

Vietnam Veterans Against the War-Winter Soldier Organization

# NEWSLETTER

number 36



May 5 75

## CELEBRATE THE GREAT VICTORY OF THE INDOCHINESE PEOPLE

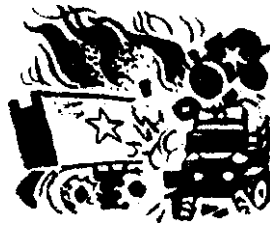
In the history of the world, there has been no greater month for liberation struggles than April, 1975. The victories--first in Cambodia and not quite two weeks later in South Vietnam--are first and foremost the victories of the people of those countries who have been fighting against colonialism and then imperialism for decades. They are also victories for all the people of the world, because the defeats suffered by US imperialism in both Cambodia and Vietnam have gone one step further toward weakening that monster which oppresses people in every land.

VVAW/WSO and all of its members have played a real part in that victory, which is one of the reasons why the liberation of Cambodia and Vietnam take on a special significance for us. The days of liberation have been moments that many of us have dreamed of for years, but our contribution to those victories came not from the dreams but from the consistent work we, as an organization, have been doing around Indochina since we began in 1967. We have celebrated and participated in victories along the way--the end of the bombing, the signing of the agreements, the end of the US official combat role--but the events of the past month overshadow all of these. It is a time of joy--for the Indochinese, and for us.

Over the past five years, we have held a number of meetings with representatives from the PRG and the National United Front in Cambodia. While they often stated their appreciation for the support we were giving for their cause and their struggle, they consistently pointed out the need for us to carry on the struggle against imperialism here in the US. It is a tribute to the political wisdom of the Indochinese that when we finally came to understand what they were telling us, we have developed into a vets and GI organization which is focusing its attacks on the system of imperialism, and that the end of the war in Indochina means that we can celebrate with our comrades in Indochina and then go out to continue our building and growing struggle here at home.

In the name of the organization, the National Office sent the following telegram to the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia (both in Peking and in Paris)

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on April 16th: Comrades: With great joy and revolutionary admiration we salute and join with you in celebrating the final liberation of Cambodia from the traitorous clique and the clutches of US imperialism. From your magnificent victory, which is a victory for all the people of the world, we draw unbounded inspiration and resolution to heighten our common struggle against imperialism. Fraternally, VVAW/WSO.

On April 29th, we sent the following telegram to the PRG: Comrades: Our joyful and revolutionary salutations on your glorious victory. To each and all of the heroic fighters for freedom and independence we send our comradely and deep admiration. From your magnificent example we draw renewed strength and inspiration to continue our common struggle to smash U. S. imperialism. In Fraternal Joy, VVAW/WSO.

One of the things we feel that the organization should now be doing when talking about Indochina (in addition to countering some of the garbage that the straight media is flooding us with) is to draw the lessons from what has happened there--to "bring the war home" in terms of pointing out that imperialism affects each and every one of us all the time. We have tried to bring out some of these ideas in the Winter Soldier centerfold (which was written before the final liberation of Vietnam). At the same time, it's apparent that the US ruling class is confused about what position to take around the events in Indochina--for instance, their attempt to talk about the bloodbath which was right around the corner hasn't gotten off the ground. They have to admit that it was a defeat and seem to want to try to sweep the whole 20 years under the nearest rug. At the same time, however, they are looking toward the Middle East to see if a war there won't help them slither out of the crisis.

As the ruling class flounders around trying to decide on exactly what line they want to put out, there has been a large amount of information about Indochina in the papers and on TV. People with some knowledge of the liberation forces can usually read between the lines sufficiently to figure out what is actually going on. Some of the more useful items which have come into the National Office are the "10 Point Policy of the PRG Regarding Newly Liberated Areas," and the "10 Point Code of Conduct for Cadres and Personnel in Newly-Liberated Areas." Because we have not seen these reprinted as yet, and because they are useful in terms of talking about what is happening in Vietnam, we are reprinting them here. They came out officially on April 1st, 1975.

"10-Point Code of Conduct for Cadres and Personnel in Newly-Liberated Areas of South Vietnam.

1. Firmly defend the revolutionary power, always remain vigilant, be ready to smash all schemes of sabotage and opposition of the enemy.
2. Strictly implement all policies of the National Front for Liberation and all regulations issued by the revolutionary administration.



3. Strengthen solidarity among various strata of the population, among the cadres, combatants and the people. Actively mobilize the people to carry out all policies and undertakings of the Front and the revolutionary administration in order to promote confidence and public enthusiasm. Step up production and fighting and consolidate the newly-liberated areas in all fields.

4. Respect and protect the lives and property of the people. Do not take even a needle and thread from the people and do not use the people's property without permission. Anyone who damages the people's property will be fined.

5. Ensure the democratic liberties of the people, respect the freedom of belief and the customs and habits of the people.

6. Protect public property, historical relics, cultural and art works and scientific research projects.

7. All documents, papers, weapons, property, money and other items captured from the enemy must be handed over to the revolutionary administration. It is forbidden to destroy or appropriate them or to give them to others.

8. Be exemplary in observing public order, actively take part in checking and undoing all espionage activities, and psychological warfare manipulation of the enemy, fully observe the regulations concerning defence against enemy spies, keep the secrets of the revolution, mobilize the people to check and sweep away all kinds of depraved and reactionary culture.

