

VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR/WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

NEWSLETTER #25

JUNE 9, 1974

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BUILD THE DEMO!

July Demonstration Report

The Washington Demonstration Office opened its operations on June 1st. They can be reached at: Room 602 - 930 "F" Street NW - Washington, DC 20004 - The phone number is (202) 638-0317.

Support is rapidly growing for the demonstration among our own chapters and also among other organizations across the country. Recent national publicity has included a story in the GUARDIAN; an ad and short story in FOCAL POINT, the national publication of the Indochina Peace Campaign; a lengthy article in REVOLUTION, the national publication of the Revolutionary Union; an article in the BLACK PANTHER newspaper; an article in the national mailing of the National Council for Universal and Unconditional Amnesty (NCUUA); a leaflet about the demo was included in a 5,000-piece national mailing of the War Resisters League (WRL); and soon to appear will be an ad in the GUARDIAN and an ad in WIN Magazine, the publication of WRL; there will also be an article in the upcoming issue of AMEX-CANADA. In addition there has been growing support among veterans and GIs, as well as prisoners, even though they won't be attending.

SCENARIO - The same scenario is still in effect as was included in the previous newsletters. Many people are planning to come just on the 4th, particularly members of organizations that have endorsed the demonstration. The following information is for those people. The action on July 4th will be as follows: Assemble at 10:30 AM at the Lincoln Memorial. The march will begin at 11:30 proceeding on Bacon Drive up Constitution Avenue to the Ellipse. The rally at the Ellipse will begin at 12 noon. Speakers at the rally will be: Virginia Collins, NCUUA; Gary Lawton, RPPDC - VVAW/WSO; Sokhom Hing, Cambodian resident in the US; Sam Schorr, VVAW/WSO; there will also be entertainment as well; plans on entertainment are still being firmed up. Anyone knowing of some good political, folk-type entertainers that would like to perform at either the campsite or on the 4th should contact the Washington Office.

If there are organizations from your local chapter area that are going to participate in the march and rally on the 4th, please let the Demonstration Committee know as soon as possible. All organizations that endorse and support the five demands are welcome to attend. In the last newsletter, some of the national organizations that have endorsed the demonstration were listed. It would be good to contact their local groups for support. We would also like the addresses of these organizations so that we can send them last minute plans for the march and rally.

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**DONATIONS NEEDED!** - We are asking for a \$5.00 donation from all of those who will be coming to the four-day encampment and demonstration. We're planning nine meals and renting a lot of equipment such as tarpolins, toilet facilities, water trailers, sound equipment, etc. So **MONEY IS BADLY NEEDED** to help defray some of these costs. All donations should be sent directly to the demonstration committee in Washington as soon as possible.

**BAIL FUND** - In the event that people should get arrested, for whatever reason, we recommend that each chapter or individual have their own bail money. The practice in the past has been a \$50 collateral for demonstration arrests in Washington, DC. Residents of DC do not have to pay this and can get out on their own recognizance. We will have legal observers and lawyers available in case such services are required.

**FOOD** - We have contacted some regions to bring a specific amount of certain kinds of food to help out with the meals. We ask that these regions let us know at least one week prior to the demonstration how much they will be bringing. One chapter (New York City) has promised 400 loaves of bread! Another chapter (Miami) is bringing lots of oranges and mangos! All regions should contact food co-ops and other outlets for donations and to try and bring quantities of food from the following food list: Macaroni, spaghetti, powdered milk, bread, tea, coffee, pancake mix, jello, rolled oats, peanut butter, corn meal mix, sugar, salt, pepper, rice, apples, apple sauce, corn oil, syrup, honey, raisins, nuts, peas (#10 cans), potatoes, onions, cheese, soya meat substitute, and tomato sauce (#10 cans).

The Demonstration Committee will need one experienced cook to come to DC on or about the 23rd to help finalize logistics in the food department. If you are qualified, or know someone who is, contact the National Office ASAP.

**EQUIPMENT NEEDED** - No tents will be allowed, so please plan to bring sleeping bags, ground cloths and poncho. Other equipment needed includes: Plates, cups, canteens, forks, knives, spoons, ice chests, flash lights, and batteries, rope, first aid kits, soap, towels, toilet paper, insect repellent, suntan lotion, etc.

