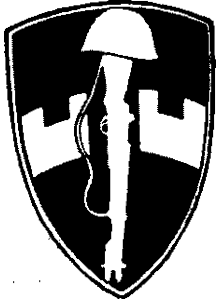


VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, Inc.



VVAW NATIONAL OFFICE
827 West Newport
Chicago, Illinois 60657
Tel. (312) 935-2129

Newsletter #4

March 25, 1973

GENERAL INFORMATION

Wounded Knee 1973 - Update -

The situation at Wounded Knee between the feds and the citizens of the Independent Oglala Nation remains stalemated. Since the last newsletter, the government has presented a four-page proposal which amounted to nothing more than unconditional surrender, which the Indians naturally refused. The government remains adamant in not taking the demands of the Indians seriously. Government forces have been beefed-up around the perimeter of Wounded Knee. BIA Indian police have been called in in large numbers from reservations from around the country and are serving, at least for the time being, as a back-up force. There have been a couple of heavy firefights this past week, fortunately, without any casualties. Contrary to media reports, most of the shooting has been between the feds firing at one another from different positions. They really don't know what they are doing and they are also afraid. As a consequence, they have been real trigger happy. The feds are so inept, that when they fire off flares at night, they sometimes shoot them up into the wind, only to have them come down on their own positions. (They must have been trained by the ARVNs.)

One tactic being used by the government is to make it appear that the families of Wounded Knee do not support the take-over and declaration of sovereignty. These families were the ones who requested AIM to come in, in the first place. Last week when the roadblocks were temporarily lifted, the government told the residents that they would be free to go into Pine Ridge for food, laundry, etc., and that they would also be free to re-enter Wounded Knee. When the people tried to get back, however, they were denied access to their homes and were forced to take shelter in Pine Ridge. Many families are now cut off from their homes. One family of twelve is being forced to live in one small room. The government did this without any regard for the welfare of these families or their right to enter or leave their homes whenever they wish just so the American public would be duped into thinking AIM was in Wounded Knee without the consent of the people living there.

Inside the sovereign nation, construction has been progressing at a fast pace. In one week's time, close to 100 bunks have been built, fourteen new rooms have been erected, an underground warehouse has been established, hides of cows slaughtered for food are being held in areas ranging from first-aid to the use of weapons. The evenings consist of meetings of the entire community with information exchanged, singing and various other cultural activities being enjoyed.

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On Friday evening, March 16th, 349 people were sworn in as citizens of the new nation including 189 Oglalas, 160 Indians from other tribes, Chicanos and several whites and blacks. Fourteen other Indian nations have also issued Declarations of Independence.

People should not attempt, under any circumstances, to enter the Wounded Knee area. The feds have sealed the area off pretty effectively and all you are going to do is get busted. The legal defense committee has already got its hands full dealing with the 175 people that have already been busted and they don't need the additional strain on their resources. Their first priority is handling the legal needs of the Indian people. They can't do an effective job if they have to be diverted to getting other people out of the joint.

The Commo Center in Rapid City has been deluged with people coming in that don't want to do anything except hang around. Facilities are extremely scarce, so they don't want more people coming in than they have room for. There has also been a few weird, adventurist people coming in falsely claiming to be with VVAW that have caused a lot of trouble and created friction with the Indians. So, the support center has requested that if you have any skills that can contribute to the support center and want to go, contact the National Office first, and we'll clear it with the people in Rapid City. They have urgently requested the following supplies both for their office and for the people in Wounded Knee; medical supplies, food, money and office supplies: mimeo, pens, paper and again people skilled in office or medical work, paralegals, etc. Many chapters of VVAW have already brought in large amounts of supplies for the Indians, including Milwaukee, St. Louis, Kansas City, Buffalo and Missoula, Montana.

