

## WINTER ★ SOLDIER



A PUBLICATION OF VIETNAM VETERANS



AGAINST THE WAR / WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 2

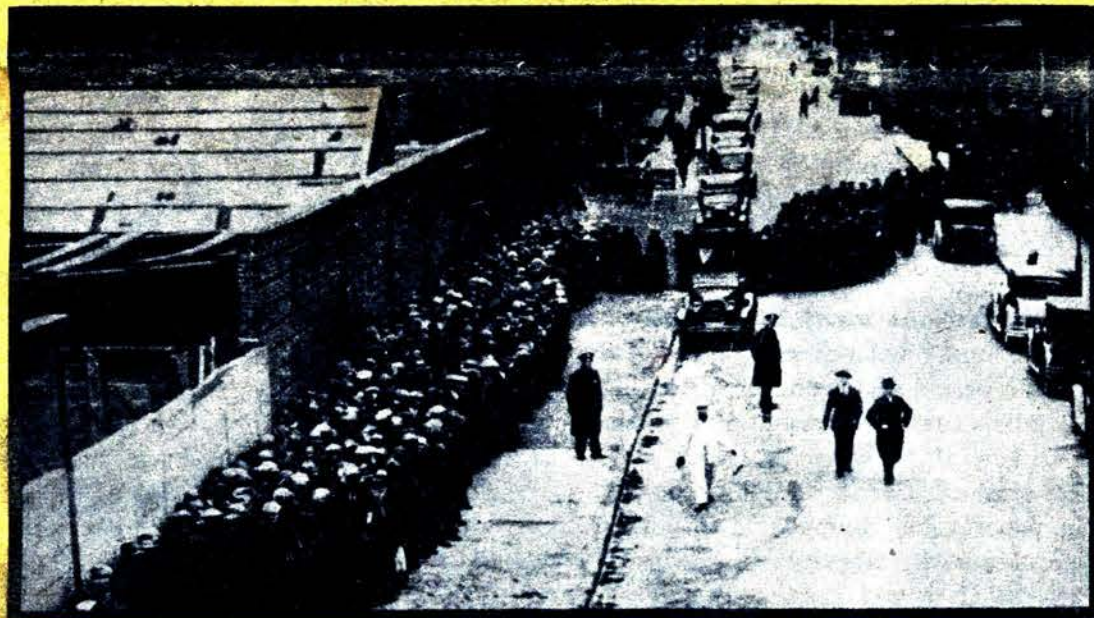
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Feb. 1974

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### ANOTHER DEPRESSION?

# MASSIVE LAY-OFF



NEW YORK CITY BREAD LINE, 1931. During the Great Depression, 17 million people were unemployed and millions lived on the edge of starvation.

**KOREA\_p4 WOUNDED KNEE\_p12**  
**DISCHARGES\_p6 G.I.S\_p15**



## EDITORIAL

With the escalation of his crimes it becomes increasingly important for all people to unite in calling for the removal of Richard Nixon from office. It has passed the point where Americans can sit back and let him remain as President of the United States; for what he continues to represent are the business interests and not the working people. His recent actions make this obvious. The most overriding issues of the day are the fuel 'crisis' and the job layoffs, and the government is doing nothing to solve them. Nixon represents that government.

A man representing the people would be taking swift action to insure all Americans the right to hold a job. But Nixon cannot do this for he is incapable of solving anything. Rather than tackle the problem of unemployment and job layoffs, he stands back and accepts the big corporations' cure-all -- 100,000 layoffs in December alone, with predictions of 8% unemployment in 1974. Rather than secure a reasonable price for gasoline and heating oil, he is refusing to surrender Watergate documents to the Senate committee. Rather than hold down the price of milk and bread, (soon to reach \$1 per loaf?), he tries to explain away his 'gift' to the American people of his vice-presidential papers; a gift that made him pay less taxes than the great majority of the American working people. Rather than promoting peace and freedom, he continues to support dictatorial regimes around the world.

Nixon merely represents what is wrong with American society. Kicking him out of office will not solve any of these problems. Someone else will take his place. But it is important that he be thrown out; important in that it will show the businessmen and the corporate dictators that we, the American people, are fed up with their profits over our well-being. In order to keep our jobs, our homes and our freedom, it is vital that we unite and work together to

**KICK NIXON OUT  
UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY**

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## Lawton-Gardner Trial PEOPLE'S LAWYER?

The third trial of Gary Lawton and Zurebu Gardner will begin in March in Riverside, California. Gary and Zurebu are falsely accused of murdering two policemen in April of 1971. Their first two trials ended in hung juries. This trial marks the first time in the history of the State of California that the state will prosecute for a third time. This blatantly racist attack on Lawton and Gardner, two black men, demands the attention of all Americans who are concerned with justice in this country.

As the trial approaches Gary still has no lawyer. What should be one of the most politically important trials in this country has been cast aside by 'movement' lawyers as a case that does not meet their 'political' standards. Many lawyers have been contacted, but only Zurebu was able to get one.

In that Gary has no lawyer is irresponsible on the part of the 'people's lawyers'. This is not just isolated to this case. As was reported in WINTER SOLDIER in September, 14 black inmates at the Raiford Prison in Starke, Florida were going on trial being charged with arson, assault and riot. The trial was to begin in mid-January and just two weeks prior to the start of the trial, five of the defendants found themselves without counsel as their 'progressive' lawyer backed out of the case. Luckily for the five, a real people's lawyer took up the case.

This is being written because there

are more instances than just these two. In a repressive society, we understand that some lawyers may be overworked, but so are the people on the Lawton / Gardner defense committee. During the first trial, defense committee members had to work two and three jobs in addition to working for the defendants in order to pay the \$1,250 plus expenses a month for the lawyer. A public defender took the second trial because no lawyer would take the case. A nationally known lawyer was contacted for the third trial but it took him three months to refuse, citing the 65 mile drive to get to Riverside. Another 'progressive' lawyer asked for a 'people's fee' of \$75,000 to take the case!

We invite all lawyers to study the facts of this case, to understand the importance it holds in this most repressive society, and to look at their 'movement' work and see if they can help. The pay won't be that great and the conditions might not be the best, but Gary is; and the defense committee has done it twice before and is getting ready for its third time. 'People's lawyers' must take people's cases.

All lawyers interested, and all people willing to defray the costs of the third trial, please contact the Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee, PO Box 5154, San Bernardino, California 92405. AND HURRY !!

FREE LAWTON AND GARDNER

## SUPPORT the TRUCKERS!

VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR/WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION, AT ITS RECENT NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, HAS VOTED TO SUPPORT, IN WHAT EVER WAY POSSIBLE, THE DEMANDS AND ACTIONS OF TRUCK DRIVERS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST RESTRICTIONS BEING PLACED ON THEM AND ALL WORKING AMERICANS BY THE FUEL "CRISIS". VVAW/WSO BELIEVES THAT THE BIG OIL COMPANIES ARE USING THE LONG-FORSEEN AND WELL-STAGED SHORTAGE OF FUEL RESOURCES TO INCREASE THEIR RATES OF PROFIT AND CONSOLIDATE THEIR HOLDINGS ON ALL ASPECTS OF FUEL USAGE.

THE TRUCK DRIVERS ARE THE FIRST GROUP OF CITIZENS TO TAKE DIRECT ACTION AGAINST THIS. THEY ARE SHOWING THE REST OF US THAT WE SHOULD NOT LET THE BIG OIL COMPANIES AND THE GOVERNMENT FORCE THE BURDEN OF THIS "CRISIS" ONTO THE BACKS OF WORKING PEOPLE AND THE POOR.

VVAW/WSO SENDS ITS DEEP SUPPORT AND ANY ENERGY WE CAN COMMIT TO THE STRUGGLE OF THE TRUCK DRIVERS. THE DEMANDS OF THE TRUCKERS ARE JUST, AND THEIR CONCERN FOR ALL OF US COMMANDS EVERYONE'S SUPPORT.

**COMPLETE FILLUPS !  
LOWER FUEL PRICES !  
AUDIT the OIL COMPANIES !**



# MASS LAYOFFS



Along with the growing "shortage" of fuel, the American people are beginning to suffer another shortage... lack of jobs. In December, 1973 alone, 100,000 people were permanently laid-off. As recently as last October, officials in Washington were applauding an unprecedented growth in the number of jobs. Now, these same officials are blithely predicting an unemployment rate of 8% for 1974.

