

WINTER ★ SOLDIER



A PUBLICATION OF VIETNAM VETERANS



AGAINST THE WAR/WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

25

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 6



1974 JUNE - JULY

DEMONSTRATE!



NEW YORK VVAW/WSO AMNESTY DEMONSTRATION

COME TO WASHINGTON D.C. JULY 1-4

SEE CENTERFOLD

EDITORIAL

The issue of the many problems facing veterans in the United States has been given a great deal of publicity. Unfortunately, all too often the solutions put forth to solve these problems are ones that view the struggles of veterans for a better way of life in utter isolation from the rest of the American people. VVAW/WSO feels that this is a very serious mistake. Veterans, and the problems facing them, are not separate from the rest of society. While vets clearly have particular needs and demands, we cannot allow the fight to obtain them to be carried out in isolation from the fight to solve the many problems facing the whole country.

Indeed, the problems facing the American people today, veterans and non-veterans alike, are directly a result of the system of imperialism we are all forced to live under. If it were not for our involvement in Indochina, there would be no Vietnam veterans in need of vets' benefits in the first place. Thus, demanding veterans' benefits without tying these demands into the struggle against imperialism and the root cause of veterans' problems, is like putting a band-aid on a cancerous sore. Veteran reforms can be won and should be fought for; but the struggle must be carried out in a united effort with the rest of the American people against the common enemy--US imperialism.

Advocating strictly veteran reformist demands that do not tie the issues into the larger struggle of the American people against imperialism will lead the veterans' movement up the same blind alley that traditional veterans' organizations have followed for over fifty years. We cannot put the so-called 'interests' of veterans ahead of the interests of the rest of the people in this country: Veterans are an inseparable part of US society and their interests and welfare are the same as the rest of the American people. Reformist veterans demands are not going to stop another war in Indochina! While we must continue to struggle for a solution to the very real problems facing vets--for the right of decent medical care, disability compensation, education, jobs, housing, and so forth--the struggle must be carried out with the understanding all people in the US have these same rights.

UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY

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LETTERS

Dear People:

I would like very much to request my placement on your mailing list for receipt of Winter Soldier.

After having reviewed a copy of your publication that another brother happened to have, I sincerely feel that your publication offers the most thorough presentation and analysis of the world-wide fight against imperialism and all its neo-colonialist lackeys.

I would therefore appreciate it you would allow me to keep up with the world revolutionary struggle while I fight for my/our own immediate emancipation from within these repressive walls.

Hasta la Victoria Siempre

Attica, N. Y.

Dear Comrades:

We established friendly and cooperative relations with the Yokosuka chapter of the VVAW/WSO whose programs we have found very devoted, revolutionary, patriotic and internationalistic.

The April 3 issue of The People's Korea will print a contribution from a sailor aboard the Oklahoma who is leaving for the States for a new assignment.

We are also planning to reprint the full text of the February issue of Winter Soldier story "U. S. Blocks Reunification of Korea" which is totally proper and correct.

We concluded that the objectives of the VVAW/WSO are entirely revolutionary and correctly worked out in such a way as to meet the specific realities of the U. S. armed forces and the rapidly changing American and world situations.

We will be greatly obliged as fraternal people to you if you are kind enough to supply The People's Korea with two copies of Winter Soldier on a regular basis which are expected to be airmailed.

Looking forward to seeing any VVAW/WSO members when they come to Japan or hearing from you soon.

Fraternally Yours

Kim Myong Chol
Associate Editor
The People's Korea
(Tokyo, Japan)

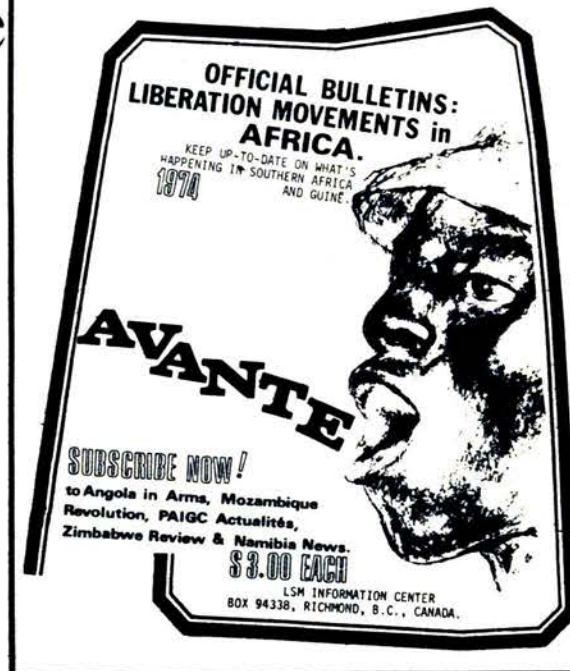
(The People's Korea is the official publication of Korean residents in Japan.)

★★ NOTICE ★★

Because of the Washington, DC, demonstration, the next issue of the paper will be the August issue. We hope that readers of Winter Soldier will come to Washington and see struggle in action instead of reading about it in July.

VVAW/WSO Literature

- *Position Paper on Amnesty - 25¢; bulk rates available.
- *"The Case of Gary Lawton and Zurebu Gardner", a 16-page background; free.
- *"Post-Vietnam Struggle"; pamphlet describing psychological problems of Vietnam veterans; free.
- *Winning Hearts and Minds - War Poems by Vietnam Veterans; \$2.00.
- *Free Fire Zone - Short Stories by Vietnam Veterans; \$2.50.
- *GI NEWS - regular news bulletin on GI Movement activities; \$3.00 yearly.
- *Operation County Fair Newsletter - regular newsletter about efforts to help provide health care to rural, black community of Bogue Chitto, Alabama; brochure and color slide show also available.
- *Amnesty Poster - 25¢.
- *"Enlisted People in the Army - 1756-1973" a 10-part history; free.
- *"Soldiers and Strikers", by Vince Pinto; a 48-page booklet describing the use of GIs to break the US labor movement for the last 100 years; 40¢.



All literature is available from VVAW/WSO National Office, 827 West Newport, Chicago, IL 60657. Please make all checks or money orders payable to: "VVAW/WSO".

Mass Demonstrations

KICK NIXON OUT



Dump Nixon/Organize to Fight Demo in Chicago

In May, President Nixon released the transcripts of conversations held in the White House that pertained to the Watergate events. The transcripts, all told about 1,300 pages, were edited and incomplete. They enraged millions of readers, giving public view to the private conversations of the men accused of covering up and planning the break-in of the Democratic election headquarters in 1972. As a result of these edited conversations, many newspapers supportive of the President over the past 25 years, announced that they were 'morally outraged' at the lack of humanity displayed by Nixon and called for his resignation or impeachment. Countless senators and representatives chimed in their sudden displeasure and joined the growing bandwagon of citizens demanding the removal of Nixon from office.

Many of the people calling for his impeachment or resignation were those who either supported the president or were in the Republican Party, of which Nixon is the leader. It is evident that with the growing revulsion of Nixon's conduct many of these politicians are falling over themselves to desert the sinking ship, and disavow themselves from the stigma of having been counted in the President's corner. Democrats bubbled with glee at the discomfort of the Republicans, stating that impeachment, not resignation, is the correct method of testing whether Nixon is guilty or innocent. From their viewpoint the longer Nixon squirms the better the

chances of their trouncing the Republicans in the next congressional election coming up in just a few months. As they jockey for position, all of these politicians have only one interest: re-election. Nowhere is there concern for the American people.

Over the past five years, millions of Americans have more correctly assessed the situation and have come to the conclusion that Nixon must be ousted from office. The decisive factor is not that Nixon planned or covered up the Watergate break-in. The question of Nixon's morality and salty language is not the issue either, although the most pervasive disclosure of the transcripts is the utter contempt that Nixon shows for the welfare of the American people. Scandals have rocked the western world recently, toppling the government in Germany. Economic disasters have seen the demise of governments in England, Iceland and Canada. Struggles for power in France, Israel and Portugal are the results of no confidence in their political and economic systems. The United States is in a similar situation. The continued war in Indochina, the wage controls, the cutbacks in federally funded programs, the high food prices, the spiralling inflation, the fuel hoax are factors that conclusively show that the system fronted by Nixon is unable to meet the needs of the American working people.

These are the real issues, and not the Watergate events. While the public

interest in the developments of political espionage and 'dirty tricks' is high, the demands for kicking Nixon out stem from a dissatisfaction with the system. President Nixon is the symbol of that system and the public wrath over Nixon's involvement in Watergate stems from that dissatisfaction. Congresspeople and editorial boards of the nation's established newspapers have put forward the position that removing Nixon will remove the inability of the system to deal with the everyday economic conditions that drag down the American people.

Removing Nixon will not change the system; it will only change the faces of those who administer it. The policies of Lyndon Johnson continued in the years of the Nixon administration. These policies are not the products of the Republicans or the Democrats, but of the system that exploits people all over the world and maintains itself with an insatiable lust for expansion and profits.