VVAW has taken part in many demonstrations around the country in support of the Independent Oglala Nation. Listed below are the ones we have knowledge of:

March 17 - Mt. Rushmore - Approximately 125 people including 75 from VVAW were blocked from Mt. Rushmore by the police who bulldozed snow on the road and then declared the road impassible.

March 21 - DeKalb, Ill. - Over 50 people participated in a silent vigil at Northern Illinois campus. Included was a short Indian prayer about Wounded Knee 1890.

New Orleans, La. - 25 people from VVAW and NAM picketed the FBI building in support of Wounded Knee.

San Francisco and Los Angeles, Calif. - VVAW took part in demonstrations and rallies in support of the Independent Oglala Nation.

The following addresses are important for you to have:

Commo Center	Wounded Knee Defense Committee
208 14 St.	1563 Kellogg Road
Rapid City, SD 57701	Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 348-1005	(605) 348-3326

Branson-Savage Bust - An update-

Another tactic used by the feds to try to break up support for the people inside of Wounded Knee was to arrest anyone in the area who looked like a supporter or potential supporter of the Indians, lock them up for a few days and then release them on bail with the stipulation that they must leave the area immediately. Over two hundred people were dealt with in this manner. Once in Jail, the POWs were heavily intimidated by the feds in hope of scaring them off for good. But, as always, this just served to make the people's will to resist and fight against the oppression that much stronger.

In response to a request from reliable persons in the struggle around Wounded Knee, the National Collective decided to send two representatives, Bill Branson and Bart Savage, to the Wounded Knee area for the purposes of gathering information and to express solidarity with the people of the Independent Oglala Nation.

Bill and Bart were arrested in the vicinity of Wounded Knee on March 13th by FBI agents and federal marshalls at a roadblock on Big Foot Road. They were charged with interfering with and impeding the official duties of federal marshalls. This charge is a felony and carries a maximum of five years in the can and/or a \$10,000 fine. The official duties of the marshalls were to man the roadblock and search every car that came up to it. Bill and Bart, having their car searched, in effect were interfering and impeding the marshalls from carrying out their official directives. (Catch-22)

They were taken to jail in Pine Ridge, to await transportation to Rapid City. They spent three days there including the first night sleeping on the cement floor with no blankets during a big blizzard and the windows open. One old man had to be rushed to the hospital with pneumonia the next day as a result of this.

They rode up to Rapid City on Friday with four Indian Brothers including a Cheyenne medicine man. They got there in time for their arraignment and bail hearing at 4PM. The US attorney was asking for \$50,000 bail each. He asked for the high bail because he didn't believe that if released they would leave the area but he also felt that if they left the area, they wouldn't return for trial. Logically, his solution was for them to stay in jail until their trial date. The magistrate, being a great humanitarian and defender of the oppressed, lowered the bail to a measly \$5,000 each.

On Monday afternoon another bail hearing was held. The situation was a little different this time. Every cell in Rapid City and Pine Ridge was completely filled. They were forced to transfer some of the people to Deadwood. So nine people, including Bart and Bill were released on their own recognizance. The conditions of the bail included that they had to leave the state immediately. During their stay in custody, they were questioned by the FBI in Pine Ridge and again in Rapid City. Each session lasted just long enough for them to read the two their rights and for Bart and Bill to tell them THAT THEY HAD NOTHING TO SAY. As of yet, no trial date has been set.

POWER TO AIM! POWER TO THE INDIANS!! POWER TO THE PEOPLE!!!

National Collective Member in Cuba -

Charly Gray, of the National Collective, recently departed this office for Cuba as a member of the Venceremos Brigade. The Brigade is an organization that annually sends American youth to Cuba where they learn about the Cuban revolution and see how the Cuban people live. Charly will be in Cuba, with the Brigade, for about two months building housing for Cuban workers and their families somewhere outside of Havana. While the National Collective will really miss Charly during her stay in Cuba, the experience she gains will be an asset to the entire organization when she returns. The way the Cuban people have solved the problems facing their society and the way they have improved the lives of all their people holds a lot of lessons that all of us in VVAW can learn from. HASTA LA VICTORIA SIEMPRE! SOLIDARITY WITH THE CUBAN PEOPLE!!