Most of the blame for this sudden turn-about in employment has been laid on the fuel "crisis." Almost all the industries that are being hardest hit, rely heavily on the fuel industry. The auto makers, particularly the Big 3, have slashed employment by the thousands. General Motors, the largest of the auto makers, shut down 16 plants in December, temporarily laying-off 137,000 workers. Thirty-eight thousand of those laid-off will not be called back to work. The other big auto makers, Ford and Chrysler, have permanently released 10,000 workers each. The hardest hit by these employment cut-backs are women and Third World people. The auto makers have never been that "big" on equal hiring practices. It took many hard years for people of color and women to win the right to equal employment. Now, the fuel "crisis" has destroyed their hard-won right, giving credence to the saying, "Last to be hired, first to be fired!"

White workers are not immune, though. All the major Airlines have furloughed pilots, stewardesses, flight attendants and ground crew. Over 5,000 men and women in the industry have been released, mostly white, highly paid pilots and air crews. Again, the fuel "crisis" is to blame, or so says the industry. However, recent statements by oil industry officials contradict this. Texaco reported that it has more fuel in this quarter than it had for the same period in 1973.

The job situation gets bleaker as the new year grows older. The U. S. Department of Labor says that upwards of 7 million people will be unemployed in 1974 with little relief in sight. The breakdown of job losses is frightening. Major chemical producers and users say that 1.6 million workers will lose their jobs in that industry, and 65 million dollars will be lost in production. The plastics industry reported that they will probably lose 560,000 jobs and \$23 billion in finished products. The National Association of Manufacturers says that they will have to end jobs for almost 1 million people.

Those that still have jobs will not be able to keep their heads above water. The cost of living has gone up so steeply, that most working families can barely make ends meet. A year ago, a good side of bacon might cost \$1.00, but today that same side is over \$1.60. Milk used to cost \$1.10 a gallon but has now jumped past \$1.40. Name any product or any item of food and its the same story. Although wages were increased an average of 6.7% in 1973, the average buying power of a married worker DECLINED by 3.3%. Put simply, the dollar is less valuable this year than last. The cumulative effect of this inflation over the last 5 years on the cost of living reads out to a whopping 150% average rise in prices since 1969.

While the majority of the American people eat hamburger (or worse) night after night, the men who head up the oil industry ride high on the hog. While the wage has been restricted to a mere 5.5% possible increase under Phase 4, the rate of profit for the big ten oil companies was at least quadruple that. Exxon had a 59% increase in profits over 1972, and Gulf had a 60% rise. The lowest increase was Conoco, with a "mere" 24% profit increase. In the 3rd quarter of 1973, July through September, these money-sucking fiends made 1.9 billion bucks! Now, one would not expect the Board

of Directors of these companies to put themselves out of work, and since the system works for them, why get upset because the people are hurting.

The picture being drawn gets even worse when one takes a look at President Nixon's economic policies. Through the Cost of Living Council, Nixon has kept a tight lid on any proposed wage increases. Not so for the oil industry. Bouncing around advisors like so many golf balls, Nixon has allowed major concessions to big business, the latest being the lifting of restrictions on shale oil exploration and environmental controls. King Richard would have the American people believe that these restrictions are stopping the oil companies from developing new oil resources, when actually the resources already available have been neglected by oil companies. Nixon has moved to curtail fuel usage by workers and poor people when 70% of fuel consumption comes from heavy industry. Why is the burden being placed on the poor? Well, maybe because the owner of Gulf Oil contributed \$1 million to Nixon's campaign; or because the owners of Texaco gave \$55,000; or because ITT gave \$400,000; or the Milk deal. Maybe because the rich and powerful do not care what happens to Blacks, Chicanos, Indians, Asians, poor people, women or workers. Maybe because the rich and powerful can buy a president, while the people can only vote for one.

Throughout American history, it is the common folk that bare the burden of every crisis, while the captains of industry consolidate their holdings and battle for greater profits. The heads of government cannot help but support this because that's what America's all about... profit. The American people can reject this by rejecting Richard Nixon as president and the system which allows him to be bought.

KICK NIXON OUT!!!!

## UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY

### Wizard of Id





For nearly 3,000 years the Korean people have shared a common language, culture and history. Theirs is one of the oldest nations on earth. Yet today Korea is divided into two separate sections. This division makes no more sense than dividing northern and southern Indiana into two separate nations. Nonetheless, it is divided and the responsibility for the division rests, not with Korea, but with the US government.

Korea has a long history of struggle for freedom and self-determination. As a colony of Japan from 1910-1945, Korean patriots led a long struggle for liberation. With the impending defeat of Japan at the end of WWII, these liberation forces organized themselves into people's committees, democratically elected bodies formed to govern their country. When Japan capitulated in 1945, Allied forces were sent to Korea to oversee the surrender of Japanese troops there. This was organized with the USSR taking charge of the surrender in the section of Korea north of the 38th parallel, and the US the section to the south.

In the north, the people's committees established themselves as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, (the DPRK). The US had other plans for the south. Instead of recognizing the Korean people's right to independence and self-determination, the US set up a military government and began running things. Through manipulation of the United Nations, the US then set up fraudulent elections in the south, supposedly aimed at 'reunifying' Korea. As a result of these 'elections' a US-controlled government, the Republic of Korea, (the ROK), was set up under dictator Syngman Rhee. Twenty-nine years later, the 'temporary' force sent to Korea by the US is still there. Today there are over 45,000 US troops stationed on over 50 US bases scattered over the south of Korea, enforcing the artificial division of Korea.

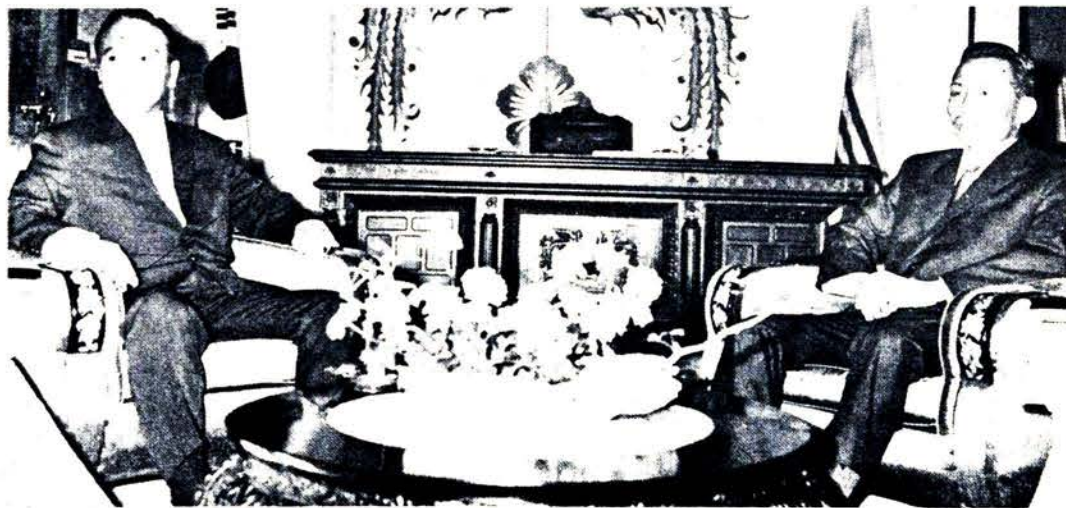
This forced division of Korea is a national tragedy. Just about all Korean families have relatives on opposite sides of the 38th parallel. It was this same



Students greeting Premier Kim Il Sung

# U.S. Blocks Reunification

# KOREA



Puppet Presidents Thieu and Park have a lot in common as they discuss role of South Vietnam and South Korea in President Nixon's Asian doctrine during 1969 meeting in Seoul.

outside interference that forced the Korean people to fight so valiantly against US aggression during the Korean War of 1950-53. Today with the object lessons we've learned in Vietnam, we can see that the Korean War was identical to what happened in Indochina a few years later.

Since the Korean War, the two sections of Korea have developed in radically different ways. The DPRK, has transformed itself into a highly industrialized socialist society. Its people enjoy free education, free medical care, modern housing and full employment... all this in just 20 years after 97% of north Korea was totally destroyed by the war. The leader of the DPRK, Premier Kim Il Sung, has said that by 1976, the DPRK will have a higher standard of living than Western Europe. Under their concept of 'Juche', or self-reliance and independence, the people of the DPRK have achieved what is perhaps the fastest rate of economic growth in the history of the world, now ranking third in all of Asia behind only Japan and China!

The ROK on the other hand has correctly been called the 'Kingdom of Poverty.' Illiteracy, starvation and disease are the lot of millions of south Koreans. Day laborers in Seoul earn as little as 35¢ a day, while the economy runs at a loss of over \$1 billion a year. Politically, the ROK is openly fascist. It has a US paid military budget of \$200 million a year, the 4th largest standing army in the world and a secret police force of 350,000. Not content with this, the present dictator of the ROK, Pak Jung Hi, declared martial law in Dec. of 1971! The massive demonstrations and unrest of the past months in the south indicate how much the Korean people hate the Pak dictatorship.

