

VIETNAM

SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN



BULLETIN 9 NOV-DEC 67

All correspondence concerning the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign, including contributions for the Bulletin should be sent to:

David Robinson, V.S.C., 49, Rivington St., London, E.C.2. Tel. 739-6951.

CONTENTS

Page one	The Future of the V.S.C.
Page two	Future Activities.
Page four	October 22 Demonstration.
Page six	Statement by Bertrand Russell.
Page seven	Book List.
Page eight	H.L.F. Anniversary Concert.

THE FUTURE OF THE V.S.C.

It is now clear, following the success of the October 22 demonstration, that the Vietnam protest movement has tired of the meaningless bleats for negotiations and has grasped the reality behind the struggle of the Vietnamese people. That there can be no lasting peace without victory. In the three weeks since the demonstration we have had a flood of enquiries about our plans for the future. These are outlined on the following pages. However, in order to carry out these plans we must have an independent office and a regular income. In the past the V.S.C. has been fortunate in having office space provided and the wages of one full-time worker paid for by the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation. The foundation is no longer able to do this.

A financial appeal has already been launched in the last few weeks with sufficient response to pay for the publication of this Bulletin and to organise the concert on December 22. Even if this concert is the success we expect it to be, this will only bring us in a lump sum to tide us over the immediate future. To ensure that we can carry out our planned activity it is essential that we have a regular source of income. Enclosed with this Bulletin you will find a bankers' order form. If one hundred serious supporters of the campaign agree to pay us £1 a month in this way then our continuance will be guaranteed. If you cannot afford £1 a month then please make out the form for as much as you can. All donations over 10/- will be considered as a year's subscription to V.S.C.

All those who joined the campaign more than a year ago and who have not yet resubscribed will be removed from our mailing lists after the publication of this issue of the Bulletin. Membership costs 10/- per year and this barely covers the cost of the monthly magazine. Regular readers will notice that this issue is rather slimmer than has been normal - if donations come in as expected then our next issue will be back to the usual size.

We now desperately need helpers for typing, duplicating and general office work. Also, if anyone can help us in our search for an office please contact us at the above address.

Local V.S.C. Branches.

In the last few weeks a branch of the campaign has been established in Newcastle. Supporters in the area should contact Sandra Peers, 106 Holly Ave., Newcastle, 2. The branch is in close contact with Newcastle University and V.S.C. literature is being sold on the Socialist Society bookstall.

A network of active local branches will be the most effective way of building a firm base for the campaign. We will do all we can to help with the establishment of branches by supplying speakers, films, literature etc. The fee for affiliation of an existing organisation is £1 per year. Local branches of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign must have at least six members who have paid their 10/- subscription. Eight shillings of this is sent to the central office to cover the cost of producing the Bulletin and 2/- retained by the local branch.

Our Vietnam photographic exhibition is now available in the London area and this is a very effective way of gathering sufficient support to form a local group. We are now unable to send it outside the London area without a guarantee of the payment of expenses.

As well as speakers on Vietnam we have a list of people who are willing to speak to V.S.C. branches on developments in Latin America. This list includes members of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation team which was present at the trial of Regis Debray in Bolivia as well as comrades who have recently visited Cuba.

Future Demonstrations.

We are in very close contact with the American protest movement and are planning for our next major demonstration early next year. Full details will be released at our concert on December 22. We hope that this will be linked with demonstrations in many other countries in the same way as those on October 21/22.

In the immediate future we are urging all supporters in areas visited by either Harold Wilson or George Brown to organise relatively small but very militant demonstrations similar to the recent one in Cambridge. We are also cooperating with the American Stop-It Committee and a group of Australians and New Zealanders for similar action when prominent members of their governments visit Britain.

Sheffield Vietnam Action Group.

Following the success of our demonstration in Grosvenor Square the Sheffield Vietnam Action Committee has adopted a solidarity position, extracts from their aims and objectives are printed below.

"The Sheffield Vietnam Action Group affirms its solidarity with and support for the struggle of the people of Vietnam against the policies of the U.S.A. and its allies in Vietnam We support fully the policies of the Government of the D.R.V. and the South Vietnamese N.L.F. in their struggle to repulse the foreign aggressors."

V.S.C. members in the area should contact Peter Smith, 14 St Andrew Rd. DELPCAR.

V.S.C. ACTIVITIES.

Trade Union Activity.

