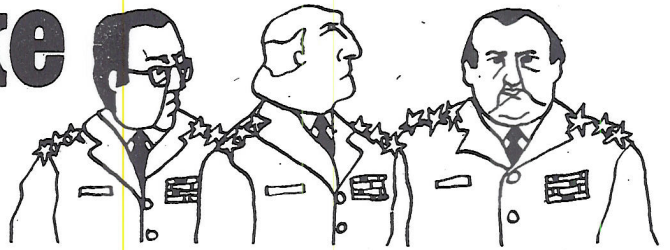
Conditions for release of the POWs are clearly laid out in the first point of the 7 Point program the pilots mentioned:

"The US government must set a terminal date for the withdrawal from South Vietnam of the totality of US forces and those of other foreign countries in the US camp." Then there would be an agreement for insuring the safety of US forces and release of all captured US military personnel, including pilots captured over North Vietnam.

Nixon refuses to negotiate on this point. He expects us to distrust the Vietnamese' declaration that they'll release the pilots. He is stupid enough to think that they wouldn't be glad to release prisoners who have required a lot of attention and time.

But his real interest is not in American pilots. His real intent is to support the only people in Vietnam who'll take orders from the US — the Thieu regime (see page 11) — and keep it open for American investments and rip-offs.

Make Your Own History or They'll Make It For You



THEY SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE!

ANYWHERE, USA (April) — According to an article in the New York Times, in 1970-71, over 1/4 of the Army split for awhile, some for good. That means that 265,000 guys AWOL and 111,000 deserted. A lot of these dudes haven't been caught. An officer at Ft. Lee, Virginia said that there were so many deserters that "if the Army went around trying to pick them up, they'd just have to shut down all their operations." He said that very little is done to find people, and that unless a guy is found in a traffic check, "he could stay away until kingdom come." (source: LNS)

YANQUI JUSTICE PUERTO RICAN REVOLUTIONARY CONVICTED

NEW YORK CITY (March) — It was the usual scene at the recent trial for draft refusal of Pablo "Yoruba" Guzman, Minister of Information of the Young Lords Party. The Young Lords Party is a revolutionary nationalist organization in New York City, well-known for its community service programs. Two hundred people attended the first day of the trial saying that "We came to court because we too feel that we should not be forced into the army of a nation that has oppressed and exploited us and kept our island as a colony for the last 73 years." But when the defense moved that the trial be held at night so that working people could attend and testify, Federal Judge Charles Metzner refused. When the defense asked that both English and Spanish be used so that those testifying could speak the language that they felt they could express themselves best in, the judge denied the motion. When the defense submitted 53 questions to the judge so that prospective jurors could be questioned particularly about their racial attitudes toward Puerto Ricans, the judge threw 36 of them out. When Yoruba asked that dozens of people from his community who volunteered be allowed to testify, the judge restricted the defense to character witnesses. When Yoruba's lawyers called on Yoruba's mother and father to testify, the judge prevented the testimony because of their prejudice (Get that, their prejudice). According to plan, Yoruba was convicted by an all-white jury. The only prospective Puerto Rican juror was thrown off the jury panel. After the trial Yoruba said, "I knew I was breaking the law. I was breaking the law of the US ruling class, not of the American people . . . I was going against the Rockefellers, the Morgans, the Kennedys . . ." Two days later a crowd of two hundred marched through the Bronx in support of Yoruba chanting "Free Puerto Rico — Right Now!" When molotov cocktails were thrown at the Manufacturers Hanover Trust Bank, riot police fired on the crowd. Two people were arrested and no one was reported injured. (source: LNS)

PLASTIC TREES PLANTED IN LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES (February) - In China, crops sprout from land that was once just rock. But in Los Angeles, city workers have been ordered to plant 900 plastic plants along the highway to "beautify the roadside." The beauty of it, says the county, is that while the plastics cost \$74,504 to install, the trees will not have to be watered or pruned. And the leaves won't shed, even when heavy pollution has leaves dropping off all the other plants in the city. (source: LNS)

WESTMORELAND TAKES INCOMING ROUND

FT. BLISS, TEXAS (April) - The wonder general was reviewing troops here when he got caught in a barrage of tomatoes thrown by about ten people. They were arrested, then released on \$400 bail, saying it was strange that they were arrested while war criminals like Westmoreland got promoted. (source: Overseas Weekly)



THERE'S DOPE HERE SOMEWHERE!

