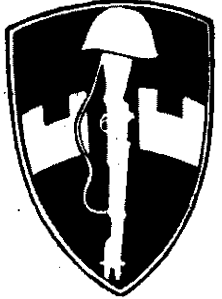




# VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, Inc.



VVAW NATIONAL OFFICE

827 West Newport  
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Newsletter # 5

May 6, 1973

GENERAL INFORMATION

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## Name Change

For those of you who have not noticed, there has been an addition to the name of the organization. The name "Winter Soldier Organization" has been added to the end of Vietnam Veterans Against the War. So our name now reads "Vietnam Veterans against the War/Winter Soldier Organization." What are the reasons for the addition to the name? First, it is important to realize that WSO is an addition and is in no way meant as a complete name change. There is no provision for dropping either name except at some future day and after analysing that future situation. The major reason for the addition is to legitimize the participation of non-vets in VVAW. For the past two years we have seen how non-vets have made major contributions to the organization and in some cases were the sole force behind the work of some chapters. There are many strong hard working non-vets in VVAW, but because of the name and nature of the organization, their work went by the wayside. It was felt that VVAW no longer needed to have second class members and that we vets must recognize the important role that non-vets have been playing in VVAW. Also, many people felt that they had to broaden their work areas so that the name VVAW limited the participation of many community people in VVAW's programs. Lastly, most of the non-vets in the organization are women and the nature of a veterans group traditionally has left women in a subserviant (i. e. hostess) role. By providing an organizational tool, "Winter Soldier Organization," VVAW helps to combat the male domination of American society by providing the women in VVAW with a strong tool for their work.

It is essential to see that the name change does not change the perspective of the organization. We are still based amongst veterans using a veterans perspective for analyzing the problems that face us day to day. We are not deserting those programs designed to help the vet nor expose the American military. Most of us identify very strongly with our mutual experience in the military and that identity will not be lost with the name change.

Many brothers and sisters expressed the fear that now VVAW can be taken over by any organization that wants to because of open membership. For those who have not been in the organization for awhile, this may be a large fear. However, those of us who have seen most of the life of VVAW know that any organization that had it's shit together could have moved on us whether it was vets or non-vets. The clear line against cooperation is the active implementation of our objectives. We are a democratically run group that allows expression of different political views, so that we will never be caught up in dogmatic politics. Also, we have broad clear objectives for the organization. If a group

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of people wish to try to take over VVAW/WSO and force a political line on us, we have had much practice in struggle. This office does not believe any group could take over VVAW/WSO. And also we feel that the membership is smart enough not to let that happen.

Again, the central points are the legitimatizing of the work of non-vets and the broadening of our membership. The key is the active support of the objectives of VVAW/WSO. The idea is to keep building a strong anti-imperialist struggle, to keep building an organization that truly exposes and helps the world people and the American people. By broadening the base of the organization to include those people that have supported actively VVAW's objectives, we make ourselves stronger and better able to deal with the rising repression and exploitation.

### ANTI-WAR DEMONSTRATION-MAY 19TH: ARMED FARCES DAY!

All regions should be building some kind of action for May 19th which is Armed Farces Day. The war workshop at the National Steering Committee Meeting passed a plan of action for May 19th in support of the four points of the Stockholm Peace Conference. These points are:

1. Demand that Nixon and Thieu abide by the Peace Agreement.
2. Free all Vietnamese patriots in prisons in the South.
3. Demand official diplomatic recognition of the PRG as an official representative of the people of South Vietnam.
4. Rebuild Vietnam and rebuild America, not with the People's budget, but with the military budget.

It is very important that these actions take place since Nixon and the mass media are again hiding the fact that the U.S. is leading military operations in Indochina and especially in Cambodia. We must not allow these pigs the opportunity to rest from our vigilance. No matter how small the demonstration looks to you, it looks great to the Indochinese! They are the ones that are under the gun and it is essential that we show them that we have not forgotten their struggle!

Use these actions to explain the Peace Accords and how systematically the U.S. and Thieu are violating each point every day. The issue of the POW's is still on the minds of the people and we can use that to show how horribly the POW's in Saigon's jails are treated. The success of a demonstration is not how many get out but how effective you can explain what you are trying to do. Five people can reach 500 through concerted actions. It is time to get back to basics and again build up the anti-war sentiment that exists in this country.