Due to the extreme pressure of our fund-raising work the V.S.C. Trade Union Conference has been postponed until the new year. An unemployment lobby of Parliament has been organised by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions on December 12, from 2pm to 7pm. We will be holding a meeting on Vietnam and the Wage Freeze at Central Hall that evening and will be distributing a special leaflet among demonstrators. The names of those attending this meeting will be used as a contact list for our conference next year.

Fund Raising.

Details of our concert to celebrate the 7th anniversary of the N.L.F. are on the back page of the Bulletin. We are also producing a poster of Che Guevara which will sell for 5/- and should be ready by mid December. It is most important that local branches should hold their own fund-raising activity - concerts, film shows, book sales etc. and if at all possible should help to pay for the work done by the central office. On page seven there is a list of the books, films and other material available from V.S.C. We want all local groups and affiliated organisations to make full use of this material but all this must be on a firm financial basis.

British Complicity.

Recent Parliamentary reports have exposed a little of the British involvement in the Vietnam war. Last week The Times gave details of the training of American and South Vietnamese troops at the British Jungle Warfare School in Malaysia. Mr. Healey stated that the cost to British taxpayers for training the South Vietnamese troops was £132,364. The following Friday Mr. Winnick asked the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy personnel had been directly involved in the Vietnam war.

In a rather involved reply Mr. Healey said that visits to South Vietnam by Service officers to gain information have numbered 19, involving 42 officers in all, in the last two years. In addition some 30 British Service personnel who have been on loan or exchange with Australian or New Zealand forces have been to South Vietnam for short visits, mainly in ships. One Royal Naval officer took part in bottom searches of merchant ships in Vietnam waters.

The Vietnam Solidarity Campaign has set up a team of students to do research work into British complicity - both government and commercial. Their report will be published as a printed pamphlet before our Trade Union conference. A number of our local branches are investigating the manufacture of material for use in Vietnam in factories in their own areas. Anyone who can help with this work should contact David Slaney, c/o 49 Rivington St.



TRAFALGAR SQUARE - OCTOBER 22nd. OBI EGBUNA & TARIQ ALI



Grosvenor Square - V.S.C. delegation deliver protest letter to Embassy.

Oct. 21 Mobilization

NEW YORK, Oct. 24 — From the brief reports in the daily press and several firsthand accounts that have been received here, it is already evident that the international demonstrations supporting the October 21 mobilization in Washington were highly successful. Antiwar movements in at least 21 nations were known to be preparing parallel protests.

The key theme in these demonstrations was "Get the U.S. Out of Vietnam." In addition, the protesters objected to their own governments' complicity with Washington where this has been significant — notably in Canada, Britain and Japan. A number of the international demonstrations cul-

minated in vicious police attacks on the marchers.

In London, Oct. 22, the *New York Times* reports that 3,000 demonstrators attempted to storm the American Embassy. They were met by 250 police including mounted policemen and a number of injuries occurred. It was the biggest protest at the Embassy since the beginning of the war.

The largest of the international demonstrations took place in Japan, climaxing weeks of militant antiwar activities. Hundreds of thousands of unionists and antiwar demonstrators held rallies in the major cities under the sponsorship of Sohyo, the General Council of Trade Unions.

In West Berlin, demonstrators staged the biggest antiwar march in postwar German history. A small group of young Americans led the march down the main Berlin street, bearing a 50-foot-long banner demanding the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam.

The *New York Times* reported that "serious riots broke out [in Copenhagen] during the antiwar demonstrations. The police said that more than 15,000 persons went to the American Embassy, where events got so out of hand that 160 policemen used their truncheons against the demonstrators."

According to the *New York Times*, there were also demonstrations in Amsterdam and Stockholm on both Oct. 21 and Oct. 22. In Stockholm the protesters included among their slogans "Support Black Power."

The largest single European demonstration was held in Paris, where police admitted that at least 35,000 joined in a giant march that ended up with speeches in the Place de la Bastille. Other demonstrations were held in many other French cities.

Canada

In Canada, the central demonstration was in Toronto, but there were also demonstrations in Ottawa, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Montreal and Vancouver (see separate story). The Toronto demonstration was supported by the 20,000-member Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers, among other trade unions. A bus was sent to the rally in Washington in addition.

Word has not yet been received on protests scheduled for Scotland, Norway, Belgium, Hungary, Finland, India, Brazil and Chile.