The US is determined to maintain its military and economic position in Asia. Lying between China, Japan and the USSR, Korea is crucial to the success of this policy. Without a stronghold in Korea, particularly in the face of the US defeat in Indochina, the US position in Asia would be strategically weakened.

The division of Korea is a threat to international peace and security. Despite this, the US has no intentions of leaving and actually maintains the tension. Just as the US government must support dictatorial regimes in Saigon, Phnom Penh, Manila, Rio, Santiago, Athens and elsewhere to maintain its interests, so to it must support the Pak dictatorship.

The only real solution for a lasting peace in Korea is for the US to totally withdraw its troops and end all aid to the Pak regime. Korea can only be peacefully reunited under the principle of self-determination. The DPRK has consistently sought a peaceful solution to the problem as evidenced by their Five-Point Program for reunification. This states that reunification would be achieved by: 1) eliminating military tensions; 2) setting up communications and political and cultural interchange; 3) holding a national congress of Korean people; 4) setting up a confederation under the name of a single country; and 5) preventing Korea from being permanently divided and avoiding being seated in the UN as two nations. It is our duty as peace-loving Americans to support these points and work for the peaceful reunification of Korea.

US OUT OF KOREA !  
END ALL AID TO PAK !  
SELF-DETERMINATION  
FOR KOREA !  
SUPPORT REUNIFICATION !



VVAW-WSO PRESENTS PRISON CONCERT

# UNITY IN PRISON



Prisoners at VVAW/WSO concert in Huntingdon.

On December 16, 1973, the Ohio and East Pennsylvania regions of VVAW/WSO presented a People's Concert inside the walls of Huntingdon State Prison in south central Pennsylvania. Prison organizers put out a call to VVAW/WSO, asking us to present a politically relevant and musically entertaining concert instead of the barbershop quartet of singing guards which is generally offered by the prison administration. The goals of the concert were: to advance the unity of the prisoners in their struggle against the oppression, racism and the dehumanizing and brutal treatment facing them; and for VVAW/WSO to show our solidarity with the prisoners in their struggle. Both of these goals were realized, and, as a result, the brothers in the prison are now forming a VVAW/WSO chapter for the purpose of uniting and organizing themselves.

VVAW/WSO put out the prisoners' call to several musicians, and six groups responded with great enthusiasm. The musicians who participated in the Huntingdon concert were: People's singer Barbara Dane and the New World Rollers from New York; Attica Brother Charley Joe Pernasilice from Syracuse; Brenda Woodrum, singer and VVAW/WSO member from Cincinnati; the Harrisburg bluegrass group, Home Grown; Columbus prison organizer and folk-singer, Larry Valenti; and the folk duo of Lipp and Lisak from Cincinnati.

Musicians and speakers stressed

the need for unity and organization if we are to successfully carry on the day-to-day and longrange struggle against the racist, dehumanizing prison system. A VVAW/WSO member explained that our present-day prisons are guided and fostered by the same system which produced the Indochina war -- U. S. imperialism. Our government brutalizes, represses and views as inferior our brothers and sisters in prison in the same way that the U. S. views the Indochinese people as something less than human, and therefore, exploitable. Charley Joe Pernasilice stressed the need for organization inside and unity with those outside because both groups are fighting against the same exploitation and oppression which is coming down on all of us. Charley Joe is now facing a trumped-up first-degree murder charge as a result of the government's attempts to justify the Attica rebellion.

The feeling of unity in struggle felt during the concert was very high and has remained with the prisoners. As one brother from Huntingdon wrote: "The People's Concert did a lot to encourage me and other brothers to continue being completely dedicated to the war for liberation behind the walls and on the outside. Seeing people from the outside and hearing them speak about unity and displaying their support for the brothers behind prison walls gave me added strength."

Though the prisoners' spirits are high, the prison officials have not taken kindly to what VVAW/WSO did inside

the prison in one evening's time. VVAW/WSO and Attica buttons were passed out and worn by the prisoners and Winter Soldier was distributed. Upon the concert's completion, all of the above were confiscated by the guards. The brothers in Huntingdon immediately began preparing a suit protesting the violation of their Constitutional rights to express their political beliefs and possess political matter, which was openly introduced into the prison while guards were present. Also, though the prison has continually stated that the inmates are allowed only one concert per year, the official moved into an immediate act of "retaliation" by spending \$1,000 to get another concert (complete with "dancing girls" and lacking in any political content) for the prisoners. As one of the main prison organizers put it: "Once again the prison officials have sought to offset the call for unity and cast their evil and spiteful hand into the struggle."

The repression inside Huntingdon is severe and will most probably grow as the prisoners become more unified. Prison officials simply do not want a strong political force to contend with inside the prisons, and as attempts to get organized have been smashed in the past, so we may assume that the brothers inside Huntingdon will be facing increased pressure to "disband." In light of this, it will be increasingly important for VVAW/WSO to support prisoners in their struggles and to especially try to safeguard our chapters which are forming in prisons around the country. We will continue to support Huntingdon because it is a part of the same struggle that is being waged everywhere in the U. S. as people discover that their human and legal rights and liberties have become subverted by an ever-increasingly corrupt government.

To our brothers in Huntingdon and to our brothers and sisters in prisons everywhere, we say this -- that although the brutality and oppression still prevails, steps toward freedom are being taken. The first step is our unity, as was displayed inside Huntingdon. Though Barbara Dane sang the song "Insubordination" and dedicated it to the Huntingdon brothers in the "hole" the words may be applied to people everywhere:

I don't want nobody over me,  
And I don't need nobody under me:  
This is how it's got to be --  
You better have respect for me!

**UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY**



(For about 6 months the members of the Oakland-East Bay chapter of VVAW/WSO have been operating a comprehensive discharge upgrading project or DUP. In addition to providing the service of appealing bad discharges, the DUP staff is working with N. Calif. VVAW/WSO to organize a grassroots political movement for a single-type discharge as part of VVAW/WSO's amnesty campaign. The following is an interview with Jeanie Dolly, a project worker in the East Bay office.)

**Winter Soldier:** What is the DUP?

**Jeanie Dolly:** First of all, the DUP is a service project. We offer counseling, legal assistance and prepare appeals for vets with less-than-honorable discharges. Secondly, it is an outreach tool where we make contact with badly discharged veterans and help them organize a political movement for a single type discharge.

**WS:** How does the project work?

**Jeanie:** Right now we have 3 staff workers and 2 law students working basically full time. We have various skills and knowledge of military law and counseling. We are all learning the legal stuff. We just started having group counseling sessions, where 1 or 2 project workers help up to 10 vets at a time fill out forms, and write chronologies of their military careers. This saves time and helps the brothers see that what they might have viewed as personal problems are really very common political problems. So far, our lawyer in Washington DC has won 80% of the cases he has handled. It's not a bad track record.

**WS:** What is a typical case?

**Jeanie:** Actually, no two cases are alike. However, the theme that runs through every record I have seen is getting harassed by the military to the point that a GI will accept a bad discharge just to get out. Many vets got administrative discharges instead of facing a court-martial. For sure most of the charges were trumped up, but the average GI just doesn't have the resources to fight the case. About 80% of the cases I've seen should have been discharged 'honorably' under provisions for hardship, medical or psychological problems. But they get forced out with less-than-honorable discharges by the military anyway.

Separation codes or SPNs are another form of discrimination used by the military to brand vets. One brother came into our office recently because a friend had told him about SPNs. We discovered that the SPN of his 'honorable' discharge labeled him with a character disorder. There are hundreds of these SPN code numbers... some of them are incredible: inadequate personality, apathy, etc. Most employers have a list of what the SPNs stand for, while 9 out of 10 GIs and vets don't even know they exist.

# VVAW-WSO DISCHARGE UPGRADING



OAKLAND-EAST BAY VVAW/WSO OFFICE

**WS:** How does the DUP fit into the amnesty issue?

**Jeanie:** The first thing we tell a badly discharged vet who walks into our office is that DUP is part of VVAW/WSO's campaign for amnesty. We demand universal and unconditional amnesty for all war resisters. The conditions which lead to being badly discharged from the service are a direct result of resistance to the war and the racism and repression of the military. There are 560,000 badly discharged veterans from the Vietnam-era. They cannot receive any VA benefits, the GI Bill or medical care, even if they still suffer from war related disabilities. They have one hell of a hard time getting good jobs. It's like being branded for life. Any demand for amnesty has to include badly discharged veterans. They are the largest single group of people in need of amnesty. Unfortunately people still only associate the issue of amnesty with exiles.