9. It is forbidden to make arrests and to search persons or houses without warrants from the competent authorities. In case a person is caught in the act of opposing the revolutionary administration and the people by committing such acts as sabotage, robbery, murder, rape, or causing disturbances to public security and order, he or she must be arrested and handed over immediately to the responsible authorities for trial.

10. Preserve the revolutionary virtues: industry, thrift, integrity, and public-mindedness. Strict forbiddance of all behavior harmful to the prestige of the revolution.

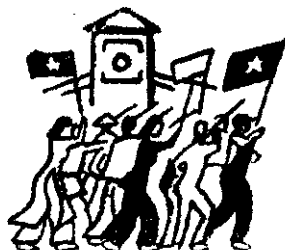
During contact with the people, the revolutionary cadres must observe politeness, modesty and solidarity. It is strictly forbidden to behave arrogantly or to use coercion.

All cadres and personnel in the newly-liberated areas must strictly implement the 10-point code of conduct mentioned above. The officers and combatants of the armed forces implement their own 10-point code of conduct. Whoever violates it will be severely punished.

The people should assist the cadres and personnel in the correct implementation of the 10-point code of conduct.

South Viet Nam, April 1st, 1975.

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**"10-Point Policy of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam Regarding Newly-Liberated Areas. "**

To preserve and promote the gains of the revolution, normalize the life of the people, actively safeguard and implement the Paris Agreement on Vietnam, and bring the South Viet Nam revolution to new and yet greater victories, the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam declares the following 10-point policy concerning the areas recently liberated:

1. The complete abolition of the regime and administration machinery, armed forces, all organizations, all regulations and all forms of repression and coercion of the puppet administration. The speedy establishment of the people's revolutionary administration at all levels in the newly-liberated areas.

All the offices of the former puppet administration will be taken over by the revolutionary administration. Functionaries under the puppet administration must seriously observe all the lines and policies of the PRG.

All reactionary parties and other political organizations which collaborated with the enemy will be dissolved.

2. The achievement of democratic freedoms for the people, and of equality between the sexes.

The guarantees of freedom of belief and of unity and equality of religions. The people's freedom for religious worship shall be respected; pagodas and churches, holy sees and temples, shall be protected.

3. The implementation of a policy of great national unity, national reconciliation and concord, and opposition to the aggressive imperialism. The strict prohibition of all actions likely to give rise to discord, hatred or mistrust among the people or among the various ethnic groups.

All people, rich or poor, and irrespective of nationality, religion, or political tendency, must unite in mutual affection and assistance for the building of the liberated zone and for a new life in happiness.

Minority nationals are equal in all respects to their fellow-countrymen of the majority ethnic group. Devoted assistance will be provided to them to develop their economy and culture and improve their living conditions.

4. All people living in the liberated zone are free to carry on their occupations. They are duty-bound to help maintain law and order, and to support the revolution.

The people's revolutionary administration shall firmly and in good time deal with all schemes or actions of sabotage, or counter-attacks by the enemy. Severe punishment will be given to elements engaged in activities against the revolutionary administration, against law and order, against the lives, property or honor of the people, or against public property in the custody of the revolutionary administration.

5. The property left by the puppet administration will be managed by the PRG.

6. All industrial establishments, all handicraft shops, all establishment of trade, transport and communications, and all other public facilities must continue to operate to serve the national economy and the people in their everyday life.

Attention will be paid to the restoration of the production and to the normalization of the life of the people. Jobs will be provided to the unemployed and to other people capable of working.

Business associations are guaranteed to keep their ownership, and are allowed to continue to operate their businesses in the interests of the nation and the people.

Devoted care will be given to orphans, the disabled, and the aged.

7. Encouragement will be given to farmers to rehabilitate and develop agricultural production, and to fishing, salt-making and forestry enterprises. Encouragement will be given to the owners of industrial plantations and orchards to continue to do business.

8. All cultural, scientific and technical establishments, schools and hospitals will open again to serve the people. All agencies in service of the reactionary, decadent, enslaving culture of the U. S. imperialism and the puppet administration will be strictly banned.

9. The strict implementation of this policy adopted on March 25, 1975, by the PRG: all puppet officers and soldiers, policemen, disabled soldiers, veterans and civil servants who leave the enemy ranks and come to the liberated zone, or who stay in the liberated areas and report themselves to the revolutionary administration in strict conformity with the regulations of the revolutionary administration, will receive assistance to earn their living, to go home, or, if they wish, to serve in the new regime according to their capabilities. Their meritorious actions will be rewarded, but those who work against the revolution will be severely punished. Criminals who have sincerely repented will be pardoned.

10. The lives and property of foreign residents will be protected. All foreign residents must respect the independence, and sovereignty of Viet Nam, and must strictly observe all regulations and policies of the revolutionary administration.

Foreign residents who wish to contribute to the South Vietnamese people's struggle for independence, freedom and national construction are welcomed.

South Viet Nam, April 1st, 1975

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# General Information

## Build for Armed Forces Day -- May 17th!

On May 17th, VVAW/WSO chapters in at least four major locations are planning activities including demonstrations on Armed Forces Day. These activities were approved and passed as part of the National GI Program at the St. Louis NSCM in December, 1974.

Armed Forces Day has traditionally been a day when the US war machine has rolled out its hardware and troops for a grand show of military strength intended to send quivers of fear through the peoples of the world and show them that the US military is still top dog. Since 1970, GIs, vets, and other people have been demonstrating on Armed Forces Day at military installations around the world. These demonstrations were organized in opposition to continued US presence and involvement in Indochina as well as against the oppression that GIs faced everyday as their resistance to the war, racism and the repression of the military took on more and more militant forms. With the defeat of imperialism in Indochina, the military and their bosses will be looking forward to Armed Forces Day to boost their injured pride and getting the machinery oiled up for an impending war -- probably in the Middle East.