Other special equipment needed: 10 bullhorns, 2 flatbed trucks, a PA system, wire, heavy duty extension cords. We also will need a late model (12 volt) VW van for use throughout the demo. The van should arrive one week prior to the demo and the owner(s) should be prepared to totally give up the van for the time period of June 24 - July 5. If you have access to any of these items, please contact the Demonstration Office as soon as possible.

**MEDICAL** - All regions should submit names of licensed medical people (nurses, doctors, etc.) and experienced para-medics who will be attending the demo. The best process would be for chapters to submit names to their regional offices, who would then forward them to the Demo Office. We will contact the medical people who will be working on the medical team at the demo.

**COMMO** - All regions should submit the names of licensed Citizens Band radio operators and experienced radio technicians. The same procedures should apply as above.

**CAMPSITE** - Our suit for use of the Mall area as a symbolic campsite to give a live and constant focus to our five demands is still in court. Our lawyer has care-

fully checked precedents set by other lawsuits and has prepared a good case. We are optimistic that the courts will rule in our favor. Other than that, there is not much that can be stated.

DAYCARE - Quality daycare will be provided for children brought to the national demonstration. The demonstration committee has contacted local VVAW/WSO people with daycare experience and local professional daycare personnel.

Cooperative daycare will be provided, meaning that a good relationship between parents, daycare workers and children should exist. To accomplish this, the following guidelines are essential:

- a) Parents will use the daycare service only when absolutely necessary;
- b) Parents, before leaving their children, should get to know the daycare workers and give them any special information about the children (such as personality, eating habits, etc.);
- c) When the parents make a commitment to return and pickup their children, they must honor that commitment.

Parents should make every effort to make arrangements with friends or relatives at home to leave their children with. The logistics of our 4 days in Washington will be great enough as it is, and the fewer children to attend to, the more people we will have available to handle other jobs. If you do bring children to the demo, as soon as you arrive and know where you are settling and find out what your schedule is, contact the daycare center. If you are going to bring children, you should contact the demonstration office as soon as possible so that they can estimate how many children we will be caring for. Additional information will be included in the next newsletter. Remember, in order for us to provide quality daycare, we need the full cooperation of every parent.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### American Veterans Movement

Through meetings with AVM, the National Office has gotten the following information as to their plans. As of this Newsletter, AVM has changed its plans for action in DC. According to one of their coordinators, AVM is not planning any activities until the 4th of July which is when they plan to set up their "tent city". This means, we think, that their actions will not interfere with ours, but we will have to be prepared to do much political outreach to those vets coming to Washington for what is being billed as "Bonus March II".

The National Office Collective feels that AVM should be viewed as a political challenge to our ability to bring anti-imperialism to the mass struggle. AVM's present non-political demands are 'increased rights for all veterans, and an end to the disgraceful conditions in the VA hospitals.' From these, it is clear that AVM, in and of itself, will not make any attempt at anti-imperialist consciousness-raising. The NO is preparing materials that can be used by people in DC and afterwards to link up veterans struggle with anti-imperialism and the struggles of other oppressed people. Those who have access to literature on the first Bonus March should study that period as an aid to understanding the political line being pushed by AVM leadership. There are a number of similarities to that first march.

Chapters which are able to bring literature about their work should see AVM actions as a means of reaching people - that is, to reach out to veterans with material designed to educate around anti-imperialism. A pamphlet on the political history and the programs of VVAW/WSO will be produced by the NO for the DC action and for future work.

### St. Louis Chapter Offers Layover Facilities for Travellers to DC Demo

Anone travelling east to Washington for the demonstration who will be passing through St. Louis is welcomed to rest and spend the night at the Chestnut Tree Coffeehouse, which is owned by the St. Louis Chapter. The Coffeehouse is located in the Souldard area of St. Louis at 1023 Allen Avenue (phone: 314 621-2648 or 241-1213), which is south of the downtown area and near the junction of Interstate Highways 44, 55 and 70. St. Louis is about 14 hours from DC via Interstate 70.