As part of a growing public awareness of the need to attack this system, thousands of Americans marched across the country on April 27th demanding the ouster of Nixon from the White House, while at the same time focusing on the economic conditions that result from the system of profits over people. These demonstrations occurred in Washington DC, Chicago and Los Angeles. Signs demanding "Throw the Bum Out, Organize to Fight", "Dump Nixon" and "Fight the Energy Freeze" were seen everywhere. Militant slogans echoed through the streets. The angry demonstrators represented a cross section of the American people, with factory workers joining students. All along the march routes, people standing on the sides cheered their support for the demonstration and its demands, and in many cases these people joined in the marches.

These demonstrations have occurred with increasing regularity during the past several months, and, as the conditions worsen in this country, the militancy of the people increases. It is apparent that the American people are totally fed up with the lies of the administration and the system it represents. It is also clear that the concerted effort to save the system by Congress and the highly paid commentators of the nation's media cannot divert attention from the real issues at hand. While Nixon flaunts his contempt for the American people, and while Congress and the press debate the content of the tapes, the vehemence of the people is not lost to the corporate board rooms; they recognize that they are in deep trouble and are trying to shore up their decaying system, by dragging out impeachment talk.

From July 1-4, VVAW/WSO will conduct a demonstration in Washington, D.C. culminating in a large march and rally on the Fourth of July, aimed at expressing the disgust of the American people. All those who want to show their contempt for the (expletive deleted) system and Nixon as the symbol of it, are urged to march on Washington.

Police Harassment Continues

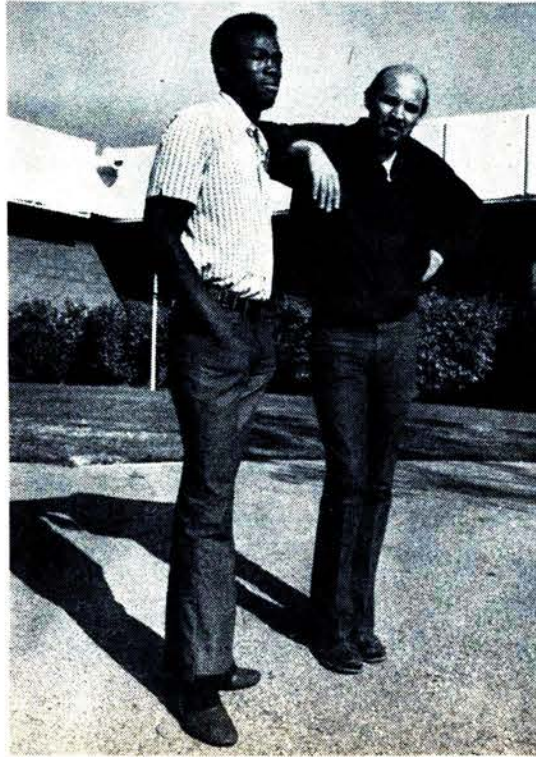
The trial of Gary Lawton (VVAW/WSO member) and Zurebu Gardner has been postponed until June 17th. Lawton and Gardner are two black men facing their third trial on the trumped-up charges of ambushing two Riverside, California policemen in April, 1971 (the first two trials ended with hung juries). The decision for the postponement was made because of a number of motions recently filed by defense attorneys and co-counsel, William Kuntsler. A motion for a dismissal of the charges against the brothers was made, and denied. This decision of denial is being appealed, thus resulting in the trial's postponement.

The judge who ruled on the dismissal motion also denied a motion asking that the cases of Gary and Zurebu be severed and tried separately. However, the judge did rule in favor of one of the defense motions which asked that the information and evidence held by the prosecution and State of California be turned over to the defense. Some of the state's information will be made available to defense attorneys, while some of the information and evidence will require individual rulings by the judge before being released. The granting of this one motion may be considered as a partial victory with the third trial approaching.

At the time these motions were being filed, Gary traveled to New York to participate in a VVAW/WSO sponsored speaking tour there. He spoke in cities around New York, taking this frame-up case to people and building support for the defense. One of the high points of the tour was a rally held in Buffalo. Approximately 500 people demonstrated in Buffalo on April 27th in support of Gary and Zurebu, the Attica Brothers, Martin Sostre and Wounded Knee. Gary said: "We must push harder and harder in behalf of the Brothers and in behalf of the Wounded Knee defendants... Unless you relate in the communities to the murder of our people, even though they are not prominent, you can't relate to me and my co-defendant thousands of miles away." As Gary said, the key to victory is the daily struggle against our enemies on every front.

Gary's words are particularly applicable as we view the situation of increased police repression going on in the community of Riverside. In the streets, another un-armed Chicano youth was gunned-down by Riverside Police -- the 7th such murder in as many years. In the courts, William Palmer (member of the Riverside Po-

THIRD TRIAL TO BEGIN



ZUREBU GARDNER AND GARY LAWTON

litical Prisoners Defense Committee) was convicted of "assaulting a police officer with a rusty hub-cap." He is soon to stand trial again for yet another assault charge brought against him as a result of the March 24th courthouse attack on defense committee members. This attack was literally an ambush initiated by the Riverside Police Department, when they attacked Palmer, Chukia Lawton, Gardner, and other defense committee members following a court hearing relating to Palmer's first assault trial. With this attack and the charges that resulted from it, the number of people in and around the defense committee who have been brought up on bogus charges was brought to nine.

This type of harassment being waged against Gary, Zurebu and the Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee is largely a result of the fear the Riverside Police and State of California feel as support for Lawton and Gardner continues to grow in the Riverside community and around the country. The blatant disregard of the judicial system and basic human and legal rights employed by the Riverside

County hierarchy cannot tolerate being exposed; thus the harassment must continue. With the growth of solidarity, so grows the attempts to discredit these two brothers. Recently, the Riverside press has attempted to tie nearly every unsolved crime in the County to the case of Gary and Zurebu. But "smear" campaigns and increased police harassment will not work. Support is continuing to build daily. On May 19th, there will be a major demonstration in support of Lawton, Gardner and all political prisoners. A march will begin at the Courthouse and proceed through the streets of Riverside. A rally will follow the march and speakers will include Big Black, one of the indicted Attica Brothers.

This type of support is integral to the defense of Gary and Zurebu, as is the support of people throughout the U.S. This "Outrage in the Desert" is a symbol of the increased heights that political repression is reaching in this country as the government tries to silence all those who disagree, organize against or struggle to fight back.

People can help support these brothers by informing themselves and others about the Lawton/Gardner frame-up. A 16-page history of the case has recently been published and is available through the defense committee. Also, the brothers desperately need financial support as the third trial approaches. For information about the trial or for the needed contributions, contact: Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee, P.O. Box 244, Riverside, California 92502.

FREE LAWTON & GARDNER

**"FREEDOM FOR ONE IS NOT ENOUGH,
FREE US ALL, SAY ON!"**
Gary Lawton

FALLEN BROTHER

William (Whitey) Hurst is dead. William was a member of VVAW/WSO. He was one of the 7 Leavenworth Brothers recently indicted on major charges resulting from the July, 1973 uprising at the Federal Prison in Kansas. But most importantly, William was a brother, deeply committed to struggle and fighting for the freedom of prisoners and oppressed people everywhere.

William's body was discovered on May 9th, hanging from his shirt in his cell at the Wyandotte County Jail in Kansas. The death looked like a suicide. But the word "murder" is far more applicable. William was transferred to the County Jail approximately 3 months ago from the Federal Prison in Marion, Ill. (where William has been held since the Leavenworth rebellion). Upon his transfer, William informed us, "I am afraid for my life. They tried to kill me once before when I was at this jail. I just want you to know that if my body is ever discovered dead, it will not be me who has taken my life; it will be them who have done it to me." This was the last direct message we ever received from William.

The Leavenworth Brothers watch out for one another inside the prison; William was kept separated from the other Brothers while awaiting their trial and court hearings. Also, shortly before his death, William was mysteriously sent to the Springfield, Mo. Medical Facility for federal prisoners, and then transferred directly back to Kansas. What went on in that Medical Facility is unknown.

It is unlikely that William took his own life. He was a strong, committed brother, deeply involved in the people's struggle. If the allegation of suicide is false, then the prison system of this country must be condemned for his murder. If his death was a result of his own doing, then the prison system must be made to account for its irresponsibility, its negligence, and its inhuman and brutal treatment of prisoners everywhere. The death of William Hurst is not unique; similar events occur every week in prisons across the country. Countless prisoners have been murdered by prison officials; while countless others are forced to the point of breaking by the daily oppression of prison life.

An investigation into William's death is being conducted, but regardless of what this investigation reveals, it is not William who is responsible. He was a victim of the prison system which is used as a tool of repression, and it is this system which is to blame.

William's death comes as a blow to us all. His courage and dedication to struggle will be remembered, and his spirit will live on in the years to come.

Leavenworth Brothers

BENNETT TRIAL



ODELL BENNETT

The Leavenworth Brothers won a partial victory in court on May 9th, with the conclusion of one of the brother's trials. Odell Bennett was tried on charges of assault stemming from an incident which occurred on Aug. 22, 1973. These charges were not directly related to the major indictments handed down on the Brothers as a result of the uprising which occurred in the Federal Penitentiary in Kansas on July 31st.