Also, Nixon would find it intolerable that the American people do not like spending more of their money for bombs while food prices here are out of reach. We must show him that we will not be frustrated into accepting continued war nor will he smash our struggle against repression.

### VIETNAM COMMITTEE FOR SOLIDARITY WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The following letter was received by our office from the chairman of the above committee in Hanoi Tran trong Quat:

Dear Barry,

It's unimaginable that 4 months have passed since you left here, we long to hear of your and VVAW's antiwar activities. So you may understand how helpful are the materials you sent.

As you know, since the ceasefire was signed, the people in South Vietnam have not yet enjoyed peace and Saigon with the support of the U.S. have brazenly and systematically violated many essential provisions of the Paris agreement on Vietnam.

We are sending herewith the recent statement of the DRV Foreign Ministry so you may know better the situation and use it to alert the public opinion.

Through the press, we know that the antiwar and democratic forces in the U.S. continue to demand that the U.S. administration implement seriously the Paris agreement.

Millions of American people, veterans are fighting against unemployment, high cost of living and to demand other democratic rights. We are sure that their fight will be successful and the American people and the Vietnamese people continue to strengthen the ties of friendship that they have built with their sweat and blood.

Say hello to Joe Uργο and Al Hubbard, tell them that we always remember vividly the time they were with us.

Wish more successes to the VVAW.

In Solidarity

Tran trong Quat

#### WSI ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

To date, there has been little in-put on this investigation which was proposed and passed at the Chicago NSCM. People should look at this investigation as a long-range project of research and exposure. The National Office wants to talk to people who have any sort of knowledge on nuclear weapons of any kind and anywhere. Specifically we need to talk to people who have had experience with Nukes. Anyone having this experience should drop a line to the National Office.

#### NSCM MINUTES CORRECTION

In the section on the Future of VVAW Workshop report on page 12, part III 4 B & C, Change the word organizers to officers. Both points, B & C, should read "National officers. . . . not National organizers.

#### POSTERS

We still have a large amount of posters available to the chapters and regions for resale. The cost is now down to a rock-bottom price of 4 for a dollar. The poster is a reprint of the back page of the first Winter Soldier. We are also making arrangements to get the back page of the second Winter Soldier reprinted also. These posters are

great for raising funds as you can probably charge anywhere from \$1 to \$2.50. Please order some right away as we don't want to wind up eating them.

### GAINESVILLE POSTERS

The Mt. Penn chapter has just printed up posters for the Gainesville Defense Committee that are really good. Chapters can order them by writing to: VVAW/WSO  
P.O. Box 4114  
Mt. Penn Pa  
19606

### THE CAMBODIAN LIBERATION FORCES: WHO ARE THEY?

The Cambodian Liberation Forces fight under the banner of the Royal Government of National Unification of Cambodia (known as GRUNC). GRUNC's military arm is known as the United National Front of Cambodia (FUNC).

Headed by Cambodian Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Peking, GRUNC/FUNC includes former militants of the Cambodian Communist movement (Khmer Rouge) who have been joined by pro-Sihanouk and anti-Lon Nol Cambodians of various political persuasions. Although the Lon Nol government consistently blames the war on what it calls "North Vietnamese and Viet-Cong policy of aggression," much of the fighting against Lon Nol is done by Cambodians.

For example, Philippe Pons, reporter for the French daily paper Le Monde, visited a Buddhist monastery which appeared to have been attacked by Liberation Forces after Lon Nol's soldiers had taken refuge.

"The attackers were mostly Khmers (what the Cambodians call themselves); there were very few Vietnamese," Pons was told by the monks. And atoudong, a town of 10,000 which the liberation forces besieged for two weeks and then abandoned, Pons learned again that the attackers were mostly Cambodians: "They were only Khmers with their red turbans."

As recently as mid-October 1972, when GRUNC was mentioned to Lon Nol's spokesman in Washington, the reply came firmly but politely that "There is no such thing as FUNC in our country. There are forces of the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong, and maybe some few Cambodians who have been involved by force."

But now, even the Lon Nol regime acknowledges the growing strength of the liberation forces. Recently, official briefings have mentioned the "Red Khmers" as well as the North Vietnamese and the NLF forces fighting against Lon Nol.

At the time of the coup that ousted Sihanouk in early 1970, the Khmer Rouge forces in the countryside numbered 3,000. Since then, according to most estimates, their forces have grown to 50,000.