With the present world situation in mind, the demands that VVAW/WSO will be raising on a national level are:

- (1) WE WON'T FIGHT ANY IMPERIALIST WARS!
- (2) CELEBRATE THE VICTORY OF THE INDOCHINESE PEOPLE!
- (3) SUPERPOWERS, HANDS OFF THE MIDDLE EAST!

Additionally, local demonstrations will be raising demands based on struggles where day-to-day GI organizing is taking place. Other demands for the demonstrations are from the National GI Program:

- (1) End All Racial Oppression!
- (2) End Oppression of Women in the Military!
- (3) Democratic Rights for GIs/Abolish the UCMJ!
- (4) End the Use of GIs as Strikebreakers and Riot Cops!

Locations for demonstrations that the National Office has been notified of at this point are:

Highway 13 - VVAW/WSO at Ft. Meade in the DC area  
San Diego VVAW/WSO in San Diego for the southern California area  
Tacoma VVAW/WSO at Ft. Lewis for the Tacoma-Seattle area  
Liberated Barracks - VVAW/WSO for the Hawaii area

If other chapters or regions are planning demonstrations and have not yet notified the National Office, please do so immediately so that we can coordinate the actions.

All regions and chapters are encouraged to attend these demonstrations when and where possible. If chapters cannot attend the major demonstrations, they should consider sending a couple of representatives from the region and/or chapter to these actions. If the demonstration is a long distance, geographically, the chapters could finance these representatives.

We strongly urge chapters who cannot attend the demonstrations to plan activities around the date of the demonstrations, uniting with local progressive forces for these activities. Some suggested activities are:

- (1) The struggle to throw military recruiters --
  - A. Off campuses
  - B. Out of Unemployment offices
  - C. Out of the VA (sometimes the VA tells vets the only job they can get is to re-enlist)
- (2) The struggles to throw ROTC off campuses and out of high schools
- (3) Initiating or following up on work with National Guard and/or Reserve units meeting on the weekend of May 17th and 18th.
- (4) Initiating or following up on work at military installations where little or no work has gone on before.

If your chapter does have an action on Armed Forces Day, please send a report of activities and a summation of work to the National Office as quickly as possible (accompanied by photos -- black and white only). Additional copies of GI NEWS as well as the GI section of WINTER SOLDIER are available for this day(s) of activities.

DEMONSTRATE ON ARMED FORCES DAY -- MAY 17th!!



#### Lawton Trial Almost Concluded

There is an up-date on Gary Lawton's trial in the enclosed issue of WINTER SOLDIER. Since that article was written, the defense has rested its case (done on May 1st) and the week of May 5th will be spent with rebuttal witnesses and closing arguments. The case will probably go to jury late during the week of the 5th and a verdict is expected to be in either that week or early the following week (week of the 12th). Chapters should be prepared for the verdict and immediately begin planning demonstrations, picket lines, and hopefully, celebrations of the victory. The National Office will notify regional offices of the result of this third trial immediately after the verdict is known, and regional offices should then notify chapters.

The Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee feels that the chances for an acquittal in this third trial are good, and at worse, the jury would be hung again. Because of the increased exposure of the racism and repression involved in Gary's struggle for freedom and the ridiculous show put on by the prosecution in the courtroom, the chances for conviction are minimal. Also, the struggle in the Riverside community around Lawton's struggle is growing, as is the fight against police repression in communities around the country. This is what will really free Gary Lawton! We hope that a victory in this struggle will soon be known and again, VVAW/WSO chapters should be prepared to respond to whatever the result of this third trial is. FREE GARY LAWTON! FREE US ALL!

### FBI Informant Uncovered in Buffalo Chapter -

By now all regions and chapters should have received information on the exposure of Mary Jo Cook as a paid FBI informant in the Buffalo Chapter of VVAW/WSO. As a member of VVAW/WSO she also succeeded in penetrating the Attica Brothers Defense /Offense Committee where she supplied the FBI with extensive information on the internal defense strategy of the Attica Brothers. Since information on this matter has been carried in the April-May issue of WINTER SOLDIER and in a special mailing sent out by the NY/NJ Regional Office to all regions and chapters there is no need to deal with it in this newsletter. (If you have not received either of these materials, contact the National Office or the NY/NJ Regional Office and we'll get them to you.)

It is sufficient to say that Mary Jo Cook, under the direct supervision of the Regional FBI office in Buffalo, succeeded in doing VVAW/WSO great harm by promoting internal divisions and conflict with the organization; in addition to providing the FBI with extensive reports of all aspects of our organizational life. In a tactic almost identical to that used by another FBI agent attacking VVAW/WSO -- Joe Burton -- of Tampa, FL, around the base and focus of the organization as a springboard from which she launched her splitting and wrecking activities. There is one very basic lesson we must learn from this. That is that our enemies -- whether it is the FBI, state or local police, military intelligence agencies or any other tools of the imperialist state -- will use any tactic, no matter how slimey or vicious, to destroy our organization; to destroy the anti-imperialist movement. And they will attack us in this manner at each and every available opportunity. We do not have the luxury of allowing any naive illusions about this. It is a basic fact of life.