### Prison Mail

The last newsletter carried a story about relaxation of mail censorship in Federal prisons. Court cases in some states have established the right of prisoners to receive mail unopened. The fact that there is a court judgement in this matter does not mean that the prison administrators are abiding by it. Almost all prisons have the legal right to prohibit material which they consider dangerous - and they do the defining. The same is true for "obscene" or "pornographic" materials.

WINTER SOLDIER and letters from VVAW/WSO are more and more frequently falling into one of the prohibited categories. And mail sent to us often does not get out of the prison. Sometimes this is done systematically, sometimes at random; many prisons do not have the personnel to read through every piece of mail that comes in. Keep track of the letters you send (a mail log is a good idea); and let prisoners know when you get the letters they write. In prisons where the mail is questionable, don't help out the administration by using a VVAW/WSO return address or VVAW/WSO stationery. And above all, don't assume that a letter written to a prisoner will automatically get there, or that mail sent to you from prison will automatically get out.

One of the brothers in prison is compiling mail regulations for us; we will print this information as soon as we get it. While administrators will not necessarily follow their own regulations (unless it is in their own interests), these regulations do give us a basis for legal action and threat of legal action. If you have information you feel should be added to this kind of report, send it along to the NO and we'll include it.

### Dave Buntin Discharged from Hospital

In the last Newsletter, we reported that one of our coordinators from Junction City, Kansas, had been hospitalized in St. Louis with a serious case of leukemia. Dave is now on outpatient care and is living with friends in St. Louis. A "get well" letter would be most appreciated by Dave. His spirits are high, but he faces the very real possibility that he may not survive his case of leukemia for much longer. Dave can be reached c/o Cummins, 741 Eastgate Apt. 2S, St. Louis, MO 63130.

## NATIONAL OFFICE REPORTS

### Lawton/Gardner Trial Postponed

The trial of Gary Lawton and Zurebu Gardner has again been postponed, this time until July 29th. The defense committee is continuing their regular publicity and defense work around the case and hope that chapters will continue to keep up their good work around the case all the way to the day Lawton and Gardner are freed.

International support for the case is also beginning to grow. In our domestic and international mailing of WINTER SOLDIER (May issue), we included the 16-page brochure about the case and a letter asking for publicity and telegrams and letters to be sent to the judge and DA. So far, telegrams have been sent from Guyana in South America and from organizations in Italy. Several Italian left publications will soon be doing stories about the case and urging their readers to write or telegram the judge and DA demanding that they drop the charges and end the harassment of Gary and Zurebu.

### Leavenworth Brothers

A motion was filed in District Court on May 23rd asking the judge to move the Leavenworth Brothers to another jail prior to their trial. The Leavenworth Brothers Offense/Defense Committee is asking that everyone send a postcard or letter to the judge asking him to transfer the Leavenworth Brothers to a county jail because conditions in solitary cannot allow them to prepare an adequate defense. Send postcards to: Honorable Frank Theis, US District Court, Federal Bldg., Wichita, Kansas 67202.

The LBO/DC is also calling for artists to design a poster about the Leavenworth Brothers using the slogan "Support the Leavenworth Brothers". Contact the LBO/DC at POB 5818, Kansas City, MO 64111.

### Operation County Fair

The VVAW/WSO OCF patches are finished; only one problem remains - money. Linda Regnier put down the initial downpayment to have the patches made; she now needs \$110 before June 22nd to pick them up. The patch is the same basic design as the original "Medicine for the People" patch, except that this one has "VVAW/WSO" across the top and "Medicine for the People" across the bottom. The patch sells for \$2.50, with \$1.50 going to the Project. Any chapters or individuals that can order patches or loan Bogue Chitto the money to pick up the patches, please contact Bogue Chitto immediately at Rt. #1 - Box 109, Browns, AL 36724.

US Disciplinary Barracks - Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

Activity is at a high level around the USDB, both on our part and the part of the Army. All of our mail has been cut off from entering the USDB, even though we have authorization from the Provost Marshall of the Army to send in WINTER SOLDIER. GI NEWS, as well as personal mail, is also being returned.