Five different charges had been filed against Odell as a result of the August incident. One of the charges, mutiny, was dropped before Bennett went to trial because the government realized they had no case. He was also charged with four separate counts of assault. He was found innocent of one of the counts, and two of the counts resulted in a mistrial because of a hung jury. Bennett was convicted of one count of "forcibly resisting, opposing, impeding, intimidating and interfering with a federal officer in the line of duty."

The August incident for which Bennett was tried involved his appearance in the Leavenworth Federal Court. He had 6 civil suits pending against Leavenworth Warden Daggett, but before being taken to court, Odell was forced to submit to a "finger wave" or rectal search. On the 22nd, 7 or 8 guards came to Bennett's cell, at which time Odell said he would rather drop his charges against the Warden than undergo the rectal "rape." At this point, one of the guards said, "Let's get that nigger," and Odell was attacked. He was handcuffed and beaten for 10 minutes in his cell. He

was then taken to the marshall's room where the rectal search was administered. At this point, testimony from both the prosecution and the defense showed that Bennett had gone limp and "gave up" at this point. Shortly after the search, Bennett collapsed. This was the "forcible resistance" for which Odell was convicted.

Two counts of assault ended with a hung jury. The government charged that after Odell was shackled in handcuffs, belly chain and leg irons, he attacked federal marshalls. At least one juror refused to believe that an assault could have occurred while Bennett was in this condition. The only black juror, the wife of a retired Command Sergeant Major, prevented the conviction on the 2 assault counts. This juror later told the Leavenworth Brothers Offense/Defense Committee that, "Most of us agreed that the government witnesses were lying."

During Bennett's testimony he stated, "Prisons are closed societies. The guards are lying here because they do not want the public to know what goes on inside there. My real crime is my resistance to the inhuman conditions, my filing of lawsuits against the warden, and my membership in Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization."

To coincide with Odell's trial, the LBODC staged a 21-mile march from Lecompton to Topeka, Kansas. Lecompton was the capital of the Kansas slave state, and the march proved to dramatize Bennett's words, "Slavery has been abolished except for punishment for a crime." A rally followed the march at the State Capitol in Topeka; then a silent march to the courthouse was conducted with the demonstrators wearing gags to emphasize how our courts aid in the silencing of resistance.

Though Odell was convicted of one of the charges against him, it is a victory that he was freed from the other counts. It proved to the government and the courts that the framing of the Leavenworth Brothers will not be as easy as they had hoped. It proved that there are people who are not willing to believe the government charges against these men. Money and publicity are needed if the frame-up of these Brothers is to be stopped as the major trials approach. The major indictments include charges of murder, kidnapping and assault, and Odell will be one of the brothers who will again have to face our country's system of "justice." For more information about the trial or for donating the needed money, contact: LBODC, PO Box 5818, Kansas City, Missouri 64111.

POLICE BRUTALITY

HOOD TRIAL



Bob Hood, a N. Calif. coordinator of VVAW/WSO, will probably be tried in early June on bogus charges of assaulting an Oakland Police officer with a deadly weapon. The charges facing Bob carry a possible life sentence and stem from a brutal police attack on him on Feb. 6th. The frame-up of Bob Hood is but one example of the wave of police terror begun in the Bay Area after police agencies seized upon the activities of the SLA as an excuse for an all-out offensive against movement groups active there.

Despite the total lack of evidence against Bob, it's clear that the prosecution is determined to railroad him into prison. (Bob recently passed a lie detector test given to him by the former Oakland PD polygraph examiner!) Amid conflicting testimony from the arresting officers in the case during pre-trial hearings, the DA has repeatedly tried to drag in extraneous and fabricated testimony supposedly 'linking' Bob and VVAW/WSO with the SLA. The prosecution hopes to hide its nonexistent case against Bob by creating a slanderous climate of hysteria and fear with this smear tactic.

The situation is very serious indeed. Bob needs substantial public support to win his case! Letters of protest are urgently requested. They should be sent to: Lowell Jensen, Alameda County DA, 1225 Fallon, Oakland, CA. or Officer E. Wilson, Internal Affairs Div., Oakland PD, 455 7th St., Oakland, CA. For donations or information contact: VVAW/WSO, Legal Def. Comm., 4919 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA. Tel: (415) 658-7806.

S. KOREA: UNREST

GROWS

Suppression of resistance in South Korea is growing as President Pak Jung Hi implements the "emergency measures" he declared in April. Students are the special targets of these latest attacks.

Opposition to or slander of the Pak government is now punishable by death or life imprisonment; a five-year minimum sentence is mandatory.

The wider focus of the Pak regime repression seems to be against a growing alliance between the student movement and South Korean workers. The government enforces strict anti-union, anti-strike laws, and wages in many factories are at starvation levels: women workers at one Seoul factory, for instance, are paid \$1.50 per day, and a 10¢ per hour wage is common. One woman factory worker, who joined in the student protests, said: "It was while I was working in the factory last summer that I realized what injustice meant and came to see that I am involved, whatever I do. The conditions in this factory are miserable."

Student demands include an end to censorship, freedom of opposing political candidates, limitation on Japanese domination of the Korean economy, and curtailment of the South Korean CIA, the secret police force which has infiltrated almost every area of South Korean life. Because of a history of Japanese imperialism in Korea, the growing Japanese influence is even more hated than American influence.

As in the cases of the puppet governments in Cambodia and South Vietnam, the Pak government is kept in power largely through American aid. 42,000 American troops still occupy South Korea, even though the Korean War has been over for more than 20 years, and even though the military forces of the Peoples Republic of China--which fought at the side of the North Koreans during the war--withdrew from Korea in 1958. And the U. S. continues to pour in money to prop up the Pak regime; the U. S. government is presently in the third year of a five-year \$1.5 billion military modernization plan.

Despite U. S. and Japanese financial support, the economy of South Korea continues to crumble; massive injections of American surplus food now keep the people of the country alive while driving the rural population into the cities to work for starvation wages. Only large amounts of aid which went to the South Korean military to finance their troops in Vietnam give the cities of the country a superficial appearance of prosperity. And, of course, U. S. business interests make ample use of the opportunity to exploit the low-paid Korean workers.



New York Korean Support Demo

Many student demands cannot be openly advocated. To favor establishment of relations between the North and the South is punishable by death. Using the words "Yankee, Go Home" can be punished by a year in prison. Typically, the Pak regime labels all opposition as communist, inspired by North Korea, and as such a threat to "national security."

Meanwhile, the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK) continues to stress the five-point peace plan for the reunification of the country, and rejects the maneuvers of the Pak regime and the U. S. government to make the division of the country permanent. As the DPRK points out, reunification of a country--which has always been a single country--is the only way to ease tension and make peace possible. And the first step toward eventual reunification is the withdrawal of foreign troops and other foreign military aid.

In response to the arrests of the students and the accusations of "communist influence" in the student movement, the government of the DPRK put out a document listing more than 4000 cases of espionage, provocation and aggression committed by the U. S. and Pak governments during the first three months of 1974. The paper particularly noted U.S. arms build-up, introduction of nuclear weapons, expansion of bases, and increased maneuver activity in South Korea.

Student demonstrations already have toppled one U. S. - sponsored government in South Korea, the corrupt regime of Syngman Rhee in 1960. Pak, and his U. S. backers have reason to fear more student militance, particularly when allied with the country's workers. Despite increasingly harsh repression, the people of South Korea are determined to pursue their path toward freedom and independence, toward liberation from U. S. military and economic domination, and toward the eventual reunification of their country.

DISCHARGES & BENEFITS

VETS GET SHAFTED

The Tonkin Gulf, August 4, 1964. That is when our most recent involvement in Indochina 'legally' began. Since then, 6.7 million men and women have spent time in the military during what is known as the Vietnam Era; nearly 3 million of those in Indochina. And now that these men and women are back in civilian life, they are finding that the government does not have much more regard for them than it had for the people of Indochina. Inadequate education opportunities and medical benefits, bad discharges and no jobs are problems that face millions of Vietnam-era veterans today.

EDUCATION - The Veterans Administration (VA) gave single veterans of World War II \$75 a month in living allowances and paid up to \$500 in tuition and fees directly to the school or college. That covered all the costs at 89% of the private schools in the country at that time. Today's veteran receives a lump sum of \$220 a month with which to cover living expenses and tuition for nine months.

Tuition at Harvard in 1948, for example, was \$525 for an academic year, just \$25 over the GI Bill allowances. Today, the tuition at Harvard is \$3,200, which is \$1,220 over the current GI Bill allowances, not to mention the increased living expenses. There is even a problem at public colleges, where the average total cost is \$1,765. This

leaves the Vietnam-era vet with \$215 to feed and house him- or herself for nine months!

MEDICAL CARE - The VA runs the largest health care program in the country, with 170 hospitals and a medical budget of more than \$3 billion a year. While the VA does have a few model hospitals, they are generally understaffed and indifferent to the special needs of Vietnam-era veterans. A recent Ralph Nader report concluded that the VA was "utterly incapable" of delivering services to the Vietnam-era veteran because the VA is geared primarily to provide custodial care of chronically ill old men. (The Nader Report is available in the form of a book, The Discarded Army, Veterans After Vietnam, from: Charterhouse Books, 145 East 49th St., New York, NY 10017; \$3.95 paperback.)