By fully grasping the true nature of our enemy, and knowing beforehand the utterly ruthless and brutal tactics he will utilize given the opportunity, we are in a much better position to defend ourselves. By exercising constant vigilance and always orienting ourselves on the basis of political line to the various questions arising in our organization, we will be able to drastically limit the opportunity for the various agents of reaction to easily wreck and split us from within. The better our understanding of the political needs of the anti-imperialist movement, the more difficult it will be for such agents as Mary Jo Cook, Joe Burton or Bill Lemmer to mislead, confuse and divide people. The more intense the struggle around political questions within VVAW/WSO becomes the more vigilant we must be in basing our decisions on the basis of political line and not on the basis of personal friendships or subjective opinions for this is precisely the time when a clever agent can most successfully split and wreck us from within.

#### Scott Camil Incident

Recently, the NO has received a number of inquiries as to what VVAW/WSO was doing, if anything, around the recent shooting and arrest of Scott Camil, an ex-VVAW/WSO member from Florida. Camil, one of the Gainesville 8, was reportedly shot by narcotics agents when he attempted to sell them a quantity of cocaine. At present, he is under arrest and recuperating from his wounds.

We as an organization have taken no formal position on this matter and feel it would be incorrect to do so. VVAW/WSO is a POLITICAL organization and has no business whatsoever involving itself in this kind of case. As a defendant in the trial of the Gainesville 8, Camil played an exceedingly divisive role in VVAW/WSO and continually undermined the national organization. The day of the acquittal of the Gainesville 8, he resigned from the organization and has since made a number of public denunciations of it. Moreover, he has completely removed himself from any and all political activity since then. His practice has more than demonstrated his opposition to the anti-imperialist movement.

We must always make our decisions based on a political analysis of what will best move the anti-imperialist struggle forward. Given our limited resources, it is clear that we must apply them where they will obtain the best results. In terms of the present incident surrounding Scott Camil, it is obvious that there are literally hundreds of political defense efforts that would take precedence over any possible defense of Camil. This last point is made doubly clear when we realize that at best we have only very inadequate information concerning the facts of the shooting and arrest. Unless it was perfectly clear that the whole thing was a frame-up, we would be doing VVAW/WSO and the anti-imperialist movement great harm by taking up a case involving the possible sale of hard narcotics.

#### Gerry Condon Threatened with Arrest -

Gerry Condon, from AMEX Magazine and the Toronto American Exiles Association, who is presently on a speaking tour in the South was threatened with arrest last week. Gerry, speaking on behalf of a campaign for universal and unconditional amnesty and the right to resist imperialist wars, has had a military 'tail' on him for three weeks.



The officer in charge of AWOLs and deserters at Ft. Benj. Harrison, Indiana tried pressuring the FBI to make an arrest in order to get Gerry in jail for the two years he was sentenced to for refusing orders to go to Vietnam. An undisclosed source found out that the FBI refused to arrest him on the grounds that it would create bad publicity since Gerry has found a lot of support around the country as a result of his speaking tour. At the present time the Pentagon is reviewing his case, which means they have to make a decision of whether they want to arrest him or to drop the charges. They are supposed to have a decision by the end of this week.

Right now Gerry is speaking in Texas, at a May Day celebration in Houston. One of the sponsors of this celebration is the VVAW/WSO chapter there. Whether or not the Pentagon decides to arrest him, it is important that Gerry receive mass support for his case and for universal and unconditional amnesty. Any chapter that would like to have Gerry come speak, should contact Dee Knight at the NCUUA office in New York -- NCUUA, 235 E. 49th Street #11, NYC NY 10017; or telephone (212) 688-8097.

As many celebrations marking the liberation of Indochina are taking place, it would be a good idea to link this celebration with the need for universal and unconditional amnesty. Having Gerry speak would be one good way to bring this out.

**★ UNIVERSAL UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY**

**★ SINGLE TYPE DISCHARGE FOR ALL VETS**

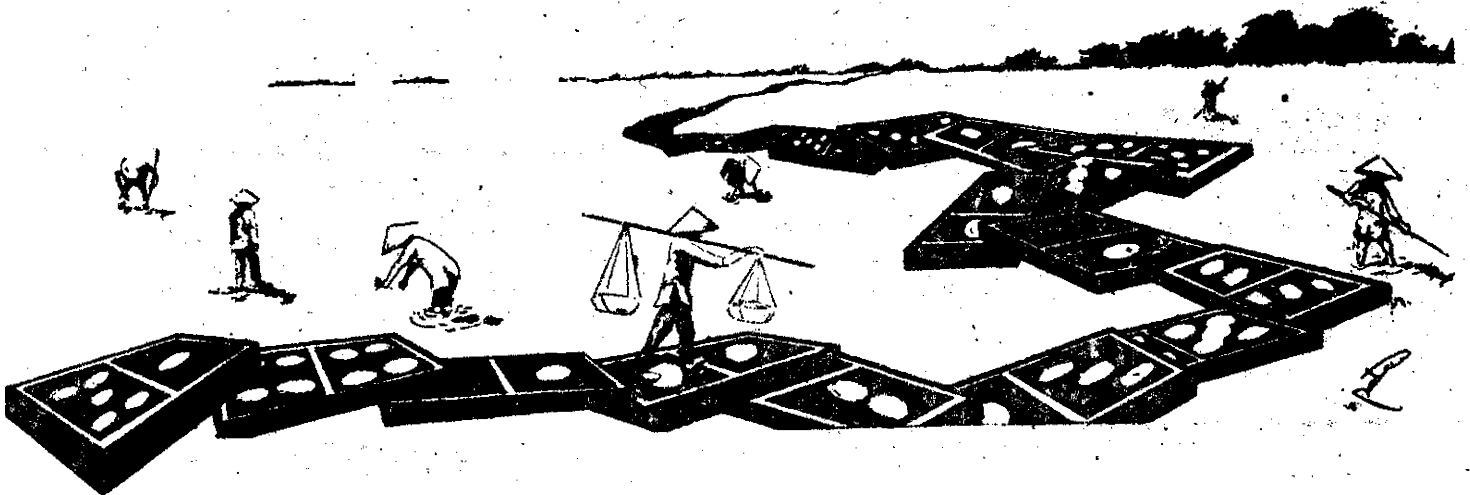
### State Department Refuses to Allow PRG Representatives into the US -