We think the only fair and realistic way of clearing these veteran's records is for the military to issue a single-type discharge to all vets, past and future. The discharge system works like a type of double jeopardy or double punishment... you are always being punished again for the same thing. It's going to be a long struggle because granting the kind of amnesty we are demanding is to force the government to admit that the Indochina War was wrong. It's admitting that we were justified in resisting it.

**WS:** How do you see this happening?

**Jeanie:** Every month the Bay Area DUPs have a general meeting. Project workers and vets whose appeals we are working on get together to discuss the political aspects of the project, as well as to coordinate the organizing work going on. This consists of contacting community groups, political figures, GIs, and media in trying to drum up support for a single-type discharge, while at the same time explaining to them how these discharges and military codes are used to discriminate against badly discharged vets. Naturally, we think demonstrations and direct actions, like visiting the VA are part of this educational process.

Locally we are beginning to meet with some success. Every month more vets become involved with the work, several have joined our VVAW/WSO chapter. Our local work will be almost meaningless, however, without coordinating a national campaign for amnesty which includes discharge upgrading as one of its primary projects. At the rate the discharge review boards handle cases, it would take thousands of years to hear some 560,000 of them; this is where the demand for a single-type discharge and VVAW/WSO's amnesty campaign come in. With the work VVAW/WSO is doing around amnesty and setting up discharge upgrading projects all around the country, it looks like the brass is going to be hearing a lot about us before long.

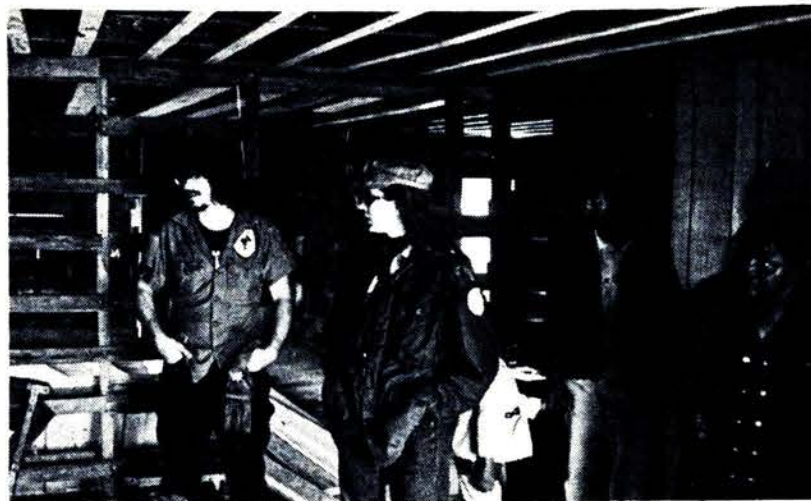
UNIVERSAL & UNCONDITIONAL  
AMNESTY FOR ALL WAR RESISTERS!

A SINGLE-TYPE DISCHARGE  
FOR ALL VETERANS!



## Bogue Chitto

# BUILD THE CLINIC



The Clinic: Community and VVAW/WSO discuss work plans

Alex and Loraine Flannigan have been living in the rural Alabama town of Bogue Chitto for over 28 years now; and getting on in years -- health problems have developed. Mr. Flannigan has been having trouble with his vision for years now, and Mrs. Flannigan is deaf and suffering from pulmonary edema (heart trouble). The Flannigans are both on medication, but Mrs. Flannigan must rely on her husband to give her the right pill at the right time. Recently, Mr. Flannigan's poor eyesight caused him to give his wife his medication instead of hers, nearly causing her death. After taking the wrong medicine for two days, the problem was discovered during one of the regular visits by the VVAW/WSO nurses living in Bogue Chitto.

The nearest emergency health care facility is in Selma, 25 miles away. For most blacks in Alabama like the Flannigans, it is too costly to even pay for a doctor's care, let alone for an emergency vehicle. And if you are

pregnant, you have a choice between bearing the child at home, unattended by a doctor; or you can pay over \$300 at either of the two hospitals in Selma which have obstetrics wards. Unfortunately, most women in Bogue Chitto and the surrounding counties must rely on unattended home delivery, and as a result, many children die during or shortly after birth.

Transportation to Selma for health care is a problem also. Mr. Flannigan recalled how he once caught the Mobile-Birmingham Train from Bogue Chitto to Selma in the morning and rode the same train back in the evening. But that was before the train quit making that run over 20 years ago. Now Bogue Chitto residents must rely on the few cars belonging to friends (who may be gone to work or on errands during the day) or pay a high fare to ride in the car of a local citizen.

The health care system in the United States, unfortunately, is based both on profit and on maintaining a privileg-

ed position in our society. Consequently, good health care is a luxury for most people. But for black people in areas like Bogue Chitto, good health care is not only a question of money or professionalism -- it is also a question of race. VVAW/WSO is aiming at changing this situation through its national project, Operation County Fair (OCF). OCF is a project dedicated to building a health clinic in Bogue Chitto, providing longterm, free health care, and engaging in political discussion around the reasons for the health care system in the U.S. OCF became a national project in January, 1973 after VVAW/WSO was approached by community members asking for assistance.

Since that time, community members have formed a non-profit corporation under the name Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Clinic, with the help of VVAW/WSO. Progress on the Clinic has been slow for lack of money. But in the meantime, VVAW/WSO nurses living in the area have been making regular visits to families like the Flannigans, as well as offering their time to provide health education. Our nurses are also available to accompany community residents to doctors' offices to insure proper treatment; to carry out follow-up care; and to provide emergency care.

For more details; to schedule the color slide show; to receive a list of needed items; to donate money; or to inquire about volunteering your time, contact either the VVAW/WSO National Office, or: Linda Regnier, R.N., Route #1, Box 109, Browns, Ala 36724.

Good Health Care is a Human Right!!

## CAIRO

# REPRESSION CONTINUES

For the third time in as many years Brother Bob Williams, National Coordinator of the United Front of Cairo, Illinois, has been convicted of "making false statements" when purchasing firearms in May, 1971, in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The trial took place on Oct. 29, 1973, in the U.S. District Court in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Brother Williams, who has maintained his innocence and his legal right to purchase the firearms throughout three trials and two court appeals, was then sentenced to five years in a federal penitentiary. Sentencing took place on Nov. 12, 1973.

The charges on which Brother Williams has been convicted state that he misrepresented his state of residency and any record of previous felony convictions when purchasing two rifles in Cape Girardeau on May 25, 1971. He was first tried on these charges in November, 1971 and was convicted. He appealed the conviction and on June 26, 1972, won a reversal in the U.S.

Court of Appeals. On November 8, 1972, Brother Williams was brought back to trial again on the same charges and was convicted again. He appealed and, once again, on August 16, 1973 won a reversal in the U.S. Court of Appeals. The October 29th trial represents, then, the third time he has been tried on the same charges. Each time, he has been prosecuted by special Federal prosecutors from the Internal Security Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

During the entire time of the trials and appeals, Brother Williams has continued to work as a civil rights activist in Cairo, Illinois, never wavering from his determination to end the racism, exploitation and political repression of Black and poor people in this southern Illinois city.

Brother Williams decided to again appeal his conviction. The decision was made in the middle of the third trial when the judge in Cape Girardeau

offered him a shorter sentence in return for pleading guilty. Brother Williams said of his decision: "Most important, I have my integrity and principles I live by. I am not guilty. Obviously, the court knows I am not guilty or they wouldn't offer me a shorter sentence. They just want to get me out of the way so they can move on to other poor brothers and sisters who have less chance than I do to defend themselves." Brother Williams is now in the process of preparing an appeal of the October 29th conviction.

It is evident that the government will stop at nothing to silence effective Black organizers such as Bob Williams and Gary Lawton. The struggle to keep these brothers free is expensive, and more so with each succeeding trial. Contributions of checks or money orders for the defense of Bob Williams should be made payable to: Committee for Equal Justice. Contributions, as well as requests for further information about Brother Williams' defense and the struggle of the United Front in Cairo, should be sent to: Friends of the United Front, P.O. Box 16511, St. Louis, Missouri 63105. (314) 725-1082.





# U.S. OUT OF

Since the signing of the Peace Agreement on Ending the War in Vietnam, the United States government has been supporting the regime of Nguyen Van Thieu in Saigon, through increased military assistance and through continued economic aid. Without this aid Thieu's government would collapse. With this aid the Saigon regime continues its repressive measures and attacks on the areas controlled by the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG).

