

**Report on February 19th 1973 antiwar conference held in Brussels**

**Present: reps from France, Sweden, Holland, Spain, Belgium, Denmark,  
U.S.A. (Dan, Wendy)**

The meeting was poorly organized with far fewer attending than last time. Sterne gave a long report on his meetings with the PRG and an analysis based on these of the present situation in Vietnam. I gave an explanation of what our view is on the general situation, and went into our plans to help maintain the antiwar movement in the U.S. Basically the meeting was a debate between Sterne and us, covering everything from the meaning of the accords, how to evaluate the Vietnamese leadership, to what is stalinism, what happened in China etc. The other comrades present just listened for the most part. In general they were not favorable to our analysis of the meaning of the accords. They do not want to believe that anything but victory for the revolution is possible in Vietnam in the next period, and are especially upset at criticisms of the Vietnamese leadership.

**Actions:** Sterne proposed that a meeting of representatives of antiwar organizations throughout Europe be held in Paris, March 3. The FSI will propose that a Europe-wide teach-in, rally be held sometime in the Spring. There was general agreement that we would try to help organize various antiwar actions in the various countries as opportunities arose.

At the last conference the French agreed to take responsibility for coordinating antiwar work internationally- getting out reports on the work in different countries, etc. Nothing happened on this and the Swedish have volunteered to take this over. This was approved.

**Synopsis of Sterne's report:**

He began by saying that it has become even clearer since the time of the IEC that the accords are a victory for the Vietnamese, although not the final victory. The PRG, he said, stressed that the struggle will not be a long one and the antiwar movement should be prepared for this. They said that there were three possibilities for how the struggle could unfold:

- 1- The accords would be lived up to by the US. and Thieu. This is unlikely.

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- 2- The revolutionary forces would expand their control over more and more territory (the leopard spot strategy.) This too was unlikely.
- 3- The development of a long range struggle to erode away Thieu's base by propagandizing for national reconciliation. This is the key to the next period.

The PRG indicated that they are very weak in the cities and that they see a long range battle to gain influence as the next step, along the following lines:

- 1- Avoid confrontation with the U.S. while it withdraws troops, to offer no pretext for renewed bombing.
- 2- Consolidate the liberated areas in the countryside. This will take time because of the severe damage caused by U.S. bombing. This must be done before the peasants from the cities can return.
- 3- Systematic disintegration of the Thieu base by heavily propagandizing for national reconciliation--convincing people that Thieu is unwilling to have reconciliation and thus winning people from him.

Sterne said that because the Vietnamese view the last point as key they would be making all kinds of ~~XXXXXX~~ "bad" statements that would be difficult for activists to understand. For example they would be talking about the two stage theory. He then went on to explain that we have to understand that in spite of this the Vietnamese leadership really sees the national reconciliation line as a cover under which to continue the struggle until the end- a clever ~~XXXXXXXX~~ maneuver.

The PRG stressed that they would like the antiwar movement to emphasize the political prisoners issue, linking this question to a call to the U.S. and Thieu to implement the accords.

Sterne said that the Vietnamese had several times said to them that they were concerned about NPAC and articles they have read in the Militant. They said they thought that the Militant articles contained an implicit criticism of them as betrayers of the revolution. (This was before the article we ran on the secret deal on Laos) They said that it was true that the Soviet Union and China had been "inconsistent" in their military aid but that it should be pointed out that what aid they did send was

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helpful. They were concerned that NPAC does not raise the demand "implement the accords." They wondered whether NPAC would continue to carry out antiwar activity.

The Swedish had called for international activities around the opening of the International conference on Vietnam, to protest it. Sterne made clear that the French had decided not to pick up on this because the Vietnamese did not like the idea. He said that he had no position on the conference- was not for or against it. The Swedish comrade was upset by this. When we called him on it ~~xxxxxxx~~ Sterne began to backtrack and say that perhaps they would mention it in some way, at least through the League.

Wendy

VN MTG

France - Sterne  
Sweden - Gustavson ①  
Denmark - Eric  
Spain - Talio

Holland - Herman  
Belgium - Jan Van Kerckhoven  
U.S. - Wendy  
Dan

Sterne.

Clearly more than before - settlement was a victory

Vietnamese said there were 3 possibilities

- abide by accords
- disintegration of RV
- - very long-range struggle

- to avoid confrontation w/US while troops leaving
- consolidation of PRG areas

Sterne - VN will say worse things - we  
can expect this -  
then he covers up for it - It's all a  
very clever maneuver

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Sterne - concerned about militant coverage  
thinking we think they betray  
will NPAC de-mobilize?

(2)

Specific Actions:

- around political prisoners

→ ( - March 3 - mtg of reps. of  
mass orgs. of Europe  
propose to organize { 6 hours - teach - in  
in PARIS

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decided to cancel demo scheduled  
against the great power conference  
in Paris

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2/20/73

— Dan, Wendy

could not find out who was there

Gustafson - said he didn't attend  
Stem said no Americans were at  
the meeting -  
(was in Ghent)

7/10 mtg - —

Stene  
Gustafson  
Eric - Ben

Spain — Julio  
Holland  
Belgium

[ not sure of what line came  
out of London mtg. — could  
not tell

Discussion - accords a ~~setback~~?  
char of leadership?

could not tell whether a-w  
people were at tendency mtg

protests at int'l great  
power conf -

French opposed because  
Viets are against

~~Wames~~ keep ~~the~~ talking to  
French ide.

are SWP/MList thinking  
they are betraying?  
was a-w-m being destabilizing

Stockholm

mtg // Wendy: VN

Rome - this weekend  
maybe

I

~~Stene~~  
hold mtgs -

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

Holland - Dan couldn't get in touch  
with anyone

March 27<sup>th</sup> - going

Stay longer?  
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Will call after Vienna -  
1wk