The VA doesn't know how to respond to the problems of Vietnam-era vets, such as drug addiction or psychological problems, nor do they care. Psychological problems resulting from being in Vietnam (known as PVS) are not considered by the VA to be "service-connected disabilities" and therefore do not qualify the veteran for treatment. The care of veterans with drug problems is equally atrocious. The common treatment involves moving the vet from one drug to another. Many vets reject the cold and ineffective treatment of the VA, as indicated by the findings of the Nader group: "High dropout rates plague VA

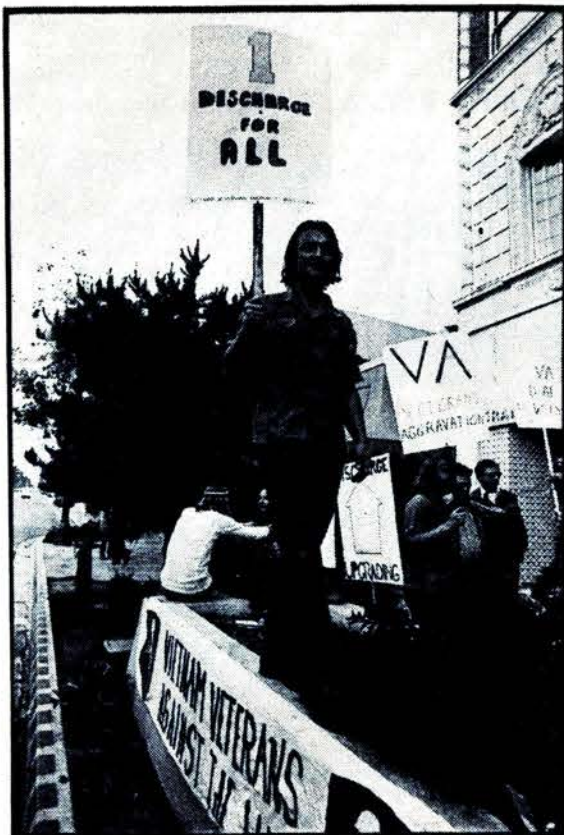
programs, though many clinics obscure the problem by retaining patients on their roles long after they have ceased making visits. On the average, VA drug programs seem to list about twice as many patients as they really have" (The Discarded Army). Vets with drug-related bad discharges, who would have the greatest need for treatment, are not even eligible, since they have a bad discharge.

NO JOBS - Vietnam veterans, especially non-white veterans, have a much higher unemployment rate than the general labor force. Very few vets returned with a "marketable skill"; even those that did, or were able to acquire a skill later, are still faced with the same meager employment situation that other workers are faced with. For those with a bad discharge or an unfavorable SPN number, the struggle is even greater.

BAD DISCHARGES - The military uses five classifications of discharge: Honorable, General, Undersirable, Bad Conduct and Dishonorable. The first three are all given administratively; there is no trial or hearing. The last two require a court martial (trial). The use of this multiple discharge system has compounded all of the other problems facing veterans, especially since the VA can use its own discretion in granting benefits. In most cases the VA will rule against granting benefits. There are no clear statutory guidelines, no definitions and no opportunity to appeal the VA ruling to the courts, thereby leaving the veteran at the mercy of the VA.

A bad discharge is a brand for life which only a small percentage of vets will ever be able to change on their own. The only solution is to eliminate the old multiple discharge system and establish a single-type discharge for all vets.

This disgraceful and discriminatory treatment of veterans is why we are going to Washington this summer. We hope you will join us in the fight for a single-type discharge and decent benefits for all vets.

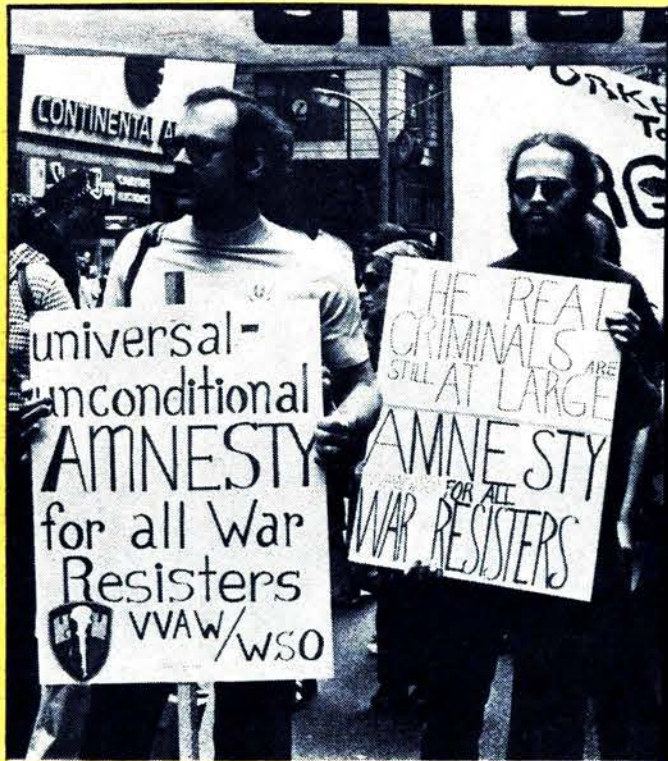


Santa Barbara VVAW/WSO March 29th Demo

SPN DISCHARGE CODES

The Defense Department announced on April 27th that veterans may obtain new discharge papers on request that will omit the controversial Separation Program Numbers (SPN) which indicate the reason for discharge. These numbers and classifications are given arbitrarily without the knowledge of the veteran and with no process of appealing the classification. Over 500 such codes are in use, and include such labels as "Shirking", "Apathy", "Criminalism", "Bed Wetting", "Character Disorder", "Marginal Producer" and "Unclean Habits". On July 1st, the Pentagon will begin using a new code bearing 126 classifications. The classifications will no longer appear on separation papers (DD 214), but WILL be used in the veteran's permanent files (201). Employers have always had access to these files, and so this classification system will continue to be used against the veteran looking for a decent job or a promotion. The only solution is to eliminate the SPN classification system COMPLETELY.

If you would like to know the meaning of your SPN number and would like to have it eliminated from your DD 214, write or call the VVAW/WSO National Office and we will give you the code and the address of your branch of service.



Chicago April 27th Demo

DEMONS

UNIVERSAL UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY

**IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENTS -
END ALL AID TO THIEU AND LON NOL**

SINGLE TYPE

JULY 1-4 IN W

ABOUT OUR DEMANDS

Universal and unconditional amnesty means that it applies to all people who resisted the war. We believe that U. S. involvement in Indochina was wrong from the beginning, and those who resisted the war were justified in their resistance. This includes draft resisters, military resisters, those in prison for acts of resistance, those who are living "underground," and veterans with less-than-honorable discharges. We believe that amnesty for these resisters should be unconditional--no alternative service. With 500,000 Vietnam-era veterans having less-than-honorable discharges, veterans represent the single largest category of people in need of amnesty--amnesty for resisting the war in Indochina and the repression within the military.

Implement the Peace Agreement--End All Aid to Thieu and Lon Nol: The peace agree-

ment signed in Paris in January of 1973, offers the most viable solution to the war. The U. S. government is not living up to its part of the agreement, nor is South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu, whom the U. S. government continues to send more than a billion dollars a year. The U.S. government also continues to give aid to the corrupt regime of Lon Nol in Cambodia.

A single-type discharge for all veterans is demanded because under the present system of multiple discharges a bad discharge means a lifelong mark; jobs are hard to get, chances of promotion are jeopardized, and the rightful benefits that the government owes the veteran are often denied.

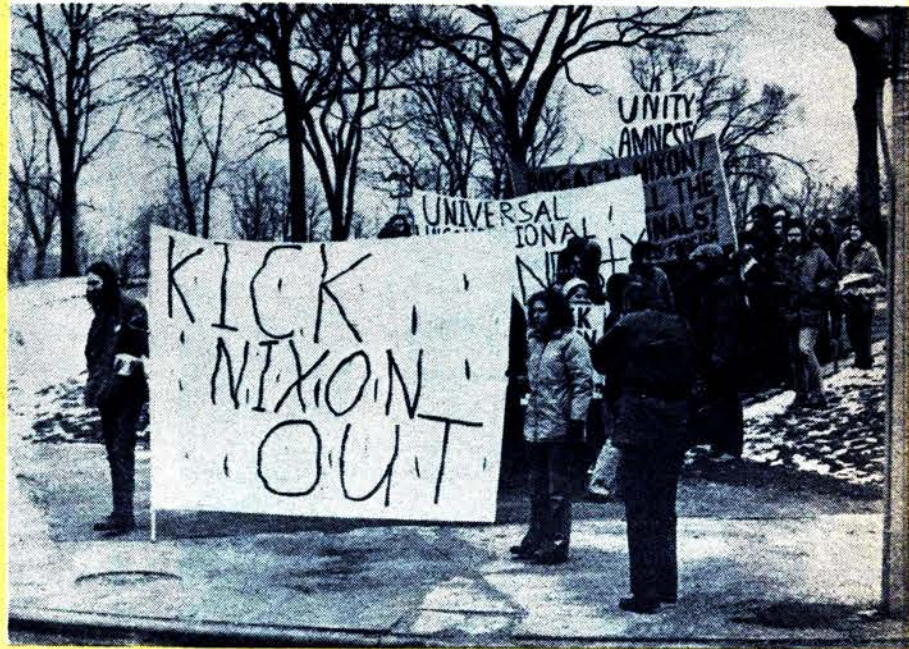
Decent Benefits for All Veterans: Those great "bennies" promised to servicepeople are few in number and mighty slow in coming. The Veterans Administration (VA),

which is supposed to provide benefits, is the third largest federal government agency. It does not see that medical care is needed and to administer it. It does not see that the GI Bill education benefits the VA is not providing. It does not see that the level of service to veterans is not that it should.