The Dayton Office of the National GI Project is working on a 4-point program for the USDB which includes developing a legal resource referral system, building local support, publicity and political education. Currently Dayton is in close contact with the Congressional offices of both Ronald Dellums and Charles Whelan. Dellums and Whelan are both very interested in the situation at the DB, especially the problem of mail censorship. Attention is being focused on the case of Gregory Jackson (see May WINTER SOLDIER) and preliminary investigations have begun from Dellums' office. Through the case of Gregory Jackson we hope to be able draw attention to the problems in the USDB.

The Dayton Office has requested that all regions with members in the USDB write a cordial letter to the member asking them to correspond with the Dayton Office. This will serve two purposes; First, it will generate more mail from within the DB, and secondly, if mail is returned, it will provide more evidence against the officials at the DB. . If any letters are returned, PLEASE FORWARD THEM TO THE DAYTON OFFICE EXACTLY AS YOU RECEIVED THEM.

Our work around the USDB is being assisted by the ACLU National Prison Project, the Lawyers Military Defense Committee, and the National Lawyers Guild. Any chapters that can round up a local lawyer as a backup lawyer for the prisoners at the USDB should contact the Dayton Office.

Everyone is requested to write a letter or postcard to the following people protesting the censorship of mail and the racism at the USD.B:

Colonel O'Kier  
Commandant  
US Disciplinary Barracks  
Leavenworth, Kansas 66027

Major General Lloyd B. Ramsey  
Provost Marshall  
United States Army Headquarters  
Washington, DC

Congressman Ronald Dellums  
House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

local congresspeople

A military that is designed to support imperialism must always maintain an iron hand over its soldiers. If it didn't, discipline would soon begin to crumble. Just as in the later years of massive US troop involvement in Indochina, soldiers will eventually react strongly to participating in a situation that they can clearly see is not in their interests. The fraggings, mutinies, AWOLs, desertions, avoiding contact and drug use became regular occurrences. Since an imperial army must always rely on the human element to operate, it is necessary for the military to maintain a system of discipline based on fear.

Within the US military there are three formal ways of doing this (additionally there is always the threat of being transferred to an unfavorable duty station).

The bad discharge system represents the most threatening prospect for the GI, since it means a lifelong mark. The other discipline methods are the UCMJ, which is used most regularly, and the US Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth. There are, of course, many stockades run by the military, but the USDB is the end of the line - the epitome of the military's system of discipline-by-fear. A sentence to the USDB represents not only confinement to abuse, racism and isolation; but it, too, represents a lifelong mark.

It is increasingly important, as the military must rely more and more on internal discipline to maintain itself (since it no longer has the draft to rely on), that we as VVAW/WSO increase our educational and agitational activities around the backbone of the military's disciplinary system: the UCMJ, the bad discharge system and the USDB.

Economics and the military are inseparable parts of imperialism. Just as the military is the iron hand of imperialism, the military disciplinary system is the iron hand of the military.

#### Security Information: The Phantom Reporter

On June 6th, a man called the NO identifying himself by name and further as a reporter for the Chicago Sun Times who wanted to do a short article on the trip to Washington. He said he had a leaflet with a picture of Nixon coming out of the White House asking people to ride the bus to DC (the leaflet put out by the Chicago chapter of VVAW/WSO).

He wanted to know when and where the bus would leave from, how many people would be on it, where people would be coming from, etc. When asked for his number he gave it, but said "don't bother calling," that he would call again later.

As soon as the call was finished, NO called the Chicago Sun Times to ask for the individual; we were told that he was in Washington, DC. The number the individual gave was a disconnected, Chicago phone number; a recording said to call information.

Analysis: the "reporter" was a pig; knowing that VVAW/WSO needs and wants as much publicity as possible for the demo, he used that device to try to get information he wanted. He was ready to give a phone number (even though it was disconnected) knowing that it would appear suspicious not to give it, and knowing further that we would probably not call the number.

Action taken: NO, after establishing that this was not a reporter, called the Sun Times, talked to them about the incident; the reporter whose name was being used was also contacted. Media people need to keep open their sources of information, and whether or not they care about VVAW/WSO, they do care about their own ability to collect news.

Just because someone identifies himself as a reporter over the phone does not make him or her a reporter. Ask the person for a number; try calling through the switchboard of the news media he is supposed to work for. Above all, be aware that the possibility exists of phantom reporters in your area.