According to Ly Van Sau, PRG spokesman in Paris, the Thieu regime with military aid from the US has conducted over 32,000 military operations since January 27th, aimed at capturing PRG-controlled areas. Of these attacks, 34 were division sized, 5,000 regimental sized and 27,000 at battalion size. Originally the Thieu government maintained that these operations were of a defensive nature but since October 1, they brazenly announced that these attacks were 'pre-emptive', giving up all pretenses of abiding by the Paris agreement. The PRG further states that these attacks were supplied by US arms and air power, as witnessed that since January, Thieu has bought 500 F-5s. It was also recently disclosed that the US is providing 71 of the new F-5Es, directly violating the accords of Paris.

US military 'advisors' are being used in Vietnam also. Ly Van Sau states, "Nearly 3,500 US officers are attached to the Saigon defense ministry... 9,000 to... infantry units, 6,000 to the Air Force, 1,500 to the police and 800 to so-called pacification teams."

The Saigon government continues to hold over 200,000 political prisoners in jails in violation to the agreements. The conditions of these prisons and refugee camps are barbaric. John Naveau, a VVAW/WSO member who was in Vietnam during 1973 stated that at one camp over 28,000 people were being held in conditions that were horrifying; no shade in 100 degree temperatures, little water and food and in terribly overcrowded conditions. These jails and refugee camps are being supported by the US tax dollar. For the fiscal year 1974, the United States will be supplying \$1.6 billion in aid; with \$1.4 billion for the military and \$19.5 million in aid for the police and in support of the prisons.

In addition to the violations by the US of the Paris agreement it has continued the bombing of Cambodia in direct violation of the laws passed by Congress effective on August 15, 1973. Just six days after the bombing halt the US Embassy in Phnom Penh reported that there were 200 military men attached to the embassy and that some of them went on patrols with Lon Nol's troops. This is illegal, as the law states that no American combat troops or advisors are allowed in the country. In October, the US General Accounting Office reported that Americans were acting as advisors to Lon Nol troops in fighting that took place in Kompong Cham in September.

According to Thiounn Mumm, of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, the US military is fully involved in the bombing. The air attacks on Kompong Cham were made by US planes piloted by Thai, Saigon and American men. Mr. Mumm also disclosed that all air attacks since the August 15th 'cutoff' were made by US planes and were carried out only with the aid of the US military. On December 20, Reuters wire service reported that a US F-111 bombed an area along the Mekong River. Supposedly the US has not given these type planes to the Lon Nol forces. The fact remains that US planes and US trained pilots are responsible for the continuing bombing of Cambodia.

## TRAITOROUS REGIMES IN SAIGON AND PHNOM PENH

The US supported governments of Thieu and Lon Nol are becoming increasingly isolated from the people of south Vietnam and Cambodia. At the peak of the war with American troops numbering 500,000, the flow of American dollars to Thieu was able to support all facets of the economy. It was able to maintain an army of 1.5 million, a police force of 200,000 and a black market that sold all kinds of products at comparatively lower prices than now. The Thieu government also employs 700,000 administrative workers. Now this money has dried up. All that the US pays for is the army, the police and the high ranking government officials.

The inflation is uncontrollable. Since the signing of the peace agreement the Thieu regime

has had to increase its imports. Thieu has been sending missions to other than the US to try and buy supplies for this and other needs. Taiwan and West Germany have given the \$1 million Taiwan dollars eaten up by inflation and the G used to print bank-notes in order to combat the inflation.

But the aims of the US government in Vietnam continue to be the establishment of a colonial regime in Saigon. The US knows the fact that Thieu can no longer meet the needs of the people, (including 200,000 civilians in prison), that he pumps in money to support the police. The PRG is adamant that the solution to the internal problems of Vietnam is through political means, but Thieu continues this for fear of being thrown out. He continues his military maneuvers to maintain the popularity of the PRG the people will fight back.

In Cambodia the situation is acute. His regime is being kept afloat by the massive influx of war materials and fuel being supplied by the US government. The United States has pumped in \$1 billion since July 1st out of a total of \$173 million originally allotted for military expenses in Cambodia. The government is requesting an additional \$200 million to bolster the regime of Lon Nol.

Prior to the overt US support of Lon Nol, the country was able to provide for the population. Since that time the Lon Nol regime has lost its pre-war level. The Phnom Penh must now import 265,000 metric tons of rice to feed its people. These rice imports most clearly that the Lon Nol regime has lost control, whatsoever, of the country it supposedly represents. The cost of the average working family cannot meet their family budgets. This rice is consumed in the Lon Nol controlled areas, which amounts to a small part of the countryside.

As with Thieu, Lon Nol has had to recruit military to remain in power. He has been recruiting mercenaries from

# NOTHING IS MORE PRECIOUS THAN





# INDOCHINA!



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and from Thailand and Taiwan. All of these mer-  
cenaries are being paid with money from the US  
government. It is evident that Lon Nol cannot  
recruit Cambodian civilians into the military and  
that he must draw from outside the country. The  
military in Cambodia is filled with corruption.  
Last year it was disclosed that high military  
officers were pocketing money that was to have  
been paid to soldiers in the army. Now they sell  
supplies to anyone interested in buying them in-  
cluding the Cambodian liberation forces.

The regime of Lon Nol is rapidly deteriora-  
ting. Recently, In Tam, the premier of the gov-  
ernment resigned. Phnom Penh is in a state of  
total collapse. It is only a matter of time before  
the liberation forces completely obliterate Lon  
Nol and his regime.

## RECOGNITION OF THE PRG AND GRUNC

In stark contrast to the corrupt regimes in  
Phnom Penh and in Saigon, progress in the liber-  
ated areas controlled by the Provisional Revolu-  
tionary Government and the Royal Government of  
National Union of Cambodia, (GRUNC), is rapid-  
ly being achieved. In south Vietnam it is estima-  
ted that the PRG controls 80% of the land. Since  
the signing of the peace agreement in January of  
1973, the PRG has initiated free medical clinics  
in most towns where there were never any before.  
Many people are resettling in these towns as a  
result of this medical care, which is unattainable  
in Saigon controlled areas. In the past year 65%  
of the people in the liberated areas have become  
literate as a result of the emphasis that is being  
put on schooling. The PRG prints textbooks in  
Vietnam and they range from elementary books  
to complicated math texts. In Quang Tri Pro-  
vince, the first rice crop has been harvested in  
ten years. Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, foreign  
minister of the PRG stated, "The destruction of  
the war is indescribable. If only our people  
could enjoy a permanent peace, we believe we  
could rebuild our country rapidly."

In Cambodia, the GRUNC has the solid sup-  
port of the people also. GRUNC controlled areas  
account for 90% of the land and 80% of the people.  
During the past six months over 200,000 people  
have left for the liberated zones in response to  
the chaotic economic conditions of the Lon Nol

regime. The liberated areas are producing  
twice as much rice now as in 1970 and are cap-  
able of not only feeding themselves but of ex-  
porting it to help the PRG and the Democratic  
Republic of Vietnam. All of the rubber planta-  
tions in the liberated areas are now in operation  
again and there is a textile mill in operation that  
was given to them by the People's Republic of  
China.

It is evident that the PRG and GRUNC are  
the sole legitimate governments in south Vietnam  
and Cambodia. Both the PRG and GRUNC are  
operating their governments in the liberated  
areas. Approximately 60 nations recognize them  
as such. The only reason why Thieu and Lon Nol  
remain in power is through the 'generosity' of  
the United States government. Without this sup-  
port both the Thieu and Lon Nol regimes would  
collapse. A government whose existence is  
based solely on the support of another govern-  
ment, and has no support of the people that it  
claims to represent deserves nothing more than  
total isolation and the wrath of all the people of  
the world. It is for this reason and because it  
is our government that perpetuates them on our  
money that the American people should demand  
that the United States implement the treaty of  
January 27th and end all aid to Lon Nol and  
Nguyen Van Thieu.

President Nguyen Huu Tho, of the National  
Liberation Front of south Vietnam stated, "The  
experience of history has proved that those who  
are against the people will suffer ignominious de-  
feat. No violent force can resist the iron will of  
a nation which is fighting for independence, free-  
dom, peace and reunification." The facts make  
it clear that only the PRG and GRUNC represent  
the will of the people.