Kick Nixon Out! Nixon's exploitation and repression can people by the conditions that really repressing the remnants of the American dream, we, the American people, are clear that we no longer accept exploitation and that kicking Nixon out will be won't accept these



VVAW/WSO Counter-Inaugural Demo



Milwaukee VVAW/WSO March 29th Demo

STRATE

DECENT BENEFITS FOR ALL VETS

TYPE DISCHARGE FOR ALL VETS

KICK NIXON OUT

WASHINGTON D.C.

used to administer these ben-
eighth largest agency in the fed-
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ster monetary benefits like
education allowances. But the
viding anything close to the
ce to the Vietnam-era vet

ut!! Nixon represents all the
nd repression of the Ameri-
the profit-seeking corpora-
lly run this country. By de-
removal of Nixon from office,
ican people, will make it
no longer can tolerate this
nd that this first step of kick-
will clearly show that we
these policies any longer.

JULY 1-3: The first three days of the demo will consist of militant actions at separate targets. We will be at the Veterans Administration, the Justice Department, the White House, the Pentagon, the Congress, Court of Military Appeals, and other places. At each site, we will raise one of the demands, thus giving sharp focus to each. We have permits for our staging areas. On July 1st, we will assemble on the Mall in front of the Capitol building. People wishing to join in from the beginning should come there. After the 1st, people will be able to find us.

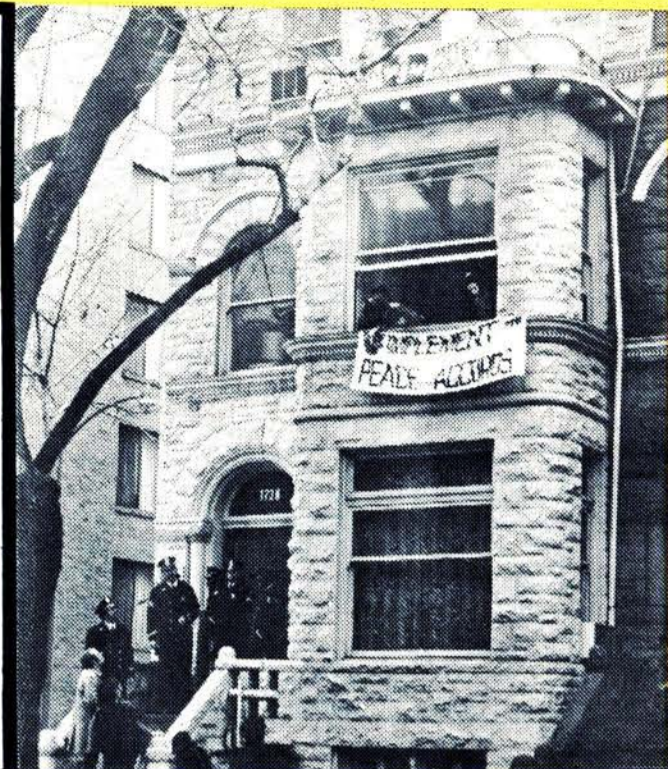
JULY 4: On the 4th, we are planning a big march and rally, around all five demands with entertainment and speakers. We will be forming up at the Lincoln Memorial and marching to the Elipse. People not wanting to camp with us on the first three days are welcome to join in this

mass march.

LEADERSHIP: The demo will be led by VVAW/WSO through its regional structure. People not belonging to the organization will be asked to join in with the contingent from their home region (i. e. California, etc) and follow the leadership of that region. People unwilling to do this are asked not to participate. Groups wanting to join will also have to fit in to the regional structure for the first three days. On July 4th, groups that wish to march under their own banners are welcome to do so.

Campsites and other facilities will be available.

For further information and details, contact the National Office or your regional office.



VVAW/WSO Occupation of Saigon Information Bureau



Chicago April 27th Demo



New York City VVAW/WSO March 29th Demo

U.S. IGNORES AGREEMENTS

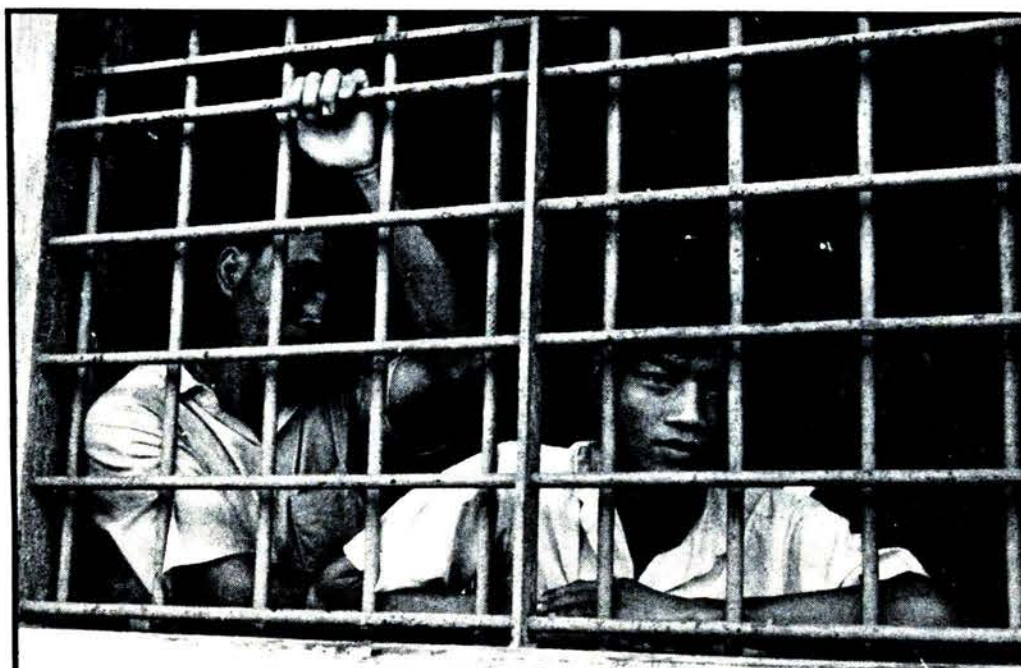
VIETNAM

Nguyen Van Thieu, President of the Republic of South Vietnam, has been using every method possible to prolong his position as a dictator. Despite the provisions of the Peace Agreement signed in January of 1973, the Saigon government continues to enforce laws prohibiting freedom of the press and freedom of speech; they continue to hold in prison over 200,000 political prisoners; and in January of this year, Thieu announced that the elections called for in the Paris Agreement would not be allowed to take place. This refusal to hold elections is exactly the same tactic used by President Diem in 1955 after the French were defeated.

Since the January cancellation of elections, Thieu has repeatedly tried to increase the tension in South Vietnam through military operations and public statements in an effort to extract more money from the U. S. Congress. This effort reached a high point on April 16th when the Saigon government refused to negotiate any further with the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) of South Vietnam. The U. S. Congress, however, reacting to mounting public pressure, recently refused Pentagon requests for a \$474 million increase in aid to Saigon. Two weeks later, the Pentagon announced the discovery of an "accounting error" which would have permitted them to send an additional \$266 million in military aid to Saigon. The Senate responded to this by voting 43 to 38 to prohibit any additional funds from being sent to Saigon for the remainder of this fiscal year ending on June 30, 1974, thereby holding the ceiling for 73-74 at \$1.26 billion in aid to Saigon.

Recent statements by Henry Kissinger indicate, however, that the Nixon Administration has no intention of following the Paris Agreement. In a recent letter to Senator Edward Kennedy, Kissinger stated, "We provide the Republic of Vietnam the means necessary for its self defense and for its economic viability," and that this would continue because the U. S. "derived a certain obligation from our long and deep involvement in Vietnam." This support is all in direct violation of the Paris Agreement; an agreement that Kissinger himself helped to negotiate! Whether Congress will follow Kissinger's advice and vote to continue aid to Saigon for fiscal year 1974-75 awaits to be seen.