The US State Department has refused to allow Madames Phan Thi Minh and Pham Thanh Van of the Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam to enter the country to take part in International Women's Year events being held at the United Nations on May 7, 8 and 9. The reasons for refusing them visas is due to some reactionary law stating that people who are members of or affiliated with communist organizations are not allowed in the US.

Madames Minh and Van requested to spend 3 days at the meetings and 10 days talking to the American people about the Revolutionary Government and the struggles of the Vietnamese people. While the origins and intent of the US inspired International Women's Year is questionable, we feel that the 10 days planned for talking to the American people could be a valuable tool in understanding the recent events in Vietnam.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom requested that all organizations demand of the US State Department to allow these two heroic women visas to enter the US. The national office sent a letter doing this. While it is probably too late for you to do likewise, we believe that it would be okay to send a letter anyway, letting these people know that we want representatives of the RG to be allowed entry into the US in the future so that we can learn from the Vietnamese and not the New York Times about what life is like in the liberated Vietnam.

Letters to the enemies in the US State Department should be sent to: Robert S. Ingersoll, Deputy Secretary of State, US State Department, Washington DC 20520.



### Chicago Trial Up-date

The seven people arrested on felony charges as a result of the Jan. 25th demonstration against police repression in Chicago went to court on April 29th for the first preliminary hearing. Four of the seven are VVAW/WSO members. At the Jan. 25th demonstration, the police attacked the demonstration, cracked many heads and arrested 17 people. Eight of those arrested still face charges, one of

which is a misdemeanor. A militant picket line of 40 people was held outside the courthouse for the April 29th hearing as a part of the on-going work being done in Chicago communities to stop police repression and to show support for those who were arrested. After an hour-long picket, which included the defendants, people went into the courtroom for the hearing. Several cops testified about how so-and-so had hit them, and as a result of the testimony, the case was bound over to the grand jury to determine if indictments are in order. The grand jury is expected to deliberate on this police attack in early June, and we will continue to keep chapters informed of any developments.

## Regional Reports

### Syracuse Vietnam Vets Day Actions

The following report on March 28th actions was sent to us by the Syracuse chapter of VVAW/WSO; some of the material is included in the Viet Vets Day story in Winter Soldier. We're reprinting the entire report because we feel it is a good model in terms of drawing out the political points around a VA action--of unfolding the entire national program around a specific action.

#### VA Takeover

On March 28th, eight veterans and one non-veteran, members of the Syracuse and Rochester chapters of Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization occupied the Syracuse Veterans' Administration office. While the vets held the office and interfered with "business as usual", a picketline of sixty people marched and chanted in front of the VA office. This action, sponsored by Syracuse VVAW/WSO, was part of the national organization's celebration of Honor Vietnam Veterans Day on March 29th. The national demands which were highlighted at the demonstration were: Decent Benefits for All Vets, Jobs or Income for All, and Implement the Peace Agreements/End All Aid to Thieu and Lon Nol.

#### Inside the VA

Spirits were high during the takeover. One vet with bad discharge papers, as he sat back in one of the office's comfortable swivel chairs, said, "This is the only thing I've ever gotten out of the VA." Others took turns arguing with a frustrated VA official. Said one vet, "I'm unemployed with a wife and little girl to support. My VA check didn't come for three months. When it did come it was for \$12."

Another popular joke was the military's eternal promise of job training programs. Vets asked about job openings for tugboat captains and helicopter door gunners.

Since it was obvious that the VA official was only giving a song and dance anyway, the vets decided that better music was in order. A workers' singing group came into the office from the picketline and sang, "Vietnam will Win."

Veterans answered phone calls and explained that it really was their office for the day. Solidarity was expressed with VA employees and Winter Soldiers were handed out. A picture of Jerry Ford was hung upside down and it was decided that he didn't look any different.

#### On The Street

A picketline of veterans and non-veterans was loudly supporting the office takeover. Passersby occasionally joined the demonstration. All united around the three demands. Another demand was raised to Stop All Police Repression/ Drop Charges Against Gary Lawton and Ron Jones. Gary Lawton is a black community organizer and a member of VVAW/WSO in Riverside, California, who is now being tried for the third time on frame-up charges of murdering two Riverside policemen. Ron Jones is an Onondaga Indian being held down on the reservation outside Syracuse by a bench warrant with six charges on it. Along with others, Ron Jones has been agitating against attempted swindles of reservation land by local politicians and big business. Jones, a Korean War Veteran, has been beaten and threatened by New York State Police.