IMPLEMENT THE TREATY

WITHDRAW ALL SUPPORT FOR  
THIEU AND LON NOL

RECOGNIZE THE PRG AND GRUNC

# THAN FREEDOM & INDEPENDENCE

HO CHI MINH





# Vietnam Veterans Against the War Winter Soldier Organization

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### POST VIETNAM SYNDROME

CLEARINGHOUSE  
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### NOSCAM (National GI Office)

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Dayton, Ohio 45401  
(513) 274-3171

## WHAT IS VVAW-WSO

Vietnam Veterans Against the War began in 1967 in New York City when six anti-war veterans marched in a demonstration under the banner "Vietnam Veterans Against the War." This first public action was followed by many more in the years to come.

Operation Rapid American Withdrawal (RAW) was a forced march by 150 vets from Trenton, N.J. to Valley Forge. This march, in the fall of 1970, was one of the earliest national VVAW actions. Along the march route vets conducted mock "search and destroy" missions, interrogation of prisoners, and other lessons well learned in Vietnam. During Operation RAW the original objectives of VVAW were formulated.

The trial of Lt. Calley was a major force behind convening the Winter Soldier Investigation into American War Crimes committed in Southeast Asia. This investigation, held in Detroit in January 1971, saw over 150 veterans testifying about war crimes they had committed. The message to the American people was clear: My Lai was not an aberration but the calculated result of American imperialistic policy in Vietnam. Several congressional inquiries, a book, and 3 documentary movies came out of the WSI.

With the spring of 1971 came Dewey Canyon III, a limited incursion into the halls of Congress. Dewey Canyon I and II had taken place in Southeast Asia without the knowledge or consent of the American people; VVAW was now determined to be heard. For a week, members of VVAW lobbied with Congressmen, testified in hearings, performed guerilla theater, and engaged the people of Washington, D.C. in a continuing dialogue. On Friday, 1100 vets returned the medals they had been awarded by the government for military service. This was

the final break, and the return of the medals signified the ultimate act of revulsion for what these medals stood for.

The summer of 1971 saw a general lull in anti-war activity the country over. VVAW began to move in a new direction -- into our communities. We began the process of learning that the war was only a symptom, that as long as the American economic structure could profit from the exploitation of working and third people at home and around the world, wars like Vietnam would continue. During all of this, however, we did not forget about the war. Christmas, 1971, found 16 members of VVAW holding the Statue of Liberty captive. The war was again front page news.

VVAW took part in actions at both the Democratic and Republican conventions. Our demonstrations there were both legal and peaceful. We went to Miami Beach with the people's most dangerous weapon, the truth -- and to prevent the people from hearing that truth, the government had to use spies, infiltrators, and agents to provoke violence.

When Coronation (Inauguration) Day 1973 arrived, VVAW again returned to Washington. Over 5,000 people strong, we marched, signed the 9-point peace agreement with the Vietnamese people, and returned to our communities.

The signing of the peace treaty by our government has left us with no illusions about the future. We were the sailors in the Gulf of Tonkin in 1964, and there are brothers and sisters in the military today who may well be participants in a future Gulf of Tonkin incident. We have learned that only a radical change in the system of this country can possibly prevent the wars of the future.

As we learned what was behind the Vietnam War, and as we went into our communi-

ties to work, we found people who agreed with our objectives but who were not veterans (though all Americans are in fact Vietnam veterans). To broaden our base of membership, we added "Winter Soldier Organization" to our name to become the present Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization.

### WHAT IS VVAW/WSO DOING TODAY?

National projects of VVAW/WSO include work in military counseling, securing unconditional amnesty for the American victims of the Indochina War (exiles, draft and military resisters, people with less-than-honorable discharges), volunteer work in VA hospitals, setting up rap groups to help our brothers and sisters with Post-Vietnam Struggle (PVS), building and staffing a medical clinic in Bogue Chitto, Alabama, and supporting the United Front of Cairo, Illinois. Local chapters work on various community projects and almost every chapter is involved in work around political prisoners and repression in the community.

### HOW IS VVAW/WSO OPERATED?

The most basic and important participant in the operation of VVAW/WSO is the individual member. The members elect chapter coordinators or representatives who are responsible for the local operation. Each chapter is represented at Regional meetings which are held at least four times a year. Each region is the responsibility of a regional coordinator or regional collective. Regions are represented on the National Steering Committee, a group that meets three times a year to formulate policy for the organization. The regional representatives elect the national collective. This collective operates the VVAW/WSO national office and serves as the functional head of the organization between national steering committee meetings.

### HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

There is one basic requirement for membership in VVAW/WSO: agreement with the ten objectives and a willingness to work toward their implementation. To join, contact the national office or your regional address as listed above.





# Vietnam Veterans Against the War

## Winter Soldier Organization

### Objectives



1. To demand an immediate cessation of fighting and the withdrawal of all American troops, planes, and military and economic aid from Southeast Asia. We cannot allow one more human being to be killed in Southeast Asia. We support as a basis for the cessation of these hostilities the various peace proposals of the People of Southeast Asia or such future plans as they develop based upon their right of self-determination and actual control of their own destinies.

2. To demand the immediate termination of all other operations by the United States Government, its agencies, and American business interests that are designed to suppress the rightful struggles for liberation and self-determination of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America. This includes the maintenance of dictatorial governments, economic domination, and the theft of the natural resources of other countries. The United States should make reparations in a program acceptable to the Indochinese for all of the damage done by the United States.

3. To demand that all active-duty servicemen and women, reservists and national guardsmen be afforded the same rights that are guaranteed by the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights that are presently denied by the Uniform Code of Military Justice. We are appalled that our active-duty GIs are treated as less than first class citizens. We endorse the efforts of our active-duty sisters and brothers in their struggle to democratize the military.

4. To support all military personnel refusing to serve against their consciences in wars at home and abroad. We demand that Congress enact legislation for the immediate repatriation of those brothers and sisters who are in prison or in self-exile by reason of their refusal to serve in the military. It must also involve an end to all repression and a freeing of all political prisoners.

5. To demand there be no distinctions as to types of discharges and that a single type of discharge be issued, and that this be retroactive. We also demand all veterans receive all rights and benefits under the VA; and that compensation for disabilities be based solely upon the degree of disability for veterans and their families, without regard to sex, race, rank or length of service.

6. To make clear that the United States has never undertaken an extensive, open investigation of American war crimes in Indochina. In its war in Indochina, the principles of Nuremberg have been violated. As active-duty and former GIs, we recognize the responsibility and guilt of the individual soldier to refrain from committing war crimes. We also recognize that the

responsibility and guilt of war crimes committed in the name of America lies with our policy makers at all levels.

7. Resolved to fight racism, to show Americans that our society is permeated by racism, which manipulates whites into viewing non-whites as inferior or less than human. This racism pushes Third World People through inferior schools to inferior jobs and into combat arms. Thus Third World People are sent off to die in disproportionately high numbers as we kill Asians indiscriminately. We also demand the US military recognize its complicity in America's domestic and international racism.

8. Resolved to fight sexism, to show that sexism plays a major part in promoting war. We must show Americans our society is permeated by sexism, which forces an inferior status upon women, reducing them to subservient sexual objects, and which robs both men and women of their natural growth. This institutionalized sexism channels women into unfulfilling, lower paying jobs which are servile in nature and purpose; it exploits their bodies for sex and profit; and it degrades and dehumanizes them by a double standard of morality wholly dependent on the myth of male supremacy. This sexism is exploited by the military, officially defining servicewomen as subordinate and thoroughly subjugating them to servile work and the role of a sexual object. We resolve to fight sexism within our society, within our own organization and within ourselves.

9. To support the democratic right of Americans to unionize and strike to protect their income and safeguard their employment. We consider all legislation designed to suppress these rights, including mandatory arbitration, to be illegal and not in the interests of the American working people. We also demand full employment for all Americans, including free educational and vocational training for all who need or want it. We refuse to participate in the efforts being made to separate us from other working people, making veterans enemies by giving us the charade of employment priority. We condemn this as a method of encouraging enlistment by the false promise of employment after service. We also condemn the use of active-duty GIs, reservists and national guardsmen as strikebreakers.

10. To dedicate ourselves to these principles and objectives which directly relate to the imperialist suppression of the People of the World by the United States government. We understand this war is imperialist in origin and affirm that the membership of VVAW/WSO is not only concerned with ending this war, but with changing the domestic, social, political and economic institutions that have caused and perpetuated its continuance.