In reaction to the dwindling support in Congress for continued funding and the bleak prospect that faces President Thieu, the Nixon Administration is working on another strategy to maintain the Saigon regime. Through the international lending institution, the World Bank (of which former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara is now President), the U. S. is making plans for shifting the burden of keeping the Saigon economy alive. In the report of the recent World Bank fact-finding mission to



Two of over 200,000 Political Prisoners Held by Thieu

Saigon, it was noted that inflation was running at better than 60% in 1973 and that the regime was forced to devalue the piaster nine times in the course of a year. The conclusions of the World Bank are that "net aid required in 1980 would still be on the order of \$770 million a year, or about \$100 million higher than seems probable for 1974." In accord with the Nixon Doctrine announced in Honolulu five years ago, the World Bank, in conjunction with the International Monetary Fund and the Japan-led Asian Development Bank, is now seeking to shift the cost of the war to other countries. Through this new strategy the U. S. Government is hoping to provide other nations with a stake in Thieu's survival.

THE LIBERATED AREAS

The liberated areas of the PRG offer a sharp contrast to the chaos of the Saigon-controlled areas. In the liberated areas, elections have been held on a regular basis with candidates made up of peasants, workers and professionals. Today some 1500 villages, 184 districts, 44 provinces and six towns and cities have held elections in PRG zones. According to a report in the Far Eastern Economic Review, "The PRG leadership was of the people, for the people. They had to be, for they were entirely dependent on the people for vital information, for protection, even for food. The policies they followed in an area once it was liberated reinforced their identification with the common people."

Once an area is liberated, the PRG makes every effort to set up

schools and health clinics and develop the agriculture. A delegation from Sweden visited the liberated areas in January of this year. They reported, "The delegation saw a well-organized administration functioning with popular support. There are no traces of famine to be seen. Children look healthy and full of vitality, the food distribution system seems efficient. They have established shops and markets and there is a large number of small traders, so that every village, even remote ones, is supplied. Along the road one can see many small traders selling fruits, vegetables, chickens, piglets, etc."

The other important aspects of the liberated areas are the roles of women and the roles of the armed forces. Women in these areas are provided all of the opportunities that men are provided. They work the land; are village chiefs, electrical engineers, mechanics, teachers and serve in the armed forces. The Peoples Liberation Armed Forces, when not engaged in combat, are busy helping with harvesting crops, building homes and schools, administering free medical care and training. They are all volunteers who receive no salary and no medals. Their only reward is ultimate victory.

The chaotic and undemocratic government of Nguyen Van Thieu is surviving only on the aid supplied by the U. S. Government. We demand that the Peace Agreement signed by the U. S. be implemented. Join us in Washington, DC, this coming July 1st - 4th to demand an end to all aid to Thieu and full implementation of the Paris Agreement.

BUCKLIN & JOHNSON CASES

AMNESTY CAMPAIGN



"Of course, if you were a general who had illegally bombed North Vietnam, falsified records and retired on a fat pension, I might feel differently."

Robert Johnson and Richard Bucklin are two war resisters whose cases have been singled out for special focus by the National Council for Universal and Unconditional Amnesty (NCUUA), a coalition of organizations working for amnesty for all war resisters. They are two of the hundreds of thousands of resisters for whom VVAW/WSO demands universal and unconditional amnesty. Their cases differ, their backgrounds differ, but both men resisted the U. S. military and the U. S. government in their attack on the people of Indochina.

Bob Johnson was a black community organizer in Grenada, Mississippi. His all-white draft board made a special request to draft him early because of his civil rights work. As a black man from a poor family, with no stake whatever in the Vietnam war, Johnson fought for and won status as a conscientious objector. He was drafted and began his alternative service washing pots and pans in a nearby hospital.

After 16 months of hospital work, Johnson was transferred for the third time; no provision was made for his accommodation at or transportation to his new post. In part because he comes from a large and poor family, Johnson did not go; later, he voluntarily surrendered to authorities.

Johnson had been fighting the racist Mississippi courts most of his life, and had won an injunction against systematic exclusion of blacks from local juries before being drafted. Now he was faced with that same racist legal system and, despite a strong defense, was convicted and sentenced to the maximum five years in prison. Although an appeal for reduction of sentence was begun, Johnson was sent to Eglin Air Force Base in Florida to begin his sentence.

But he had only been sent from the racist legal system to the racist military. At Eglin he was accused of "shouting obscenities at a white woman," and "fighting with another prisoner," both trumped-up charges. The Air Force concocted a quick military trial, found Johnson guilty, and took away all his good time (time served toward completion of his sentence). They also threatened to transfer him to the Federal Prison at Texarkana, once again taking him away from his wife and family. Johnson is now in the Pensacola County jail; the appeal for reduction of the original five-year sentence is still pending (before the same judge who passed sentence in the first place), and these newest charges will be used to show why the outrageous sentence should not be reduced.

Like the case of Bob Johnson, the resistance of Richard Bucklin is getting special attention from NCUUA. Although Bucklin was in the Army in Germany, he realized that being part of the U. S. military tool which the government was using in Vietnam was wrong, and went to Sweden. After 4 1/2 years--and after the U. S. had signed the Paris Agreements--he turned himself in. He refused the offer of the military to let him serve out the remainder of his term despite the promise of an honorable discharge, and went to trial. The judge prohibited the defense from mentioning the Vietnam war; Bucklin was found guilty and sentenced to 15 months at hard labor at the Ft Leavenworth Disciplinary Barracks, plus a Bad Conduct Discharge. An appeal is being planned.

Both men resisted the Vietnam war and the repressive military; both men are now in prison--prisons supposedly built to protect society from people who are a danger to society. Meanwhile, the people we need to be

protected from--the real criminals of the Vietnam war--sit comfortably in Washington, in the Pentagon, in the corporate board rooms, counting their profits and planning the next war.

Bucklin and Johnson are only two of the hundreds of thousands of reasons why VVAW/WSO will demonstrate in Washington, DC, on the 1st through the 4th of July. The military and civilian prisons of the country are crowded with people who resisted the war in Indochina; hundreds of thousands more are branded with less-than-honorable discharges and prison records. Support all those who resisted the war. Come to Washington.



"I WAS RIGHT IN DOING WHAT I DID."

So said Dick Bucklin upon return from 5 years in exile as an Army AWOL. Dick was sentenced to 15 months in the stockade for the "crime" of refusing to fight an illegal, immoral war. Upon release he will begin his life sentence with a Bad Conduct Discharge.

More recently his fellow exile in Sweden, Army AWOL Lewis Simon, was sentenced to 7 months in the Stockade plus a Bad Conduct Discharge.

In the U.S. there are more than half a million vets with Bad Discharges -- mostly for resisting the war and the racism and militarism of the Armed Forces. Black vets suffer disproportionately.

JOIN the campaign to amnesty Bucklin and Simon and all war resisters unconditionally. Follow the amnesty movement by subscribing to AMEX. Donations are badly needed! Do it today.

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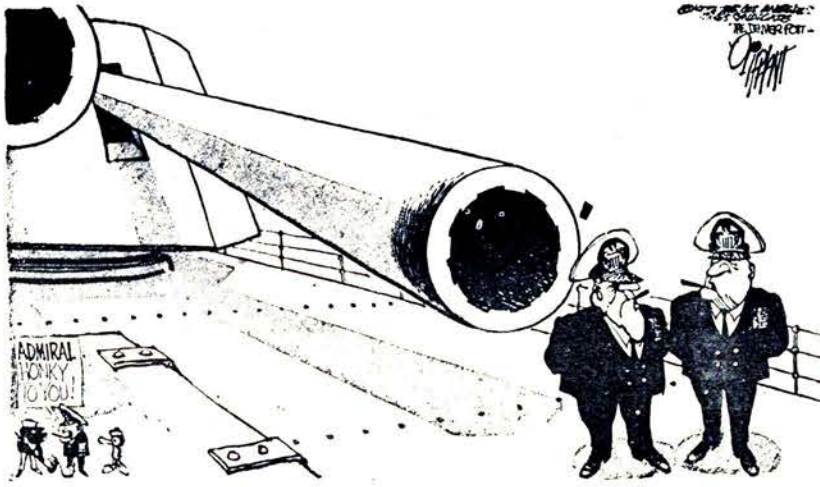
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G.I.S CONTINUE

PRE-TRIAL VICTORY!

LITTLE ROCK 11



"What racial problem?"

(Naples, Italy) In an unexpected break, defense attorneys for the LITTLE ROCK 11 won an important victory in court last month when the military judge ordered a hearing on illegal wiretapping of the civilian defense lawyers' offices in Heidelberg, Germany, by US Military Intelligence, and the bugging of the same groups offices in Washington, DC, by the FBI.

After examining documents which proved military bugging of the Lawyers Military Defense Committee, the judge had to grant a defense motion for a court hearing, allowing the defense to call the heads of Military Intelligence for examination as to their knowledge of wiretapping which might effect the LITTLE ROCK cases. Because of the ruling, defense lawyers are now in the process of attempting to discuss the subject of military bugging with the heads of Military Intelligence in Heidelberg, Berlin and Washington. If the military refuses to discuss it or to confirm or deny its existence, they may be ordered to do so by the judge; and if they still refuse, the charges against the LITTLE ROCK 11 may be dismissed.