VVAW's Vietnam Victory Poster -

The poster on the back page of WINTER SOLDIER, "The People of Vietnam Have Been Victorious on the Battlefield," has been reproduced and can be obtained from the National Collective. The poster is 17" x 22" and in the same colors as shown on the newspaper. VVAW chapters should buy them from this office at a cost of three for a dollar, postage included. Other movement organizations can get them from us for 50¢ each, plus postage. Chapters can sell them for whatever price they decide on but the general price we are asking for the public is \$1.00 each. Please send the money in advance to this office. We are setting a minimum order of \$1.00 for each chapter that wants the posters, (which means that you have to order at least three.)

US Committee to Aid the NLF-SVN -

The enclosed literature and brochures are from the US Committee to Aid the NLF-SVN. This group is based in New York City and has consistently provided VVAW and other movement organizations with information concerning the situation in the South of Vietnam. They do not charge anything for much of their literature and the rest is nominal in cost. We would suggest that any chapter that is interested in obtaining good leaflets and information on the struggle of the Vietnamese people should contact them. If it is at all possible for you to send along a little bread with your orders, do it. They've earned it. The address is: US Committee to Aid the NLF-SVN, Box C, Old Chelsea Station, New York, New York 10011. The phone number is (212) YU2-7162.

DON'T TALK TO THE FBI -

During the past few months we have been getting a steady flow of reports of FBI agents contacting VVAW people around the country. During the past few months we have concurrently been putting out a steady stream of advice: DON'T TALK TO THE GODDAMN FBI! Nonetheless we continue to get calls from righteous brothers and sisters telling us how they just talked with FBI agent so and so but that "they didn't learn anything they didn't already know." Somewhere there seems to be a communication gap in this steady stream of advice. So, here we go again. (PLEASE REFER TO NEWSLETTER #3 WHICH REPRINTED AN ARTICLE FROM KENT STATE VVAW ABOUT HOW TO DEAL WITH THE FBI.)

Elgin Slide Show -

The Elgin, Illinois Chapter has updated its slide show, presented at the Chicago National Steering Committee, since the cease-fire and it is now entitled, "An Honorable Peace?". Copies can be purchased, complete with sound track for \$25. The rate is \$60 for people outside of this organization. If you want to order a copy, you must send the money in advance as they need it to get the slides processed. The address in Elgin is: Elgin VVAW c/o Dave Thompson, 151 S. State, Elgin, Illinois 60120. The phone number is: (312) 697-6517.

REGIONAL NEWS

DeKalb, Illinois Report -

Now that DeKalb is going to be the regional office (effective after the April NSCM) people should know where we came from. The catalyst for our development was the mining of Haiphong. Tom Litney and Stan Taylor got together and decided it was time to get things going. Since then, we have grown to about 18 active members. The chapter began with rallies, Armed Forces Day action, trips to Cairo, the Republican Convention, mass leafleting, and participation in marches. Our most successful action was an anti-recruiting guerrilla theater put on in the University Center with the help of Bart Savage and Joe Petzel.

We have spent most of our time and efforts in educating ourselves and others, and in conjunction with this we are developing a revolutionary library. We worked with the DeKalb Anti-war Workgroup whose membership was in large part VVAW members. We showed slides and movies, brought in speakers, and held an information fair. We are having exchange sessions with Indonesian students and rap sessions on the ten objectives. We have set up information tables, have written papers on various subjects, met with several classes and had a lot of individual raps.

We have a PVS program started and are compiling a regional manual of guidelines and information, and have recruited help from the University Health Center's psychiatric staff as a referral service. We have also made ourselves available to the community for help with VA hassles, bad discharges and general hassles, (ie, support for the Powerports basketball team that was kicked out of their intramural league because they didn't believe in the university's macho, competitive philosophy of sports). Our chapter has also supported black teacher Dmitra Gronemeier in her fight against the sexist, racist staff who fired her for her refusal to play their game.