According to a GRUNC publication, the Cambodian liberation forces political program includes land reform and the establishment of producers and consumers cooperatives. As in other resistance movements the fighting forces live among the people.  
(Printed from LNS)

WINTER SOLDIER

We still have a couple thousand papers of the second issue available here, so if you could use a few more, let us know right away. From now on, unless we hear from you advising us to the contrary, you will receive the same amount of papers that you received from the last issue. This will help you in getting the papers earlier. The way we are doing it now, it takes at least a week to get replies from the chapters as to how many you want for each issue. So starting with the third issue chapters will receive the same amount they received for the second issue unless we are advised otherwise.

REGIONAL NEWS REGIONAL NEWS REGIONAL NEWS REGIONAL NEWS

Buffalo-The following is a critique by the Buffalo chapter of itself the past year:

Goals Attained

- a. Established as permanent community organization
- b. Acquisition of storefront and equipment including duplicator
- c. Movement towards Winter Soldier Concept
- d. Improved communications with other chapters and National Collective
- e. Implementation of Drug/PVS committee
- f. Fund-raising procedures
- g. Steering Committee Concept

Failures

- a. Lack of clearly defined goals
- b. Lack of individual and committee responsibility and follow-through to completion of work
- c. Veteran Chauvinism
- d. Isolation and insulation-both internal and external
- e. Unilateral action
- f. Lack of individual commitment to organization

Future Organizational Goals

- a. Winter Soldier Concept implementation
- b. Greater individual responsibility
- c. Autonomous committee responsibility
- d. Permanent funding base

New York City-Faced with extreme financial problems, the chapter took to the streets and have sold over 1,000 copies of Winter Soldier in the past couple of weeks. They are confronting CBS to show "Sticks and Bones" on prime time TV as they had planned originally. They are also demanding equal time to show the WSI film to counter the coverage of the POW's.

St. Louis-VVAW is starting a coffee house in the Souldard neighborhood. It will serve as a HQ for VVAW, a place where vets and active duty GI's can come and listen to music, read, rap, play chess or pool, etc. They hope to build their own community and to contribute to the Souldard community of which they are part of.

Dayton-Bruce Ashley, an Air Force doctor who filed for discharge as a conscientious objector, was found guilty by a court-martial at Wright Patterson for refusing to obey two orders and was sentenced to a year and a half at hard labor and a \$25,000 fine or another year. His dangerous crimes include going through the federal court system to

fight the pigs who run the air force. The case is being appealed and Bruce is free pending the review of the sentence.

The chapter has started a study group which meets one hour before the regular meetings. They are studying the "Enemy" along with supplements plus current events and amnesty.

They still have a lounge in Browns Hospital for patients to come down from the wards and enjoy themselves. There is now a permanent sign outside the door which says "Veterans Lounge."

They also have an amnesty project which has been going for about a month and a half.

Radio Free Armed Forces is now on the air! With a lot of help from Antioch VVAW, there is now a weekly two hour show on Thursdays for the brothers and sisters in the military. The show is concentrating on the GI movement, veterans and their problems, the war, Wright-Patterson, and other related subjects.

Columbus -The chapter is also starting a study group along with the Indochina Peace Campaign every other Wednesday at Wesley Foundation. As they get the group on it's feet, they will be deciding on a study program to follow and subjects to be discussed; including imperialism, Indochina, and all the world struggles.

The chapter's military counseling service is every Tuesday night. The VVAW Military Counselors work with active duty service people in trying to help solve their problems with the U.S. military and protect their rights against this inhuman process. With the advent of the so-called 'volunteer' forces in this country, the 'volunteers' are increasingly being drawn against their will from the reserve and National Guard units. If we are to meet this rising tide of military oppression we must rise ourselves.

Ohio Region In General -The entire region, on every level, has been doing an extremely large amount of education both with the membership and also with 'the people' on the Cambodian Liberation Forces and who they are. As the focus shifts from Vietnam to Cambodia and Laos, it becomes more and more crucial for us to educate others and ourselves on the people waging struggle against the U.S. aggressors. The article in the first part of the newsletter "The Cambodian Liberation Forces: Who are They?" is the main tool they are using in OINK.

Chicago -The chapter has sold almost 800 copies of Winter Soldier in the past month the streets of Chi-town.