# SUBSCRIBE

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tel.(312)935-2129

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to Join VVAW/WSO

\_\_\_\_\_ I am an active-duty GI

\_\_\_\_\_ I am currently in prison

\_\_\_\_\_ I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support  
your group

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



"The United States agrees that the following district of country, to wit, (everything west of the Missouri River, north of the Northern Platte River and east of the Big Horn Mountains in Wyoming), shall be . . . set apart for the absolute and undisturbed use and occupation of the Indians herein named. . . ." That is part of the 17-article Treaty of 1868, signed at Fort Laramie, Dakota Territory, on April 29, 1868, by the leaders of the Brule band of the Sioux Nation and Lieutenant-General William T. Sherman and seven other U. S. Government representatives. This Treaty, which guarantees the sovereign use of this land, including Wounded Knee, to the Sioux and Arapaho Indians, was ratified by the U. S. Senate on February 16, 1869. Since its founding, the U. S. Government has signed 371 such treaties with Indian peoples, and the end result has been that their water, minerals and land have all been stolen and presided over by white administrators.

To dramatize their oppression, on February 27, 1973, with the requested help of the American Indian Movement (AIM), some 300 people began the 71-day occupation of Wounded Knee Village on the Pine Ridge Reservation. By the end of the siege on May 8th, two Indians, Buddy Lamont and Frank Clearwater, had been killed. The "peace" agreement reached on May 5th has been followed by beatings, harassment and murder. Clarence Cross was murdered on his way home one night; Pedro Bissonette, who was a key defense witness in the Wounded Knee trials, was murdered by BIA police on October 17, 1973. Over 400 people have been arrested.

Three hundred and seventeen cases resulting from the occupation are now pending in Federal, State and Tribal Courts; the first major trial began on January 8, 1974, in St. Paul, Minnesota. AIM leaders Russell Means and Dennis Banks began their trial before Chief Judge Fred J. Nichol from South Dakota, who moved the trial out of the State after determining that a fair trial in South Dakota would be impossible.

Dennis Banks, 41, is a Chippewa born on the Leach Lake Indian Reservation in Minnesota. He is married and has 13 children. In 1968 he co-founded the American Indian Movement in Minneapolis, and is currently its Executive Director. Speaking about his race he said, "So much is our misery, hunger and poverty that we must declare ourselves as having been engaged in the longest undeclared war in U. S. history. If the Government would react to problems that plague American Indian reservations with the same zest and enthusiasm as they sent troopers, then we would realize an end to some of the problems."

Russell Means, 34, is an Oglala Sioux from Porcupine, South Dakota on the Pine Ridge Reservation. He is the father of four children. Currently he

## FREE THE DEFENDANTS IMPLEMENT THE TREATIES

# WOUNDED KNEE



resides on the Pine Ridge Reservation where he is campaigning for tribal chairman against Dick Wilson and the corrupt BIA government. Of the trial Means said, "We are going to attempt for the first time in history through the federal judiciary system, in front of a jury, to prove that we, the American Indian, do have treaty rights."

Four other AIM leaders have a tentative trial date of March 1st in St. Paul. They are Clyde Bellecourt, Carter Camp, Leonard Crow Dog and Stan Holder. (The seventh defendant, Pedro Bissonette, was murdered in October.) From the beginning, the defendants have wanted to be tried together, but the Government has opposed all efforts to obtain joint trials. Judge Nichol ruled that only the Banks and Means cases will be tried together, and has held open the question of consolidation of future trials.

All six AIM leaders are charged with the following: Burglary, larceny, assault on a Federal officer, impeding federal officers in the course of a civil disorder, possession of unauthorized firearms, theft of a motor vehicle and conspiracy to commit each of the other acts. The overriding constitutional questions in these trials will be those involving treaty rights. Within that context, the defendants have challenged the Major Crimes Act which makes a federal crime out of all acts which violate

state laws that are committed on a reservation. They have also challenged the constitutionality of the Civil Disobedience Act of 1968 and the Firearms Control Act.

The United States Government since its founding has negotiated and ratified treaties with American Indians. As provided for in our Constitution, treaties can only be entered into with other nations. So American Indian Nations like the Sioux, then, must clearly represent a separate nation within the boundaries of the United States. And it is here, in Indian territory, that the United States first began exploiting and destroying other peoples' land. The military or economic domination and exploitation of another nation is called imperialism. And the American Indians were the first to experience the growing monster of U. S. imperialism.

Political trials are nothing new to the people of this country. Just as in the VVAW/WSO Gainesville Conspiracy Trial, the Government is now trying to destroy yet another progressive struggle in the United States. But the trial of the Wounded Knee defendants is different in that it represents the oldest and most thorough policy of exploitation of an independent nation the U. S. has ever engaged in. It is time that this policy is ENDED.

FREE  
THE WOUNDED KNEE DEFENDANTS

IMPLEMENT THE TREATIES



# VVAW-WSO holds 11th N.S.C. MEETING



Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization recently held its 11th National Steering Committee Meeting in Yellow Springs, Ohio. Delegates from across the nation met for five days to determine policy and direction, and elect the National Coordinators for the organization.

The National Steering Committee is the highest policy-making body in VVAW/WSO. Delegates are elected democratically from their regions to attend the meetings which are held 3 times a year.

The first day of the meeting was spent reviewing and analyzing the strengths, weaknesses, and direction of the organization. The body then broke into workshops concerning specific areas of work for the purpose of continuing discussions and returning to the whole body with reports and proposals.

## INDOCHINA

It was decided that continued work around Indochina as the primary emphasis of U.S. imperialism was essential; and that with this, there should be work around cutting off aid to Thieu and Lon Nol and insuring the release of Saigon's political prisoners. It was also decided that VVAW/WSO is to sponsor or participate in demonstrations across the country in memory of last year's signing of the Paris Peace agreements.

## PRISONS

The initial work we have been doing around prisons has met with

phenomenal success. Starting with less than 60 prisoners in 30 prisons just four months ago, we have now grown to over 300 prisoners in over 60 prisons across the country. There are also four VVAW/WSO chapters in existence in prisons, and many more prison chapters are in the process of formation. Because of this, it was decided that we should move forward with our prison work by establishing a National Prison Project whose project office is located within the National Office.

## AMNESTY

It was decided that during the next 6-9 months, we will be making major efforts to set up official VVAW/WSO Discharge Upgrading Projects in as many chapters as possible. Along with this, steps are being taken to organize a national action on amnesty in Washington, D.C., which is to be held at the end of June or beginning of July. Also, the slogans for this demonstration are to include: Universal and Unconditional Amnesty; A Universal Discharge for all Vets; U.S. Really out of Indochina!

Along with these, many other topics were covered, ranging from work place organizing to "the Possibility of a Domestic Coup," and Operation Country Fair to the upcoming trial of Gary Lawton and Zurebu Gardner.

The meeting was closed with a VVAW/WSO solidarity song whose chorus says: "VVAW/WSO will struggle hard for unity and victory, you know!"

**UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY**

# NEWS BRIEFS

## PUERTO RICO

One of the most shattering diplomatic and political defeats for the US came recently at the United Nations when the General Assembly voted 104-5 that Puerto Rico was, in fact, a colony of the United States, and not an independent country. Although virtually ignored by the US news media, this vote marks an important step forward in the struggle for Puerto Rican independence and international recognition. During the debate, speakers described the US presence in Puerto Rico, including manipulation and financing of political parties, huge military bases, repression of patriots, brutal treatment of prisoners, suppression of workers' struggles and US corporate influence.

## DOCKWORKERS

Baltimore dockworkers again refused, during the last week in December, to unload Rhodesian chrome ore. In a show of international solidarity with the African people of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), 2500 Black and white members of Local 333 of the International Longshoremen's Association forced the US bulk carrier Yellowstone to leave in search of another port. Earlier in the month, the longshoremen refused to unload 58 containers of Rhodesian nickel aboard the African Sun, after it had been boycotted in Philadelphia.

## PRODUCTS TO BOYCOTT

Support the United Farmworkers by boycotting non-union, iceberg lettuce (romaine is OK), grapes, wines bottled by Gallo, including Boone's Farm and Ripple and all Safeway Supermarkets. Support striking workers employed by Farah Manufacturing Co. by boycotting Farah pants and their other pants brands Cliff Mark, Beau Mark, Golden Scroll, Passport, Club 20, Par Excellent, Su Par Jeans, Daire and Kinrod. Support African liberation movements by boycotting all Gulf oil products. Gulf Oil Co. supports Portugal through millions of dollars in royalties it pays Portugal to extract oil from its African colonies.

## CHILE

The Chilean Government has set February 3rd as the deadline for departure of all foreign refugees. There are 3000 refugees in sanctuaries, embassies and private homes, 1800 of which are foreigners. A major problem has been to find countries willing to take the refugees, many of whom are exiles from neighboring right-wing dictatorships. Of the 1480 non-Chileans who have departed so far, the United States has taken only one.