We have come to recognize the need to live as brothers and sisters and develop our politics collectively. The chapter is now run by a collective leadership with a rotating coordinatorship to do the shit work. We began a volleyball team in a men's intramural league with women on the team, but have not been confronted because the other teams have failed to show up. Soon, we may be getting a house for the collective to live in.

As a chapter we hope and look forward to VVAW's eventual conversion to a Winter Soldier organization. We intend to struggle for as long as it takes or to the end of our lives, whichever comes first. We feel the ten objectives can best be obtained by an organization such as Winter Soldier suggests, which can best utilize the available talents.

Redwood City, California Report -

The Redwood City Chapter is actively supporting the Farm Worker's boycott by picketing a local Safeway store one day a week. We are also spreading information about the Farah pants strike and the closing of our county hospital, which has been threatened by the county health department. The chapter has become active in other community organizations; our members participate in a night child care center, the People's Food Co-op, the Chino Defense Committee, the Neighborhood Development Council, and one of the brothers, Frank Milatzo, was just hired by People's Medical Center as an organizer for community fund raising. Frank has also put together a People's News Service which receives input from the local movement groups as well as sources such as Asian News Service. He passes on the information through a weekly talk show on a cable TV channel, a weekly news show on the Stanford University radio station, and through some contacts that he has developed at a commercial FM station and at KPFA (Pacifica) in Berkeley. Another vet, Jesse Young, has some programming going at Foothill College radio station. The value of this could be demonstrated by a visit of someone from the Gainesville Defense Committee, for example, at which time we could make tapes for use at the cable TV station, as well as three or four radio stations.

The chapter has several members at nearby Canada College where the VVAW will sponsor a Political Awareness Film Program. Some vets there also laid a list of demands on the Junior College Board. While they haven't fired the College President yet, one immediate response was provisions for a Free Speech Hour each day.

Looking ahead, a consensus of opinion would show that the members are willing to mobilize for actions like Thieu's visit to San Clemente, but as the situation in Indochina has changed, so we must change. We expect to continue our involvement in other progressive organizations and community issues and thereby learn to better serve the people.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin Report -

In response to a growing need among people in our community due to the rising cost of food, VVAW has begun an East Side outlet of the Milwaukee Food Buying Co-op. In the true sense of 'serve the people', we are trying to establish viable alternatives to the government, and at the same time educating people as to the reasons for our doing this.

So far, the response from the people has been absolutely incredible. In four weeks our total order has jumped from \$86 to \$189, with 15 family units participating. The reason for this being a 15¢ to 20¢ saving on each item on the list. We are acquiring a storefront in the neighborhood on May 1st, so that we can further expand our operations to **SERVE THE PEOPLE!**

Upcoming Events -

- March 31 - Home With Honor Parade - NYC VVAW
- April 1-2 - Thieu Demonstration - San Clemente - California VVAW
- April 7 - Cairo Supply Convoy and Rally - St. Louis and Kansas VVAW
- April 13 - 15 - Wisconsin Regional Meeting -
- April 19-23 - National Steering Committee Meeting - Placitas, NM

NATIONAL OFFICE REPORTS -

\$50,000 Bail Set For Gary Lawton -

Recent developments in the trial of Gary Lawton, Nehemiah Jackson and Larrie Gardner have given cause for some limited optimism that these three brothers might be getting out of jail. After having been flatly denied bail for almost two years, the court has finally set a bail of \$50,000 for each of the defendants. While most courts would have immediately released them on personal recognizance bonds after the 9-3 verdict for acquittal in their first trial, it does nonetheless represent a small victory that they now at least have a chance of getting released on bond. The problem of actually raising the \$150,000 is something else altogether!