#### VVAW/WSO Demands

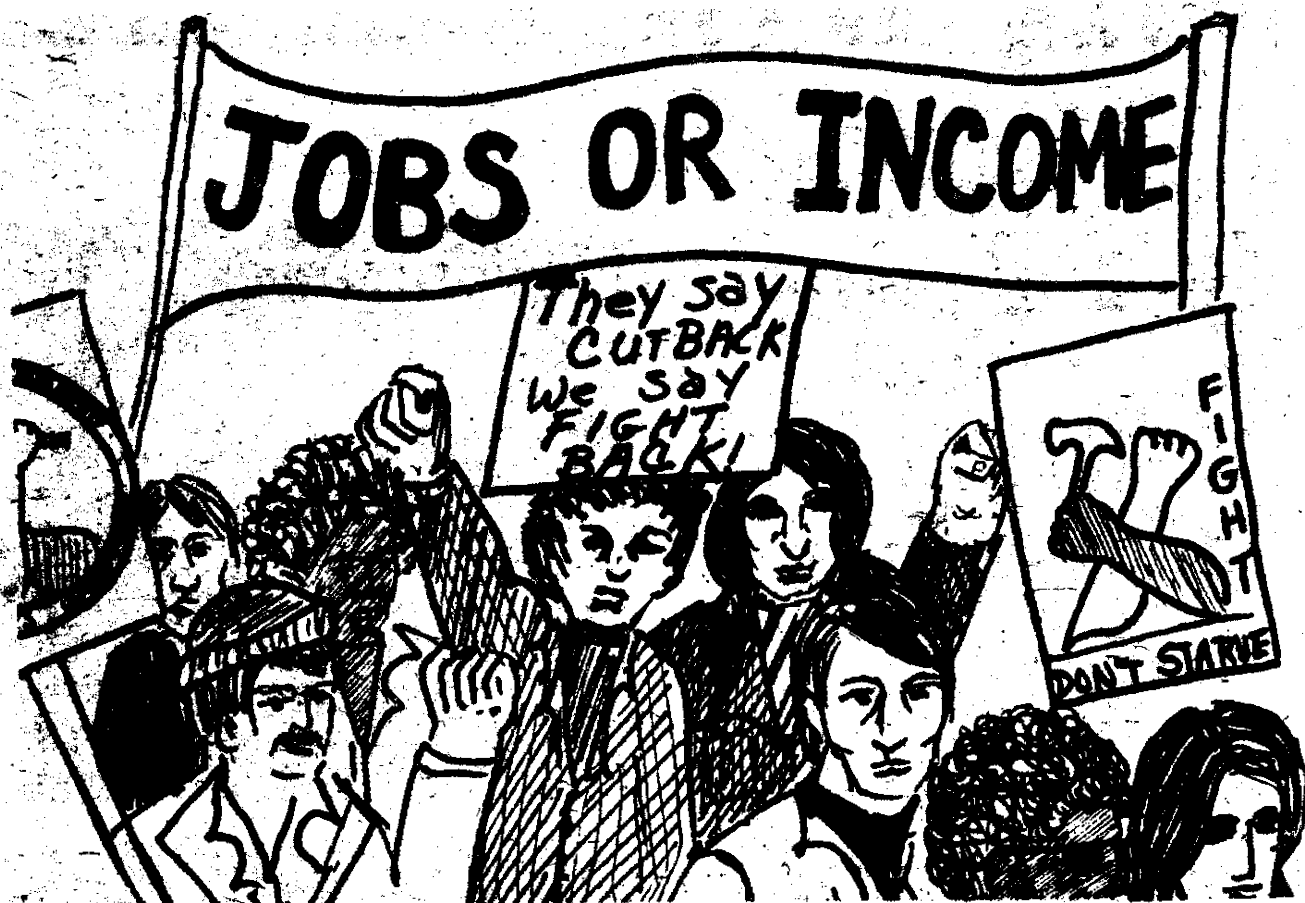
We demand better benefits for all veterans, including the 600,000 vets with less-than-honorable discharges who presently get no benefits. It is our experience that the VA's real purpose is to drop crumbs where loaves are needed. The services supplied by the VA are piss-poor and can only be obtained by going through miles of red tape. We link the demand Decent Benefits for All Vets to the struggles for Single-Type Discharge for all Vets, and Universal, Unconditional Amnesty for all War Resisters. The real criminals of the Vietnam War are those imperialists who own the war machine.

Veterans, because of their newness on the job market, are hard hit by spiraling unemployment. But vets aren't the only ones suffering. All working people are footing the bill for the imperialist system's crisis. That is why we demand Jobs or Income for All. We mean union jobs at union wages, not make-work jobs for peanuts or welfare checks, and not scabbing on other workers' strikes. It is not our system that is in crisis.

US imperialism, which is responsible for the massive unemployment, runaway inflation, and police repression at home, is also responsible for the ongoing war in Indochina. The purpose of the Vietnam War was to help the corporate blood-suckers exploit the people and markets of Indochina. They are presently being kicked out of Southeast Asia by the people's liberation forces in these countries. While lackeys like Ford try and drag it out with emergency spending, everyone knows that US Imperialism is about to get its ass kicked out of Indochina. That is why VVAW/WSO says Implement the Peace Agreement /End All Aid to Thieu and Lon Nol.

And when the imperialists try again to solve their crisis by going to war in the Mideast, VVAW/WSO will join with many others in voicing opposition. We will not fight another rich man's war!

**DECENT BENEFITS FOR ALL VETS !  
WE WON'T FIGHT YOUR IMPERIALIST WARS!**



### Jobs or Income--Right Now, or Cam Rahn Bay Ain't So Far Away

(This sum-up of unemployment work comes from the Milwaukee Chapter).