## REGIONAL REPORTS

### Milwaukee 16 Freed; Attacks on the VA Continue

The M-16 ("The Vets Best Friend"), 16 members of Milwaukee VVAW/WSO arrested at a VA demonstration, had charges against them dropped. Pressure against the VA in Milwaukee continues, however; a Winter Soldier Investigation into the treatment at VA hospitals is planned--to be held in a room at the VA. Suit has been filed against the VA for use of this room; demonstrations continue in order to force the VA to provide space for the investigation. Thirty to forty veterans are prepared to give testimony concerning care at Veterans Administration facilities.

### Chicago Forum

A Forum around the topic "How and Why Should Nixon Be Removed From Office" was sponsored by the Chicago chapter of VVAW/WSO. Speakers from VVAW/WSO, the October League, the Revolutionary Union, and the Chicago Peace Council presented their viewpoints on impeachment to a crowd of 160 people (at \$1 a head). Slogans such as "Throw the Bum Out," "Dump Nixon: Stop the Facist Tide," "Impeach Nixon," and "Kick Nixon Out" were discussed, and the differing approaches to impeachment were debated. Questions from the audience ranged from the nature of coalition work to positions on the Equal Rights Amendment.

### Jim Christopher Released

Jim Christopher, whose story appeared in the last newsletter, has been released from the Stockade at Ft Meade with an Undesirable Discharge. He is now at work in Harrisburg, Pa, working with the chapter in building for the DC Demo--two busses are already chartered to go to Washington. Also from the Eastern Pa Regional Office is work around DUP in prisons in Pennsylvania, relating the DUP cases to the politics of the Vietnam War, whom bad discharges were given to and why, and the demand for a single type discharge. Some organizing for the Demo is also going on in Philadelphia with more in prospect.

### Memorial Day in Miami

Around 50 people, followed by 6-8 cars of senior citizen supporters marched in Miami on Memorial Day. The march was followed by a rally, building the DC Demo. Rather than rent a bus to travel to DC, the chapter has bought a school bus which will appear in Washington. Through the efforts of the Regional Office, the Convention of Florida Populists, held in Jacksonville, adopted unanimously the VVAW/WSO position on Universal and Unconditional Amnesty.

### Veterans' Shitlist

The New York City Chapter suggests that other chapters adopt the Veterans' Shitlist. "We've gotten rolls of cheap fabric (muslin, I believe) and sit outside the VA (other locations will be covered shortly) making the fabric available to

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anyone who wants to write a complaint against the VA. If the response we've had continues, we'll have to buy wholesale from Burlington Mills. Everyone seems to relate to it with vengeful enthusiasm. If other chapters across the country do the same we might have enough giant toilet paper to wrap around the VA building in DC with genuine gripes from THE PEOPLE."

Report from the Santa Barbara, California, Chapter

(The following is a condensed version of their 7-page monthly report.)

This chapter is continuing its amnesty outreach effort on a weekly basis. Through the use of a literature table and petitions we feel we have stimulated valuable dialogue in the community. We are averaging 5 completed petitions per sitting; however, we feel the signatures are secondary compared to the education and contact we have made. Also, the prominent and regular sight of VVAW/WSO engaging in this effort has enhanced our position in the community.

For example, two weeks ago, a driver of the MTD bus stopped his bus, ran over to us and got an amnesty button. An elderly WWI vet signed with enthusiasm, although he was visibly trembling with weakness. Many elderly citizens have tearfully thanked us for being there, and the major consensus is for impeachment and full amnesty. Many people in the Movement have scorned the efforts of the Senior Citizens, but our table has shown us the sentiment is there. We have found our biggest monetary and signatory support has come from older people; as a matter of fact the majority of people who walk by without stopping are draft-age long hairs, etc.

On the above-mentioned table we have also displayed info relevant to the Lawton/Gardner case in Riverside. However, while many persons are willing to sign the amnesty petition, few are willing to do the same for Lawton and Gardner. We have stuffed copies of the WINTER SOLDIER with this material, but have received no feedback.