#### NATIONAL OFFICE REPORTS NATIONAL OFFICE REPORTS

##### PVS Conference

On April 27th and 28th, the National Council of Churches sponsored a national conference on The Emotional Needs of Vietnam-era Veterans. There were three major groupings invited; Vietnam-era vets, people working in the health care field, and people from the religious community. Over half the participants were vets and 70% of those were from VVAW/WSO. The primary purpose of the conference was to define what are the emotional needs of Vietnam-era vets and how to meet those needs. The trouble with that was that there was not enough time to deal with a problem with the dimension of the Vietnam-era veteran. Because of the great difficulty that the conference participants had with the time frame-work of the conference it was decided that a continuation committee would be elected by each of the major groupings in attendance.

Seven Vietnam-era vets, three health care workers, and two people from the religious community would comprise the continuation committee. Two people from VVAW/WSO are on that committee: Jack McCloskey and Chester Adams, both from San Francisco. They are currently involved in a program called Twice Born Men, A VVAW/WSO program. Hopefully, one of the primary functions of the Continuation Committee will be to set up a much longer conference in the near future so that participants will be able to come up with concrete resolutions.

POLITICAL PRISONERS

Gainesville Conspiracy

For those who didn't notice it in the minutes of the NSCM, the judge has set a trial date (finally!) for the Gainesville brothers. July 18th is the first day which will probably be jury selection. At the NSCM it was decided to hold a full week of actions down in Gainesville, so people should go over the minutes carefully to start building for the Gainesville demonstration. Also, any people who have concrete suggestions for the action should contact the Gainesville Collective right away!

Gary Lawton

Happy news! The National Collective had the great opportunity to speak with brother Gary on the phone. He is really grateful to all the brothers and sisters of VVAW/WSO for our support. The conspiracy charge against him and Larrie and Nehemiah has been dropped and now he is just charged with murder. Also the bail was dropped to \$25,000 and that helped to get Larrie Gardner out of the can. Their new trial starts right away and they still need our continued support.

REQUESTS REQUESTS REQUESTS REQUESTS REQUESTS REQUESTS

From Gainesville

"Our attorneys have asked that any of you who have been contacted or questioned by the FBI and/or other agents concerning any defendants or VVAW activity in and around the Miami conventions; or any questioning you think could be relevant to our case, to please get in touch with any of them at the following addresses and numbers:

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Morty Stavis   | Center for Constitutional Rights       |
| Doris Peterson | 588 Ninth Ave.                         |
| Nancy Stearns  | NYC 10036 Ph: 212-265-2500             |
| Cam Cunningham | 502 West 15th                          |
| Brady Coleman  | Austin Texas 78701 Ph: 512-478-9332    |
| Larry Turner   | 609 NE 1st St.                         |
|                | Gainesville Fla 32601 Ph: 904-378-1673 |

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated" the Gainesville Collective

From Northern Kentucky

"A critical article on the socio-economical effects facing returning amputated vets is being prepared at N. Ky. State Coll. The author is Dr. H. Lew Wallace, chairman

of the History Dept. and one of three instructors who 'sponsored' VVAW on campus and also help out.

Northern Kentucky VVAW requests the names and addresses of all amputated vets working with or close to your chapters (with their permission of course). Wallace plans an extended evaluation of this dilemma particularly with the overt ones that VVAW is likely to relate with." Send correspondence to: VVAW/WSO-NKSC

Box 18 Student Union  
Northern Ky. State College  
Highland Hts. Ky. 41076

#### From Women's Caucus

All chapters with women members should have them send in their names and addresses to Milwaukee VVAW care of Annie Bailey or Linda Hoelzer. They need these names so they can send them the women's newsletter etc. They also have to get in touch with them in regards to the women's national meetings being planned for June 10 and 11.

#### From the National Collective

In order to implement the policies that were adopted at the last NSCM on page 22 and 23 of your minutes regarding 'communications between regions' and 'internal security', the National Collective has the following requests for information:

#### Communications Between Regions

"Regions should submit names of individuals working on specific projects. This information is to be sent out in the national newsletter so that projects and programs can be better coordinated. . . . All chapters should send a list of their specific programs and projects to the National Office so that a comprehensive list of all projects can be compiled and made available to other chapters."

#### Internal Security

"The NSCM hereby levels the responsibility upon the National Office for the development of a comprehensive security packet for immediate dissemination to all chapters. This proposal was unanimously accepted, but the development of such a packet is contingent upon the in-put received in National from the regions. It is the responsibility of the regions to inform the National Office of specific problems with security and how these problems are dealt with." So send it in.