In Belgium, sympathy demonstrations had been announced in five cities for the period Oct. 20-25 sponsored by the Vietnam Coordinating Committee. A march on the American Consulate-General was scheduled for Bombay, Oct. 19.

According to the Oct. 20 *Congressional Record*, a nationwide Vietnam week had been planned in Brazil by the National Student Union, to culminate in a mock trial of President Johnson on Oct. 19; and Uruguayan, Colombian and Panamanian delegations plan to take part in a "continental youth solidarity meeting on Vietnam" in Santiago, Chile.

4,000 Marched In Vancouver

By Phil Courneyeur

VANCOUVER, Oct. 21 — Four thousand determined opponents of the Vietnam war took to the streets in pouring rain in support of the International Day of Protest against the war in Vietnam. The huge crowd rallied at the City Hall prepared for a two-mile march to the city Court House.

News of the tremendous Washington, D.C., demonstration cut right through the bleak atmosphere of rain and overcast and got the march off to a spirited beginning.

The strong turnout showed deep opposition to the war in the area. Impressive support for the rally came from over 40 organizations, including the British Columbia Federation of Labour and the Vancouver Labour Council. The march was chaired by Jack Moore, Regional 1 President of the International Woodworkers of America, and several unions carried official banners into the parade.

University support was indicated earlier in the week by a rally of 2,000 students on the University of British Columbia campus and extensive coverage in the student newspaper, *The Ubysses*. Most impressive was the tremendous turnout of high school students responding to a blanket leafleting of every high school in the Greater Vancouver area.

The Court House rally was ad-

dressed by Harry Rankin, a city alderman, and Professor James Steele of Ottawa's Carleton University. Steele denounced the Canadian government, particularly for its continued arms shipments and diplomatic support of the war. He denounced U.S. policy in Vietnam as racist and called on the U.S. to "put an end to its aggression in Vietnam and to leave immediately."

A special note was the enthusiastic reception given to members of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee who distributed a leaflet advertising a Memorial Tribute to Che Guevara.

OTTAWA, Oct. 21 — The October 21 mobilization sponsored by the Ottawa Committee to End the War in Vietnam captured nationwide attention because it challenged a government decision to ban loudspeaker equipment from Parliament Hill in the capital.

New Democratic Party members of parliament forced a heated debate on the issue in the House of Commons the day before the mobilization, declaring the government action discriminatory and that "the right of free speech includes the right to be heard."

In spite of rain and cold weather, more than 400 people marched through downtown Ottawa, and about 1,000 gathered on Parliament Hill to hear the speeches.

It is fitting that demonstrations take place today in many parts of the world. Those who demonstrate in London, Washington, Norway and New Zealand, do so in order to confront a single foe, just as the guerrillas in South America and the partisans of Vietnam oppose the same cruel power. A world wide pattern of aggression requires international resistance. It is a hopeful sign that after two decades of American intervention in the affairs of small nations, humanity has begun to take note. Whole peoples have been crippled by American power. The recent fascist coup in Greece struck a decayed nation, which had never recovered from the counter-revolution effected through the Truman doctrine. The murderous hand of the C.I.A. has been ubiquitous. How efficiently it disposed of Mossadegh, Arbenz, and Sukarno. The motto of the American marines is "Semper paratis"; and they were ready to land in the Lebanon in 1958, in Santo Domingo in 1965, etc. America rarely hesitates to commit aggression against a people attempting to shape its own destiny. Her power has seemed irresistible to most small peoples; but the heroes of Vietnam have destroyed this myth by their endurance. Moreover, their struggle has awakened humanity. We should now recognise that, through unity, the peoples of the world can withstand and erode the might of the Pentagon. Our duty in the west is to arouse massive opposition to America's wanton infliction of torment and suffering upon the people of Vietnam. Napalm was not used for the first time in Vietnam. Civilian centres were incinerated at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, before we had heard of Hanoi or Haiphong. The term "escalation" applies not only to Vietnam; it is a world-wide campaign of terror which has escalated and intensified for twenty years. We were apathetic. We erected no serious barriers to stop aggression and to forestall genocide. We looked complacently to the United Nations and its charter as the guardians of liberty and justice, without noticing that American domination had rendered such institutions hopelessly ineffective. It has become necessary for private citizens to expose America's crimes and to judge them. This has been the task of the International War Crimes Tribunal, which provided massive evidence of the systematic destruction of civilian targets including hospitals, schools and churches. In eight of North Vietnam's twelve provinces, our investigators verified this destruction. The world must be made to see this evidence. Humanity must be mobilised to stop this criminal policy of extermination. Our debt to Vietnam is enormous.