The Milwaukee chapter has been involved in unemployment work for about two months. Although, two months is a very short time, we feel it is possible to learn from what we have already done.

When we began, we really had no idea where to get started or exactly what to do. Milwaukee has a very active chapter of UWOC and some people really didn't see why anybody would join VVAW/WSO to fight for Jobs or Income when UWOC was around. However, discussions in the chapter brought out several points; the first point that nobody disagreed with was that the fight for jobs or income is a crucial one for the people and that VVAW/WSO should do everything possible to advance that struggle, but that struggle came down on whether we should relate to the struggle primarily through UWOC or we had a role to build and develop independently.

Historical precedents were laid out, for instance, that during the Bonus March one of the key demands was for unemployment insurance for all, and more recently was the trashing of the job fair in Chicago and a largely spontaneous action at City Hall in Milwaukee a few years ago. It is obvious that the sentiment of from "the chow lines to the unemployment lines" does exist, and it is our job as a revolutionary veterans organization, to take that sentiment, that bitterness, and that anger, and consciously lead it in struggle against the real enemy, US imperialism, and help sum up the lessons of that struggle correctly, so as to turn fighters for one into fighters for all!

Our first work consisted of going down to the unemployment office on a regular basis and selling the Winter Soldier. Although we this as a good thing, and do sell a fair amount of papers there, there have been errors that have been generated around this question. The main error is that the selling of the paper is the basis and primary vehicle for doing this work. What this negates is that the people want to do more than read about unemployment, its causes and how to fight it; the masses want to see how to fight it and fight it themselves. The people have learned well about big talking leaders, they want to see something.

It would be incorrect to continue without mentioning the good things that selling the paper has done for us. First, it is a good way to go out to vets and talk to them and learn what their concrete problems are. One of our best tactics has been to go to the employment office, tell them you want help finding a job and that you are a vet, and then they send you into a waiting room with a lot of other vets; works well. And second, proper use of the paper helps give people the sense that we are a national organization and that the struggle is much broader than just Milwaukee.

Having sold papers down there for a while and having helped build UWOC picket-lines, we felt that it was time that we initiated some struggle. Our first case was around a woman non-vet who is a member of our organization and was being really messed with by the unemployment office. A group of us and some members of UWOC went down there to jam around her case. We raised a lot of hell and turned the unemployment lines into a rally of sorts and showed what we are all about, fighting the system. Three days later the woman began receiving her checks.

Our next case was around a brother who heard about us through a leaflet we passed out building for a Jobs or Income march (more on that later). The man had been denied unemployment and was appealing the decision. We decided to go pack his hearing. We were somewhat tactically limited during the hearing because number one, it was our first one so we weren't exactly sure on how far we could go, and number 2, the brother hadn't fully lost confidence in the system and didn't want to be too militant so as to jeopardize his chances. We did pack the hearing and the strength of the people that was evident enabled the brother to get up and give a really dynamite rap.

Another area that we really haven't done much work around has been the slave labor programs in the domicillaries at the VA hospital. In this program, vets are forced to work either for nothing or for wages of thirty cents an hour or less. The campaign against this program is critical for several reasons. First, it is an excellent way to bring the jobs or income campaign into the hospital, and really make the point that we're not just after jobs, we're after decent jobs. Second, it is an excellent illustration of the slogan "an injury to one is an injury to all." The way to do this is by linking up with the union employees in the hospital pointing out that the demand must be that domicillary workers must be admitted into the union and paid union wages. We must point out that the failure to do this causes everybody's wages to be held down, but it certainly isn't the vets that are holding wages down. It is the system that consciously sets up these programs in order to try and set the working class against itself.

VVAW/WSO participated in a city-wide coalition for a march for Jobs or Income. In addition, our contingent also independently raised the slogan "We won't

fight another rich man's war." Our building for this action consisted of having our leaflet on the opposite side from a UWOC leaflet. We then took this leaflet into all our regular areas of work (hospital, schools, etc) and it was received well. People from all areas of work turned out. For details on the march see the Winter Soldier.

Generally, we have found that raising the slogan we won't fight another rich man's war with jobs or income slogan is a good way of reaching the chow line to unemployment line sentiment. However, there have been errors in the way it has been done, such as the over stressing of the mercenary programs. We feel that sometimes we are giving the imperialists unlimited tactical options that they do not have. We feel that when we do this, we underestimate the lessons of the Indochina war that the American people did learn. We feel that we underestimate the consciousness of GI's, and we feel that we underestimate the lessons that vets in particular have learned not only through their experience with fighting a rich man's war, but what they have learned through dealing with the VA. We wholeheartedly support the slogan, but if we don't keep it in its proper political perspective, we will transform a real revolutionary and fighting slogan into wimpy cowering that says the pigs are all powerful.

Having a good chapter of UWOC to learn from and work with has been a definite asset. Many vets who join UWOC later pick up an interest in VVAW/WSO because of the war on the VA and will belong to both these revolutionary organizations. We see no contradiction in that. Some non-vets join VVAW/WSO as a way to fight for jobs or income; in the main, we see no contradiction in that. We enjoy a warm comradely relationship with UWOC and we look forward to strengthening it. We strongly encourage all other chapters to do the same.

One problem we have had is sometimes building a real enthusiasm for the campaign. We know that in the long run, it is going to be the masses of unemployed vets who will join the organization and bring the real understanding that will generate the real enthusiasm that is necessary to fight and win this battle, but in the interim, it is really necessary to have principled struggle on all levels in the organization so that VVAW/WSO may once again move as a fist in what is definitely a crucial battle for the people. The People Will Win. JOBS OR INCOME--RIGHT NOW!!