Because of the termination of the United Farmworkers secondary boycotts, activity in Santa Barbara has subsided. However, the Santa Barbara Chapter of VVAW/WSO recently ran off a double-sided leaflet (5000 copies) for the UFW support group here. Also, we are conscientiously adhering to the boycott on head lettuce, grapes and bad wines.

Prison Project--We still have plans of holding concerts within the prison. Due to higher priorities and bureaucratic hassles within the prison, projects such as this must proceed on a slow, day to day basis. We have learned that organizing within the prison is not an overnight affair.

The resident psychiatrist at Lompoc Prison received the PVS Library from the Sub-regional Office. The library was met with favorable response and a long-term project may result, involving VVAW/WSO interaction with prisoners. It must be pointed out that this information (PVS Library) was requested several months ago by prisoners. In order to do effective prison organizing, requests of prisoners must be met with utmost speed and efficiency. Because prison organizing must be led by prisoners, we on the outside must do our best to facilitate their requests. We

must first learn from the prisoners what the conditions are and what direction must be taken by outside organizers. The Chapter is also doing work to get progressive literature into the prison, but is meeting stiff resistance from the prison administrations.

It has come to our attention that VVAW/WSO prisoners have had their outgoing mail confiscated by prison officials. It just so happens that the mail included VVAW/WSO applications being sent to the Santa Barbara Chapter. VVAW/WSO prisoners will soon be filing a writ against prison officials for their actions, in light of the recent Supreme Court ruling.

BUILD VVAW/WSO

BUILD THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST MOVEMENT

#### VVAW/WSO T-Shirts and Patches Available

The Washington, DC Chapter is selling VVAW/WSO T-shirts for \$3.00 apiece. If you buy over 10, they cost \$2.50. They come in small, medium and large. They are printed in the official colors of the organization on high-quality Fruit of the Loom T-shirts. Send check or money order to the new DC chapter address:  
1404 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20005.

VVAW/WSO patches can be ordered from the Miami chapter for 75¢ each. Write to: 2175 NW 26th St, Miami, Florida 33142.

#### Report from the Bellingham Chapter

(The following is an edited version of recent reports from the chapter in Bellingham, Washington.)

"We have been operating on the WWSC (Western Washington State College) campus for about three years and have much support in the community. Because the Northwest is a hard area to organize, we do have difficulty in other cities in getting coordinated actions going. As far as I know, we are the only active chapter in Wash-Alaska. We're trying to change that, but have not had any success so far.

"We are currently running a conscience-raising series of films and discussions on universal and unconditional amnesty. We have gotten films through Ohio News-reel and clergy groups on amnesty and have had a pretty good turnout for the first one. We are also using the series to bring in new people from the community and are trying to build support for the chapter and organization through the series. We have just re-established contact with VAEA (Vancouver American Exiles Association) and are in the process of solidifying actions with them for future dates.

"We have made it known to the community that we have copies of the SPN's and have had many people come in regarding them. We are trying to set up a DUP project here in Bellingham, as there is no other group doing that in the area. We'd appreciate any information you can send us on setting up such a project. We're also into GI counseling and draft counseling and have been really successful in the past.

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We got over 700 signatures on the Dick Bucklin and Robert Johnson petitions at the Joan Baez concert and are using the names on the petitions to contact people for amnesty and to try to get some action going in the community. We also received lavish praise from Joan Baez during the concert for our amnesty work and our local support of the Safeway boycott with the Farmworkers here in Bellingham.

"See you in DC!"

#### Washington DC Chapter Office Burglarized

Sometime between 7 PM Saturday May 25th and 11 AM Sunday May 26th, the DC chapter office on P St was burglarized. Copies of the membership list and a three-year old Sears typewriter were taken. The regional office and the chapter coordinating committee suspect that the FBI burglarized the office to impede the efforts to build the DC chapter and the national action.

On Tuesday May 28th, over twenty members and supporters of the DC chapter held a protest picket line outside the Washington Field Office of the FBI. They demanded an end to illegal counterintelligence activities and informed the FBI that they would continue to build for the Demo.