The trial itself has been scheduled for May 14th in the city of Riverside. To date no judge has been chosen to hear the case. Moving the trial from Indio to Riverside will certainly be a big help to the defense, given the increased visibility and community support they will receive there. John Thorn, George Jackson's old lawyer, was Gary's attorney for the pretrial motions for the second trial. Gary is still without a lawyer for the trial itself but a few attorneys are seriously considering taking the case.

Generally, the RPD is continuing its harrassment of the defense effort and of the brothers in jail. Gary's health has improved somewhat but still is subjected to regular abuse by the guards. In addition, seven RPD officers recently broke into the home of a member of the Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee without giving any reason for the incident. The officer heading up this squad was Tennell, the same person that headed up the police unit that investigated the Gary Lawton case for the RPD.

The primary problem facing the defense effort, however, is financial. The fundraising situation is desparate. Unless each man can raise the \$50,000 bond, they will be forced to stay in jail for the duration of their second trial. Since their first trial lasted six months, longer than any criminal trial in the history of Riverside or San Bernadino Counties, and since Gary has already spent 23 months in jail - Larry and Nehemiah 17 months - this isn't a very pleasing situation. Without \$150,000 Gary, Larrie and Nehemiah will be forced to stay in jail. They need help raising bail! Send contributions to: Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee, PO Box 5154, San Bernadino, California 92412. **FREE GARY LAWTON!**
FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!

Research Department Report -

The purpose of the research department is to keep us informed of current developments and trends in US policy and war related technological development. As we assimilate various data, certain lies and contradictions have become apparant. Following are briefs of some information that we have come across. If anyone has further information or documentation that supports this info please send it to us.

The US has been training British and Brazilian troops at Camp LeJeune, NC. The exercises have involved incursions into Puerto Rico for "riot" training and were ostensibly 'good will' missions. Other countries have been receiving training by US State Police in this country. These actions indicate a general shift in US foreign intervention from use of our troops to use of the indigenous forces for counter-insurgency to prop up new puppet regimes that are pro-US. It is possible that there may be a new type of SEATO alliance formed in the next year where the US maintains its influence, not by direct participation, but through these satellite

regimes.

The main thrust of the Nixon administration is to reduce the visibility of the war, therefore, much of our work is to increase the visibility of the war and to explain its relevance to working, tax paying Americans. Hence, one of our main focuses of research has been on 'civilianization' of the war. The recruiting of civilian forces to continue our involvement and attempted control of Indochina is a violation in spirit of the whole agreement signed with the Vietnamese. This is a specific violation of Article 5, Chapter 2 and Article 6, Chapter 2. Why is it that the Nixon Administration has millions of US tax dollars to use in an illegal war after the treaty was signed, while there is decreasing aid for medical programs, and hospitals, education, housing, veterans' benefits, unemployment, food, etc.

Nuclear Weapons is another area in which we have been doing research. We received a call from Colorado VVAW who informed us that they received information on the transfer of the 134th Air Combat Wing from Offutt AFB, Nebraska to Thailand. The 134th has the triggering devices for nuclear weapons. We have heard from some former NSA people that there have been nuclear weapons stored in Thailand for several years. This transfer was to take place in the early part of January, just following the intense bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong. When we received this information we relayed it to friends in Washington DC, where hearings were in progress concerning some of Nixon's new appointees. The day after we called, official questioning were made on the US policy of using nuclear weapons in Indochina. During this time, Clements, one of Nixon's appointees admitted publicly that the possibility of using nukes in Indochina had not been ruled out. Because of international and some Congressional pressure, the US cancelled this transfer of the 134th.

Winter Soldier -

The paper should be serving a two-fold purpose; internal dissemination and mass outreach. The Chicago Chapter has sold Winter Soldier on the streets and to book stores and has sold over 200 copies. This not only brings in money for the chapter, but lets people know who and where we are politically.

It is really not enough to just pass it among friends. DISSEMINATE TO EDUCATE.