# GIS CONTINUE

## Amnesty Trial

# RICHARD BUCKLIN CONVICTED



RICHARD BUCKLIN

## What's Going On Here ???

Something very weird was going on at Lockbourne AFB over the holidays. With practically no warning, half the KC-135 refueling planes on the base suddenly took off for Hawaii. GIs were given temporary orders for Hawaii and were shipped out very suddenly. It's all a little scary because the KC-135 has only one purpose in life: to feed B-52s! Now they certainly did not get a sudden influx of B-52s into Hawaii. Could the jets have been ordered to Hawaii as a cover for a real trip to Guam or Thailand, where they were being readied for a resumption of bombing in Indochina? The South Vietnamese government admitted a few days ago that it was bombing National Liberation Front forces--in direct violation of the cease-fire agreements--"in order to head off a Communist offensive." Are the refuelers meant for Thieu and his gang?

News on these pages was compiled by NOSCAM, the VVAW/WSO National Office GI Project. This office coordinates active-duty chapters, new VVAW/WSO members and chapters, GI Movement news, and all other GI Movement activities. Contact one of the NOSCAM offices for more information:

NOSCAM-Dayton, PO Box 1625,  
Dayton, Ohio 45401 (513) 274-3171  
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(evenings only)

(Fort Carson, Colorado) In a decision that may have a widespread effect on the amnesty movement in the coming months, Richard Dean Bucklin, a deserter who voluntarily returned to military custody in order to dramatize the issue of amnesty, was found guilty of AWOL and was given a harsh sentence by a court-martial.

On January 8, a general court-martial sentenced Bucklin to 15 months' confinement at hard labor, total forfeitures, reduction in grade to E-1, and a Bad Conduct Discharge. Bucklin will serve his time at Fort Leavenworth, where he will be among many other brothers who have resisted military oppression.

Bucklin had turned himself in at Carson on October 4, 1973. He realized at the time that "They are going to throw the book at me." However, he felt that it was important to present a public defense at a trial of the issues surrounding amnesty for our brothers in exile. He stated at the time of his surrender that he wanted his ordeal to "mean something, to have an effect--to make the American people aware of the plight of all war resisters." He wanted to expose the military for what they are--"headless giants who not only don't mind killing the peoples of foreign lands, but also don't mind destroying their own people in order to further their goals."

The Army, realizing that Bucklin would make a lot of friends at the base, tossed Bucklin into isolation for the following brilliant reason: "We put him in maximum security because we felt that the Vietnam veterans in our stockade might physically harm Bucklin or kill him." It was suggested to them that there was a slight contradiction there: if the Nam vets in the stockade were such fire-breathing patriots and defenders of Army integrity, what the hell were they doing in the stockade???

Bucklin was put through a farcical pre-trial hearing in which the Army made it clear that they would go to great lengths

to prevent him from getting, not just a fair trial, but even a forum in which to present his defense. The Army is trying to soft-pedal the issue of returning deserters by either giving them bad discharges and quietly kicking them out, or sticking them with tough sentences to make "examples" out of them. Fort Carson has been a real leader in the latter course of action; since last fall it has refused to discharge most of the GIs who have turned themselves in there, and those who have gotten out have done so with Undesireable or other lousy grades of discharge. The last thing in the world the Army wanted was a politically conscious GI resister standing up and exposing their flabby underbelly: the thousands of men who have refused to stay in the Army and who have chosen exile rather than dishonor.

Bucklin's court-martial was short and ugly. The defense tried to present a series of witnesses who could provide the people's view of the Vietnam war, which was the main reason Bucklin had gone AWOL: he had found he could not go there and fight. The judge looked at the list of witnesses that the defense wanted to present--Jane Fonda, Dr. Benjamin Spock, and other anti-war activists--and refused to let any of them onto the witness stand. Defense protests were ignored, and the trial ended on its second day, with Bucklin getting an unusually severe sentence for a simple case of AWOL. The Army would have liked to nail him for desertion, but couldn't prove it.

Richard Bucklin will be at Leavenworth for over a year. He will be in good company: the prison is filled with men like Brother Melvin X. Smith, unjustly accused of a murder in Vietnam; Ed West, an Air Force EM who stood up against racism and got 7 years for his trouble; and literally hundreds of others. The amnesty campaign must force the government to free these men, as well as forcing it to allow our brothers in exile to return home.

### BEETLE BAILEY





# THE STRUGGLE



## Sailor Court-Martialed for Leafletting

(Okinawa, Japan) An active-duty member of the VVAW/WSO chapter in Kinville, Okinawa, was recently sentenced to 60 days' restriction (suspended), a bust to E-1, and a \$200 fine for leafletting outside the gate of Camp Hansen.

John Hunter's special court-martial resulted from a new CINCPACFLT order that prohibits all Navy and Marine personnel in the Pacific from exercising their First Amendment right to distribute literature in a foreign country, even when off-post, off-duty, and out of uniform. On the absurd grounds that such activity might constitute an involvement in Japanese politics, all personnel must ask for prior command approval before distributing literature.

It is clear, however, that it is GIs' involvement in American politics that the brass is afraid of!

Hunter pleaded guilty to passing out a leaflet last August that urged the immediate halt of bombing of Cambodia. He also pleaded guilty to passing out the HANSEN FREE PRESS, a local GI paper published by Okinawa VVAW/WSO.

Chris Coates, Hunter's attorney, who works with the National Lawyers Guild, made six pretrial motions urging that the charges be dropped on the following grounds: That they violate Marine Corps regulation 5370.4, Department of Defense Directive 1325.6,

the First Amendment, and the Fifth Amendment; That it is ambiguously worded; and that it violates recent Court of Military Appeals rulings on the wording of self-executing orders.

The military judge, Maj. Glenn Hampton, denied all these motions, without any explanation. It was obvious throughout the trial that Hampton, in typical military style, only wanted to get the case kicked upstairs to the appeal courts so that his career wouldn't be jeopardized by making rulings contrary to the brass' interest. Attorney Coates and other lawyers, however, feel confident about getting the conviction overturned in the federal courts.

In the meantime, the new order is now being enforced by all Navy and Marine units in Japan and Okinawa. In Yokosuka, Japan, homeport of the aircraft carrier MIDWAY, two sailors were recently busted and given non-judicial punishment for distributing the VVAW/WSO paper there, FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. And in Iwakuni, Japan, home of the First Marine Air Wing, all personnel have been forbidden to distribute their paper, SEMPER FI, and several Marines have lost their security access for working on the paper. But the chapters remain strong, and all the papers will continue to come out for quite some time to come.

CONTACT: People's House, PO Box 447, Koza, Okinawa, Japan.

## Melvin X. Smith

(Fort Leavenworth, Kansas) The Army apparently is having a rough time making up its mind on what to do with Brother Melvin X. Smith, the black GI charged with murder in Vietnam in 1971. He faced a sanity board hearing on December 10 which, it had been hoped, would decide to accept the truth about Melvin's case. Smith was insane at the time of the shooting and for almost three years has fought unsuccessfully for his freedom. He has already been convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment, but won a retrial in September. The new sanity board hearing was part of a new trial procedure. If the board had found in his favor, he finally would have been freed.

The board had indicated to Smith's attorney that they would not turn in a verdict of insanity. On the other hand, they also had said that they would not decide Smith was sane. It was most likely that they would refuse to render a verdict at all, thus leaving the decision to prosecute up to the brass. That, naturally, would mean a new trial.

It has been five weeks since the hearing, and as we go to press the Army is still being silent about Smith's fate. It is impossible to tell what's being done; the Army may be pressuring the sanity board to give a verdict of sanity, or the brass may be getting a little jumpy because of the wide attention and sympathy that Melvin's case has received. We can only keep working and hope that the protests of thousands of people against the racist attack on him is giving the Army second thoughts about their vendetta.

On the assumption, which is pretty well-founded, that Smith will be facing trial in March, the Melvin X. Smith Defense Committee is trying to locate any GIs who were with Smith's unit at the time of the incident. WE NEED YOUR HELP. Anyone who was stationed with the 54th Ordnance Co., 26th General Support Group, in Quang Tri Province, in April and May of 1971, is asked to please contact NOSCAMP-Chicago, 2743 N. Wilton, Chicago, Ill. 60614, or Mrs. Doreatha Smith Slaughter, 8732 S. Winchester, Chicago, Ill. 60620, (312) 881-0710. Melvin Smith's future will depend on our finding some of these brothers.

We will inform friends and supporters of any news as soon as we get it. In the meantime, we are asking that anyone who can circulate a petition demanding freedom for Melvin Smith write us. We will send out a petition immediately.

MELVIN X. SMITH MUST BE FREED!



SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF

# INDOCHINA



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