#### Regional Action in Colorado--March From Boulder to Denver

(The following is a report from the Regional Office.) Our 41-mile march was very successful with about 25 people along the whole hike. The small towns were really blown when we came thru with our demands... most older people could not follow the complete package deal but could agree with one or two demands. We wurprised the hell out of the City Councils in all towns since they had given us parade permits but were expecting something totally different than the disciplined folks they saw leafletting in their towns. We spent the night at a Catholic Mission outside of Broomfield after putting in 30 miles for the day. I better mention that we joined with the United Mexican American Students on the front steps of a University building in a solidarity action... they had just held the school building for several weeks in order to put across demands about Chicano studies, etc. This happened in Boulder as we passed thru the town on our way. In addition, in Broomfield, we joined with the United Farm Workers in a picket line outside the only Safeway Store in the city. A couple of the Farmworker people then completed the rest of the 20 miles with us. The police departments were cooperative all the way and thanks to the march organizers in Boulder and Denver, there was no trouble and a liberated zone all the way.

After arriving in Denver, we marched to the Veteran's Assistance Day at the Hilton Hotel where about 20 of us picketed and leafletted people in front of the entrance. Following that we marched to the Crusade for Justice headquarters where a Memorial Service was being held and paid our respects to the 6 Chicano activists who were killed by explosives being placed in their cars in Boulder earlier that week. Then on to the rally where about a hundred people listened to short talks by ourselves, a member of the Farmworkers, a member of the Communication Workers Local and Capital Hill Tenants Union, Clergy and Laity Concerned and a local poet. Everyone was satisfied with the complete march and happy also about the rally. We now have about 10 people attempting to put together some transportation to Washington and about 20 people who have said they are going.

11-11-11-11

## Troops Out Movement

The following report comes from the London Chapter of VVAW/WSO and deals with their support for the Troops Out Movement.

In 1157, British troops invaded Ireland. Since then there has been constant struggle for the freedom of the Irish people. Ireland was Britain's first colony and it will be her last!

On Saturday, May 11, a conference was held in London by the Troops Out Movement which was attended by members of the VVAW/WSO United Kingdom Chapter. The following is a summary of that conference.

The war in Northern Ireland is the first Guerilla war waged in an urban setting in an "advanced" country. As such it is being used as a proving ground for police/military co-operation in suppression in such a setting. In many respects the same techniques are being used that have been used in British colonial wars since WW II, so we find internment (concentration camps, strategic hamlets), CS gas, which even the army admits is to punish the general public rather than deal with terrorists and torture.

The Army that is waging this war is sharply class-divided. Of the short service (3 year commitment) officers, 76% come from private schools. The enlisted men are drawn from the working class in depressed areas and are often recruited directly from reform schools. In order for the army to get away with what it is doing it requires the support of the British press. The cement that binds these three groups together is racism, though this was obviously much easier in Aden or Malaya. The army calls the Irish "paddies." Officers, enlisted, and press are encouraged to think of them as sub-human, just as we were encouraged to think of the "gooks" in Vietnam.

We are encouraged to think of the British as having a great respect for legal safeguards and judicial proceedings. A lawyer from the National Council of Civil Liberties talked about internment hearings in Belfast. All that is required is that a policeman (behind a blanket) says some informer has told him certain things. The lawyer and the accused can be excluded from this hearing if the policeman requests, and we were told of several instances of this happening when the police were caught in obvious lies so that they could change their story. We also learned of NCCL investigations into lies published in the press as facts coming from the army, only to find it impossible to learn where they came from.

A little over fifty years ago Ireland was artificially divided. It was an effort by the British to appear to grant Irish independence while maintaining economic control of the whole country and political control of the rich industrial north. Until three years ago, the north had a measure of political independence which the Protestant majority used to exploit the Catholic minority. Realizing these abuses were leading to a total breakdown in social order, necessary for the continued exploitation by British imperialism, the army was sent in. The British government closed down the Northern Irish Parliament and now runs the province from London.

It is now said that if the British were to withdraw there would be a blood-bath in Northern Ireland. It is amazing that after 800 years of bloodbath the British still think they know what is best for the Irish. It is important to note that in abusing the Catholics, the Protestants have always known that they had the British

Army to protect them from the Catholic majority in the whole island. If the British were to withdraw they would have to come to an accommodation. The Irish will settle their own problems and there will probably be no bloodbath.