This victory, perhaps the most important of the pre-trial motions, followed a month of frustrating legal battles. A missing tape of critical courtroom testimony, a defense exhibit impounded for "security reasons", a prejudiced judge who refused to disqualify himself, a racist captain who illegally convened the court martial, are only a few of the problems which have beset the defense in the pre-trial motion stage of the court martial.

For four months, the 50 black sailors stationed on the USS LITTLE ROCK flagship of the Sixth Fleet, protested and sought relief from the racist conditions

aboard the ship - racism which was unrelenting; intensified by the fact that less than 4% of the crew of 1300 men were black. Finally, on November 8, 1973, while the LITTLE ROCK was cruising the Mediterranean waters on maneuvers during the height of the Middle East war, fights broke out and tensions exploded when a white sailor bashed a black sailor over the head with a wrench. A few days earlier, a white marine from the ship had severely beaten a black sailor on the beach. Now, months after the incident, it is only the blacks who are facing the maximum punishment for the trouble aboard.

Though no one was seriously injured in the events, only the black sailors have been charged with riot and assault, and are facing Special Court Martial charges which could result in 6 months in prison and a Bad Conduct Discharge. The two white crewmen who precipitated the rebellion have already been rushed through their trials. One was acquitted and the other received a light punishment and is now back on duty on the same ship.

The court-martial of the 11 blacks have all been convened by the Commanding Officer of the ship, Captain Cullins, a clear violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which requires that a commander who is personally involved in an incident disqualify himself. And until recently, the jury members had been officers hand-picked by Captain Cullins exclusively from the ship - white officers who had witnessed and prejudged the participants of the events.

Seaman James Shempert, 19, of Chicago, Illinois, had this to say in a recent statement from Naples: "I, along with others, was charged with riot and assault. So they shipped us to Naples

for court martial. We have been here for almost six months, and from the time we've been here it has been nothing but trouble. The petty officers in charge of us are writing us up on jive tips. For awhile we were all going to Captain's Mast almost every week for something stupid. And whether we were right or not, the Captain would burn us. I had a clean record before I came here, but now I have two captain's masts and two courts martial. The captain always says, 'Those are my petty officers, and I stand behind them 100%.' So, we couldn't win.

"It is not bad enough that the white man is trying to burn us, but we have brothers telling on brothers, brothers getting over on brothers. It's bad to think that a black man fighting for his rights has to go through a lot - being in this (expletive deleted) outfit where you are not wanted, fighting a losing battle with the white man, and having to watch out for the colored boys that are trying to defeat you right along with the white man."

Seaman Eulie Jessie, 24, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, said in his statement: "I would like to let everyone know how unfair and prejudiced this Special Court Martial is. There is lying and deceit on the part of the government, convening authority and the prosecution. This Special Court Martial is just a mockery of justice. I am a Black American. I am proud to be an American. This is why I joined the Navy. I wanted to serve my country. But, this court martial has turned me against the Navy and the government. They have destroyed evidence such as tapes and messages that were to be used in our behalf. The Captain of the USS LITTLE ROCK has been, and still is, lying about the incident that happened on board on November 8, 1973."

Seaman Martin P. Williams, 23, from New Orleans summed up the feelings of the LITTLE ROCK brothers in his statement: "It is my belief that the military judge, like all other high ranking officers fear the future eroding of their authority if this case were seen for what it really is - just a group of blacks who dared to speak up on an admiral's ship and get away with it.

"I'm now here in Naples awaiting trial. Given what's been happening, it will be an unfair trial, judged by a one-sided organization. Is this to be called an act of democracy?"

To keep up on the trial in the next few months, read VVAW/WSO GI NEWS, or write to: Lawyers Military Defense Committee, c/o Captain Ed Welch, Naval Law Center, Box 8, FPO New York, NY 09521

TO STRUGGLE!

BRASS IGNORES FACTS

HAWAIIAN G.I.S ON TRIAL

"All these people look like savages. The only reason they have that white lawyer is because they can't speak English."

A Scholfield Army Officer
at the Grance-Kealoha
hearings - April, 1974

The trial of Peter Kealoha and Danny Grance has been rescheduled to begin on May 29th. Peter Kealoha and Danny Grance are two Hawaiian GIs charged with AWOL and disrespect to an officer and sergeant. Additionally, Grance faces charges of assault and Kealoha is charged with making a threat all arising from an incident last December 11th when both men were restricted to their barracks and had consumed a considerable amount of beer. A disturbance broke out, and the commanding officer decided to throw Grance and Kealoha in jail pending further investigation. Faced with going to jail, intoxicated and being yelled at and insulted by a racist sergeant who was more intoxicated than they, both men expressed all of the resentment and anger they felt as local people toward the Army. Kealoha now faces a sentence of 5 years, and Grance could receive a sentence of up to 15 years.

Peter Kealoha is 19 years old. He was born and raised in the Waianae-Makaha area and is of Hawaiian descent. He served well and honorably in the Army for 17 months until a combination of unkept promises, failure to be promoted, racist treatment and harassment and racial tension at his assigned base in Germany led him to remain in Hawaii after leave time and later turn himself in as an AWOL so he could remain at home in Hawaii.

Danny Grance, 20 years old, born and raised in Aiea, is also of Hawaiian descent. He enlisted in the Army because of what he calls "the volunteer draft; what else can you do; there are no jobs." Danny maintained an excellent record including two letters of commendation for 16 months until racist treatment and a series of unfair incidents caused Danny, like Pete, to decide to go AWOL and come home to Hawaii.

It was because these two experienced similar treatment at bases thousands of miles apart (Pete in Germany and Danny in Colorado) that they each decided to go AWOL and return to Hawaii. They were each assigned to a "reassignment platoon" at Scholfield Barracks where they then met and were together on the night of the incident.

Defense Counsel Eric Sietz has argued that the facts disclose nothing more than a drunk and disorderly incident in the barracks which was blown all out of proportion by the officers involved. Sietz called attention to testimony of the Military Police that they could have resolved the situation easily without the interference of the officer and sergeant who later claimed to have been assaulted, and who was also intoxicated at the time. "It is simply outrageous," Sietz stated, "that a minor incident of this nature can be handled with such insensitivity to the racial implications, and that the Army could even think of sending people to prison on the facts presented here, which every neutral observer has concluded cannot constitute serious criminal conduct by any standard. Many people in the community are upset and angry about the Army's handling of this case, involving two local guys, and their anger is justified."

General Gatsis, Commander of the US Support Command, Hawaii, evidently is not too concerned about the feelings of the community OR of Peter and Danny. General Gatsis has totally ignored the recommendations of two investigations of the incident. Both investigations recommended a Special Court Martial in which the maximum sentence is six months. The General, however, is determined to see that Grance and Kealoha get the civilian equivalent of a felony conviction through a General Court Martial.

The Grance-Kealoha case has again aroused the long-felt anger over the persistent abuse and exploitation of the US Military. From the original overthrow of the Royal Hawaiian government by US Marines to the present day, the US Military has had a heavy hand on Hawaii. With 110 separate installations in Hawaii, the US Military controls 6.9% of the land of Hawaii, including 25% of the island of Oahu and the entire island of Kahoolawe which is used for bombing practice. Hawaii was also the command center for the electronic warfare used in Indochina.

For more information about the case and the background of the US Military in Hawaii, contact:
GRANCE-KEALOHA DEFENSE COMMITTEE, 525 North Kalaheo Ave., Kailua, Hawaii 96734 (808) 261-4855.

FREE GRANCE AND KEALOHA!

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GI NEWS

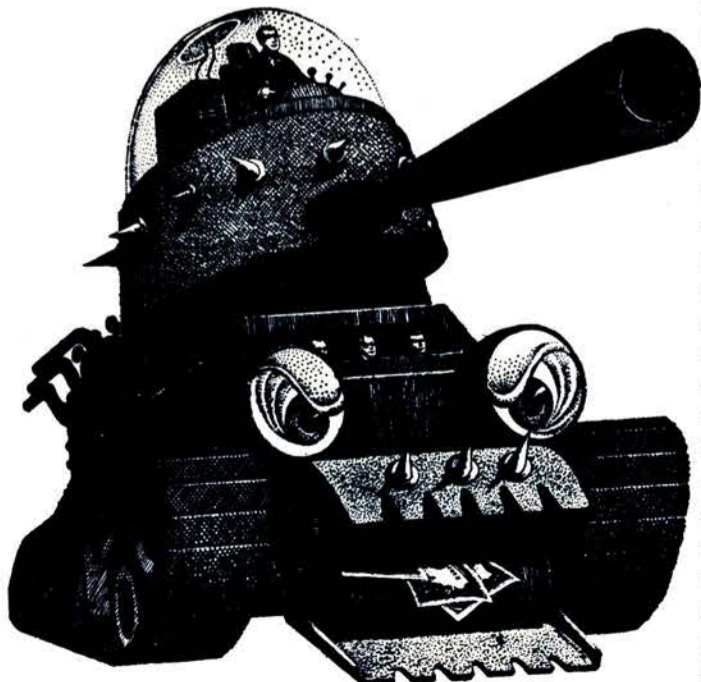


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UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY



Regional Contacts

WHAT IS VVAW-WSO

Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization is a mass, anti-imperialist organization based on the accomplishment of its objectives. Founded by anti-war Vietnam vets in 1967, the organization has learned, through our history, that the war in Indochina was a conscious design of the U. S. government to maintain the exploitation of the Indochinese people, and that the way in which to stop the continuing war in Indochina as well as future wars is to defeat U. S. imperialism. To do this, we invite all people who agree with the objectives and will struggle for their accomplishment to join with us.