How can we counter balance the seventy million dollars that America spends every day to enact her crimes? We should not hesitate to proclaim our solidarity with the partisans of Vietnam. We must enlist millions of men and women to our cause. Each of us should accept this responsibility. Today's activities are no more than a beginning. So long as a single bomb falls on Vietnam, we cannot be silent. So long as a single soldier remains in Vietnam, our obligation remains. It is in this spirit that our work should continue around the world. It is only by this dedication that we shall know success in the end.

Editor's note: This statement was read out at meetings throughout the world, in Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Germany, the United States, etc. This is one indication of the solidarity of the anti-war demonstrators - a very loosely linked movement and yet one that is capable of acting in unison at a time of crisis. We must build on the success of October and make sure that our next major demonstration spreads even more widely around the world.

VIETNAM SHOPPING LIST - Books, Films, Posters, Leaflets, Speakers.

Please send cash with your order, add 10% for postage and packing.
Special terms for bulk orders.
All enquiries to; V.S.C., 49 Rivington St., LONDON, E.C.2.

"Why Vietnam Solidarity?" - Policy statement of the V.S.C.	6d.
"The Dirty War in Mr. Wilson." - The sayings of Harold on Vietnam	1/-
"Vietnam and the Trade Unions." - The Wage Freeze and Vietnam	1/-
"Appeal to the American Conscience." by Bertrand Russell	1/-
"A Glimpse of American Crimes in Vietnam." by Ralph Schoenman	2/6
"Containment and Revolution." Western policy towards Social Revolution	15/-
"From Yalta to Vietnam." Penguin Special by David Horowitz	10/6
"Vietnam! Vietnam!" Photographic essay by Felix Greene	12/6
"War Crimes in Vietnam." by Bertrand Russell	25/-

Vietnam Solidarity Campaign BADGES -do you wear one??????????????????	6d
National Liberation Front flags (paper)	9d
"Che Lives!" - new poster (available mid-December)	5/-

LEAFLETS distribute them among your organisation, shopping centre, etc.

"What is the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign?"	2/- per 100
"Appeal to Trade Unions"	2/- per 100
"Punch Up" - appeal leaflet	2/- per 100

We still have some of the posters advertising the October 22 demonstration.
"U.S. Get Out of Vietnam Now!" decorate your local library!***! 1/-

FILM

"American Crimes in Vietnam" a new Japanese film with English sound-track. Running time: 25 minutes; 16 m.m. Made by the Japanese investigating team which gave evidence at the War Crimes Tribunal in Stockholm. Hire fee: 10/-

SPEAKERS:

Available for the cost of their expenses only. Please give us at least two weeks notice if you require a speaker on Vietnam or on the Latin American revolution.

Magazines published by organisations supporting the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign will be advertised in the V.S.C. Bulletin free of charge.

Please send copy - and articles - to arrive at least one week before the publication date; the 1st of each month.

On the 20th December, the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam celebrates its seventh anniversary. V.S.C. plans a celebration concert both to express our solidarity with the Vietnamese people and to raise money to continue our activities. Tickets available now for:

THE ESSENTIAL NGUYEN HUU THO SHOW
.....

on

Friday, December, 22

7.30pm.

at

Seymour Hall, Seymour Place, W.1.
(Bakers St....or Edgware Rd.tube)

with

GINGER JOHNSON AND HIS AFRICAN MESSENGERS

ADRIAN MITCHELL

THE CARTOON ARCHETYPICAL SLOGAN THEATRE

JOHN ARDEN

also

POP GROUPS, FILMS, FOLK SINGERS, STEEL BANDS.

Tickets 10/- from 49 Rivington Street, London E.C.2.

Licensed Bar,

Book Stall,

Che Guevara Posters,

Will be available.

TO BANK LIMITED

DATE OF PAYMENT
(State monthly, quarterly, etc.)

BRANCH TITLE

Please credit to Vietnam Solidarity Campaign	Cooperative Wholesale Society 99 Leman Street, E.1.	Account No:	AMOUNT
		MV. 26	£....s.../d...

By order of _____ Reference No. _____

Debit to _____ Account

Please make the above payments commencing _____ and periodically
(until further notice from me/us in writing)

Address _____

SIGNATURE(S) _____

2d. Stamp

Date _____

ACCOUNT NO. _____