The Army is very open about the use of Ireland as a training ground for possible use against the workers here in England. Chief Constables are being sent to Belfast to train in joint exercises and practice sessions have already commenced here with a major Army/Police exercise at London's major airport. During the recent miner's strike, Army units were sent home complete with their riot gear.

The British press has been a willing assistant to the Army in misleading the public and hiding the Army's operations. We had an excellent example of this the Monday after the conference when, in obvious response to the conference, phony "captured" IRA plans were released. We were told these showed how the IRA planned to destroy most of Belfast and commit outrages that would make Attila the Hun look kindly by comparison.

The purpose of the Troops Out Movement is to counter these lies. We of VVAW/WSO know that soldiers of an imperialist country are trained to kill and maim, not to keep the peace. Ireland can never be free so long as foreign troops are stationed there. That is why we support the Troops Out Movement.

#### VVAW/WSO Action at the Air Force Academy

On June 6th, the Colorado Springs Chapter and the Denver Chapter picketed the United States Air Force Academy Graduation Exercises where Vice-President Gerald Ford was speaking. There were 20 VVAW/WSO people up against a sea of Air Force Cadets and their families along with brass from all the bases around the area including representatives from South Vietnam, Chile, and other countries training here in the states. The chapters considered the action a success, especially in their raps with the Cadets and the Seniors who were graduating.

#### FBI Song

In response to mass pressure, Milwaukee has consented to reprint the words of their noted "FBI Song." The FBI office in Washington is in the same building as the Justice Department, so the song may come in useful. The tune is to "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town."

Oh, you better watch out, you better not jive, you better not frown,  
We're telling you why; the FBI has come to town.

They know if you are freaky; they know if you are straight;  
They know if you are left or right, or are out to SMASH THE STATE.

They're making a list and checking it twice, they're gona find out who's  
eating brown rice, the FBI is coming to town.

They know if you are sleeping, they know if you're awake; they know if you are  
taking a shit, so cover your ass for goodness sake.

## INFORMATION REQUESTS

### GI Work

All chapters doing GI work are requested to send reports about their work to the respective GI office handling their area--East of the Mississippi should send to Chicago; West of the Mississippi, send to the Dayton Office.

Anyone interested in working in the Dayton or Chicago GI Project offices should contact us soon. The demanding amount of work in both offices makes it essential that we have more people working on the GI Project.

### Enclosures

1. Chapter lists: The enclosed lists have come from the regional offices and are as up-to-date as we can make them. Where regions have specifically included "contacts" we have added them to the list. Corrections should be sent to the NO so that the list can be kept up-to-date. If chapters do not exist, let us know so they can be removed from the list. Off phantom chapters.
2. Attica Booklet: This is provided by the Attica Brothers Legal Defense (ABLD) The ABLD also publishes a regular newsletter, "Attica News," as well as other information, present and historical, about the Attica Brothers and the Attica Rebellion. For information, write: Attica Brothers Legal Defense, 1370 Main Street, Buffalo, New York 14209.
3. IPC letters: In both the National Office Report and the Indochina Workshop Report from the Milwaukee National Steering Committee meeting there were comments about the Indochina Peace Campaign (IPC). As a result of these comments, IPC suggested that we should get together to discuss the differences between the organizations, and specifically, the contents of these reports. IPC leadership prepared a letter in response to our comments and, in a meeting in Chicago between Tom Hayden and Jane Fonda, and three members of the NO, we agreed to respond to their letter. The IPC letter and our response are included with this newsletter; copies of both letters were also sent to IPC chapters.
4. The GI Newsletter: People from the National GI Project will be at military installations along the East Coast in the next several weeks to publicize and build for the DC Demo. If you know active duty GI's who might be interested in coming to Washington, pass along the information in GI News. They will all be veterans someday.
5. Newsletter and brochure from Operation County Fair.
6. The newest Lawton-Gardner button; guard it--the supply is limited. For more buttons or information, contact the RPPDC (POBox 244, Riverside, California 92502).

### VVAW/WSO Buttons

A new supply has arrived in Chicago (though only a limited number, since they are expensive). Prepaid orders at 10¢ each are now being filled, until we run out again.