The next issue of Winter Soldier will be off the presses before the NSCM. Please notify us, ASAP, if you want us to bring your region's copies to New Mexico. We would strongly advise this to regions that have large COD bills. Regions that are fairly close to Chicago should consider driving here once a month to pick the papers up. Regions on the East and West coast should particularly let us know about bringing the papers to New Mexico.

For those chapters that will submit articles for any issue, please be concise and have them type written, double-spaced. Remember the paper is only 16 pages.

Buttons -

The national collective has finally ordered both VVAW and I Support VVAW buttons, but they will not be ready for delivery for a couple of weeks. If chapters are interested in obtaining some, keep in mind that due to a financial strain, we ordered only 2500 of each. If chapters have no means of ordering buttons from their own sources, please order from us, but again, remember to be (ugghh!!) conservative as 5000 buttons must supply the entire organization for the time being.

INFORMATION REQUESTS -

Lists -

The National Collective is trying to put together a listing of movement organizations, resource support organizations, alternative newspapers and news media, sympathetic church groups, 3rd World organizations, etc. Please send these names, addresses and telephone numbers of organizations, etc., to us if you want them included in our lists. We realize it will take a little time to actually sit down and collect all the groups you have worked with or feel we should know about, but unless we get some response from you we can't very accurately draw up our list. We hope to be using it for mailings of Winter Soldier, general information, press releases, etc., not to mention just needing the contacts for general operation of the office. PLEASE SEND US THESE NAMES AND ADDRESSES! Thank you.

From St. Louis -

I need statements from Vietnam Veterans who spent time in Long Binh Jail, RVN, during the period of 1968-1969, concerning conditions at LBJ (particularly the use of CONEX boxes as cells, mistreatment, racial conflict, etc.) Please have the statements specify: 1. The period of incarceration; 2. Specific events wherever possible, including names of witnesses if possible. Please have the statements notarized, as I would like to present them as evidence in a bad discharge case where my client waived all his rights under the coercive conditions at LBJ. Please mail affidavits to: Toby Hollander, Military Law Project, Washington University School of Law, Skinner and Lindell Boulevards, St. Louis, Missouri 63130. Phone: (314) 863-0100 X 4902, 4501.

From NYC VVAW -

We would like information from chapters that have obtained space in VA centers or hospitals. We are interested in starting a program of this sort and are in the process of finding out as much as possible. If you have this information please send it to: NYC VVAW, 857 Broadway, NYC, NY 10003. Phone: (212) 255-7017.

National Steering Committee Meeting -

The New Mexico chapter would like to remind people that the SCM is only a few weeks away and to date they have only received to entries for agenda items. SEND THIS INFORMATION ASAP. Two tents have been obtained for the meeting as well as a generator for electircity. It is still necessary for people to bring the gear requested, particularly mess kits. We are informed that the fright over the animals is not to be of any great concern. Therefore, its clear that the snakes, etc. will not bother us. Still needed: a mimeo, paper, etc. If anyone can help contact Katuscha at (505) 277-3171. Send agenda items to Bill Wyman, PO Box 586, Placitas, NM 87043. Also send a copy here to Chicago.

Winter Soldier -

Just another reminder - Articles must be submitted by the first of every month, double-spaced and type-written and concise. If you have not yet ordered copies of the first issue, please do so.

SUPPERTIME
(From 6-8 PM CST)

Suppertime,
When all the people sit and eat,
And the telephone rings,
We are blue,
'Cause you have called us now.

Some other time,
When all the dishes have been cleared,
And the stomachs fullled,
We are through,
Then we will talk to you.

Suppertime,
Suppertime,
Sup, Sup, Suppertime,

Suppertime,
Suppertime,
Sup, Sup, Suppertime,

Suppertime,
Suppertime,
Sup, Sup, Suppertime,

Superti-i-ime

It's Our Time!

Thank you.