SAN DIEGO (April) - Crewmen from the USS SAN BERNADINO wrote an open letter to California Senators Tunney and Cranston requesting a congressional investigation of the command on board. The letter cited 8 specific cases of harassment and intimidation by the CO and XO, including charges against 47 crewmembers for having possessed a "small amount of marijuana at some time during the months of April - December 1971."

THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY (IRA) BULLETS AND PERSUASION

IRELAND (Spring) — Liam McMillan, head of the official Irish Republican Army in Belfast, British-occupied Northern Ireland, said in a recent speech in San Francisco that three soldiers had defected there from the British Army. The British, like the US in Vietnam, Thailand, Laos and the Philippines, to name a few, is occupying Northern Ireland in an effort to prevent the Irish people from finally freeing and uniting their country after hundreds of years of struggle. The IRA is conducting an urban guerrilla war aimed at British military targets and right-wing anti-Catholic politicians in the north. McMillan said that the IRA had addressed British soldiers in thousands of leaflets asking them not to fight their brothers and sisters, the working people of Ireland, and to stop being the pawns of the British financial interests who control both northern and southern Ireland. (source: San Francisco speech of Mr. McMillan)

VIETNAM VET, SELF RETIRED FIGHTS DESERTION

NEW YORK (April) — John D. Herndon was in the Nam for over 15 months, and began to understand he was fighting the wrong enemy. He retired himself in 1970 and lived in Paris helping GIs with anti-war work and put out a paper called ACT. This March he was arrested as he tried to re-enter the US, was charged with desertion, and thrown in the Dix stockade. His case has a lot of support, and he's not shining on anything to save his skin. Herndon deserted for political reasons, and intends to use his case to test the government's threats against deserters and self-retired GIs. He accused the military of systematic destruction of civilians in Vietnam; under the laws established at Nuremberg after WW II, high officers of the German army were sentenced to death for similar crimes.

"I don't want amnesty, if that means asking for forgiveness. I don't need to be forgiven by this government—the question is, will I forgive them?" (source: SafeReturn, New York)

INDIAN MURDERED IN NEBRASKA 1300 MARCH IN PROTEST

GORDON, NEBRASKA (March) — In February, a 51-year-old Oglala Sioux Indian named Raymond Yellow Thunder died of cerebral hemorrhage caused by beating on his head a week earlier by a group of five drunk white people. This was the last straw for the Indians who lived in the area, in the town and on the two nearby reservations (Pine Ridge and Rosebud). By the first week in March, 1300 Oglala Sioux had come down from the reservations to investigate what really happened. In the meantime, five people (four men and a woman) were finally brought in, but merely charged with manslaughter and false imprisonment—not murder. This had happened many times to Indians in that area, but this time was different. The Sioux, some wearing their traditional costumes, others wearing upside down American flags, took over the town hall for a night. They decided to call their own Grand Jury to find out what happened. They testified about Yellow Thunder's murder as well as what it was like for them to be confined to small plots on reservations, when their ancestors were the original inhabitants of the land. They testified, too, about houses made of tar paper with dirt floors.

The Sioux presented seven demands to the prosecutor, the mayor and the Governor's office. They demanded that the city of Gordon ask for a Congressional and Justice Dept. investigation, that they convene a grand jury, that there be a complete autopsy of Yellow Thunder, that a Human Relations Council be established made up of equal numbers of whites and Indians, that two Indians held in jail be released, and that a particular racist policeman be suspended. All seven demands were granted. (source: LNS)

LIFER GETS BOOT

CAMP PENDLETON, CALIF. (March) — Staff Porker Barker of Casual Company, Camp Pigleton, California was the staff duty NCO for building 1364 one night. At 10:45 PM he decided to make a harassment patrol in the 4th Platoon squad bay. After a few minutes of bullshit he was hit in the head with a size 12 combat boot followed by a barrage of other government property. Parker attempted to hang it all on one brother, but the men of Casual Company were not intimidated. Seventy-five brothers followed Parker and his prisoner to the company office and no one was busted. (source: Camp News)