HISTORY OF VVAW/WSO

Operation RAW (Rapid American Withdrawal), the first VVAW national action, was a forced march from Trenton, N. J., to Valley Forge in the fall of 1970. To show Americans what their military was doing in Vietnam, vets conducted mock search and destroy missions, interrogations of prisoners, and other maneuvers well learned in Vietnam. During Operation RAW the objectives of VVAW were formulated.

In January, 1971, spurred on by the publicity around the trial of William Calley, VVAW conducted the Winter Soldier Investigation into American War Crimes (WSI) in Detroit. Over 150 Vietnam veterans testified to their personal involvement in war crimes. The message to the American people was loud and pointed: My Lai was not simply a mistake by an American military unit; in fact, My Lai's were taking place daily, though usually on a smaller scale. The U. S. policy of racism and genocide was the cause, not one confused U. S. platoon leader. Several Congressional inquiries, a book, and three documentary films came out of the WSI.

With the spring of 1971 came Dewey Canyon III, a limited incursion into Washington, DC. Dewey Canyon I and II had taken place in Southeast Asia, without the consent or the knowledge of the American people; Dewey Canyon III was public and visible. A week of lobbying, testimony in Congressional hearings, guerrilla theater and demonstrations, was climaxed when 1100 veterans threw the medals they had been awarded in Vietnam back at the government.

Both the Republican and Democratic conventions in Miami Beach in the summer of 1972 saw actions by VVAW, despite a concentrated attack by the government on the organization through the Gainesville conspiracy trial. Actions in Miami Beach were large, militant, and legal; completely contradicting government charges that we were plotting violence. The subsequent trial, which drew nationwide popular support, acquitted the Gainesville 8 and exposed the government's tactics of lies and infiltration.

On Inauguration Day, 1973, VVAW was again in Washington; 5000 people marched to demand that the 9 Point Peace Treaty be signed and that U. S. involvement in Indochina come to an end.

The signing of the treaty by the U. S. government did not fool us; we understood that the war continued with economic and military aid replacing American combat troops. To bring the issue to the people once again, we sponsored a week of Solidarity with the Indochinese People in October, 1973; in keeping with increased emphasis on community issues, actions took place across the country wherever VVAW/WSO members worked and lived.

As we identified the enemy as U. S. imperialism, we also opened our membership to all people who supported the objectives of the organization. To signal this change, we added "Winter Soldier Organization" to our name, to become the present VVAW/WSO.

HOW DOES VVAW/WSO OPERATE?

VVAW/WSO works through a national, regional, and local structure to allow individual members of the organization to decide matters of policy and direction. Individual members belong to a local chapter and select local leadership (a coordinator, steering committee, or collective). Local chapters are represented in regional steering committee meetings (held at least three times a year) which in turn select a regional coordinator or collective. Regions send representatives to National Steering Committee meetings, held three times a year, where policy decisions for the organization are made; these decisions must be passed by the general membership.

Members of the National Collective are also selected at National Steering Committee meetings. This collective operates the VVAW/WSO National Office, and serves as the functional head of the organization.

WHAT IS VVAW/WSO DOING TODAY?

National projects and programs of the organization are chosen by the membership as a means of accomplishing our objectives. We recognize our obligation to educate people around the continuing war in Indochina and to agitate for an end to U. S. involvement. A program for universal and unconditional amnesty for all war resisters is carried forward by all chapters; many chapters operate discharge upgrade counselling centers for vets with less-than-honorable discharges. In keeping with our veteran and GI origins, VVAW/WSO does military counselling and in-service organizing; veterans' problems are dealt with in PVS(Post-Vietnam Syndrome) rap groups and demands on the Veterans Administration--supported by militant actions around the VA.

The VVAW/WSO National Prison Project works with prisoners in federal, state, and local prisons around the country; in support of members in the federal prison in Leavenworth, Kansas, the Leavenworth Brothers Offense/Defense Committee was formed. Nationally, the organization supports the struggle of Gary Lawton and Zurebu Gardner in their fight against political repression through the Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee. Many local chapters work with political prisoners and political trials taking place in their communities.

Another national project is the building and staffing of a medical clinic in the black, rural community of Bogue Chitto, Alabama--Operation County Fair.

Individual chapters and regions work with and support workers' struggles in their communities or areas. Chapters also sell the Winter Soldier paper which serves to educate and to support struggles for liberation of oppressed people here at home and around the world.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

The only membership requirement is to read, support, and be willing to work toward the accomplishment of, the objectives of the organization. To join, contact the national office or your regional office as listed in the paper.



Vietnam Veterans Against the War

Winter Soldier Organization

Objectives



1. To demand an immediate cessation of fighting and the withdrawal of all American troops, planes, and military and economic aid from Southeast Asia. We cannot allow one more human being to be killed in Southeast Asia. We support as a basis for the cessation of these hostilities the various peace proposals of the People of Southeast Asia or such future plans as they develop based upon their right of self-determination and actual control of their own destinies.

2. To demand the immediate termination of all other operations by the United States Government, its agencies, and American business interests that are designed to suppress the rightful struggles for liberation and self-determination of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America. This includes the maintenance of dictatorial governments, economic domination, and the theft of the natural resources of other countries. The United States should make reparations in a program acceptable to the Indochinese for all of the damage done by the United States.

3. To demand that all active-duty servicemen and women, reservists and national guardsmen be afforded the same rights that are guaranteed by the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights that are presently denied by the Uniform Code of Military Justice. We are appalled that our active-duty GIs are treated as less than first class citizens. We endorse the efforts of our active-duty sisters and brothers in their struggle to democratize the military.

4. To support all military personnel refusing to serve against their consciences in wars at home and abroad. We demand that Congress enact legislation for the immediate repatriation of those brothers and sisters who are in prison or in self-exile by reason of their refusal to serve in the military. It must also involve an end to all repression and a freeing of all political prisoners.

5. To demand there be no distinctions as to types of discharges and that a single type of discharge be issued, and that this be retroactive. We also demand all veterans receive all rights and benefits under the VA; and that compensation for disabilities be based solely upon the degree of disability for veterans and their families, without regard to sex, race, rank or length of service.

6. To make clear that the United States has never undertaken an extensive, open investigation of American war crimes in Indochina. In its war in Indochina, the principles of Nuremberg have been violated. As active-duty and former GIs, we recognize the responsibility and guilt of the individual soldier to refrain from committing war crimes. We also recognize that the

responsibility and guilt of war crimes committed in the name of America lies with our policy makers at all levels.

7. Resolved to fight racism, to show Americans that our society is permeated by racism, which manipulates whites into viewing non-whites as inferior or less than human. This racism pushes Third World People through inferior schools to inferior jobs and into combat arms. Thus Third World People are sent off to die in disproportionately high numbers as we kill Asians indiscriminately. We also demand the US military recognize its complicity in America's domestic and international racism.

8. Resolved to fight sexism, to show that sexism plays a major part in promoting war. We must show Americans our society is permeated by sexism, which forces an inferior status upon women, reducing them to subservient sexual objects, and which robs both men and women of their natural growth. This institutionalized sexism channels women into unfulfilling, lower paying jobs which are servile in nature and purpose; it exploits their bodies for sex and profit; and it degrades and dehumanizes them by a double standard of morality wholly dependent on the myth of male supremacy. This sexism is exploited by the military, officially defining servicewomen as subordinate and thoroughly subjugating them to servile work and the role of a sexual object. We resolve to fight sexism within our society, within our own organization and within ourselves.

9. To support the democratic right of Americans to unionize and strike to protect their income and safeguard their employment. We consider all legislation designed to suppress these rights, including mandatory arbitration, to be illegal and not in the interests of the American working people. We also demand full employment for all Americans, including free educational and vocational training for all who need or want it. We refuse to participate in the efforts being made to separate us from other working people, making veterans enemies by giving us the charade of employment priority. We condemn this as a method of encouraging enlistment by the false promise of employment after service. We also condemn the use of active-duty GIs, reservists and national guardsmen as strikebreakers.

10. To dedicate ourselves to these principles and objectives which directly relate to the imperialist suppression of the People of the World by the United States government. We understand this war is imperialist in origin and affirm that the membership of VVAW/WSO is not only concerned with ending this war, but with changing the domestic, social, political and economic institutions that have caused and perpetuated its continuance.

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DEMONSTRATE!

- ★ UNIVERSAL UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY
- ★ IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENTS -
END ALL AID TO THIEU & LON NOL
- ★ SINGLE TYPE DISCHARGE FOR ALL VETS
- ★ DECENT BENEFITS FOR ALL VETS
- ★ KICK NIXON OUT



COME TO
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JULY 1-4