#### April 26th DC Rally

An article about the Rally in Washington DC on April 26th--which erupted into chaos as the workers reacted to the fraud of union hacks and liberal politicians who tried to control the rally--appears in the May Winter Soldier. VVAW/WSO chapters, particularly from the New York/New Jersey area built for the rally along with UWOC and other organizations. There were two major criticisms of the way in which the Rally was dealt with inside VVAW/WSO: first, that the NO should have done more to push our organizational building for that event. We agree that we should have gotten the word out to other chapters who might have been able to mobilize people to get to DC and that, because we did not do so, there were probably chapters which did not realize the importance of this rally. As a general principle, chapters who are involved in this kind of event--which is regional as opposed to national--have a responsibility to keep the NO informed so that we have the



necessary understanding to be able to push. In this particular case, the Rally was not a major event in Chicago (there was little or no building for it here) and we did not realize how important it was going to be until briefly before the action took place.

Second, there was criticism of the way in which our organizational participation was handled at the time of the Rally. There should have been a greater effort going in to coordinating the various chapters who were participating, especially at the site of the Rally. It's clear from the reports on that Rally that organization was not the strong point of the Rally as a whole--and a well-coordinated, tightly organized contingent from VVAW/WSO could have had a greater impact than was in fact the case. We ask that the people directly involved--particularly the DC Region and the Southern sub-region of New York/New Jersey--sum up the problems involved, suggest solutions, and provide the NO with input which can then be gotten out to the rest of the organization in order to avoid such fuck-ups in the future.

#### Chant Sheet Enclosed

Good, fighting chants can sometimes make the difference between a spirited and successful demonstration and a demo that is a failure. We've received requests recently for new, militant chants, so we have compiled a list of chants which have been used in VVAW/WSO demonstrations in recent months. (See enclosed). If your chapter has additions or comes up with other chants, send them in and we'll try to get them back out to other chapters. We came across a couple of chants which are not included on the chant sheet, but should be added to it. They are:

Don't Fight the Arabs;  
Fight the Rich instead!

Don't Re-up;  
Fight Back!

#### Internal Struggle in California Region

The internal struggles in the California region have sharpened during the last month and the organization needs to be aware of recent developments because they are a reflection of what is going on in other parts of the country. At a sub-regional meeting in southern California, the southern sub-region voted to dissolve the northern sub-region as it was then constituted. The political reasons for this decision are many, but it basically boils down to the fact that chapters in the northern sub-region, and particularly leadership, were obstructing and subverting the decisions made at the last NSCM with regard to the focus of the organization's work and our national program.

Chapters should have received a letter from Jeanne Friedman of San Jose explaining her position on the action taken by the southern sub-region. Chapters will also be receiving a paper from the southern sub-region and the new regional office which lays out the political reasons why this action of dissolving the northern sub-region was taken and some examples of the practice of the chapters in the north with regard to implementation of the national program and focus. Another paper will be sent out from the north, written by members who have consistently supported the decisions made by the national organization at the last NSCM, but who have been held back in trying to push work around these decisions forward by the chap-

ters they were members of. The National Office is also preparing a paper discussing the internal struggle in the organization and what it means for the organization as a whole. It is important that chapters and regions deal with these papers, and particularly the political questions involved, because it is the national organization which is going to have to deal with the question of what it means to be a VVAW/WSO chapter and what we do with chapters that are, in practice, consciously holding back work. This will be taken up at the next NSCM, so regions should be prepared to deal with this struggle.

The National Office supports the decision and action taken by the California southern sub-region and recognizes the new regional leadership. We do not think, as laid out in Jeanne Friedman's letter, that this struggle is based primarily on "legalism." It is not a "legal" struggle, but a political one. The struggle in California has to be dealt with in a political way and decisions based upon politics have to be made with regard to what is correct for the organization as a whole, and in particular, what is correct for the masses of people that we are trying to organize, i.e. veterans and GIs.

## War on the VA Grows

### Lessons Learned from "War on the VA"

It is necessary for us to sum-up the lessons of our work in a more systematic way so that we can better learn from our mistakes and successes and further push forward our work. The NO has been receiving a number of summations of work around the VA during the past couple of months, and we are beginning to compile enough information so as to see trends, problems and successful methods of work regarding the national program. This will be the first attempt to begin summing up this information about VA work on a national level and hopefully will provide ideas as to how we can move our work ahead. Though the majority of this summation will deal with VA work, the lessons apply to almost any kind of mass work, i.e. unemployment work, work around campuses, etc. We hope that chapters will study these lessons and ideas and respond to them -- i.e. let us know if this sort of thing is helpful, let us know how your chapter has overcome some of the problems discussed here, bring to light other problems and successful methods of work, etc. This is just the beginning of summing up work in a systematic way on the national level and we still don't have as much information as we need. However, we do hope that this sketchy summation will help chapters and point out those areas of our work that need to be improved.

Consistency of Work: It is absurd to think that we can build a fighting vets movement in a slipshod, half-hearted, inconsistent way. As our work progresses, we can see more and more that consistency of work is crucial if our organizing efforts are to be successful. This means that if we want to build a fighting veterans movement, we have to prove that we are a fighting organization. We have to show people that we are reading and willing to take up their struggles and that we are capable of providing leadership to these struggles. As the crisis of imperialism deepens, more and more people are looking for ways to fight back and are looking for

conscious leadership to help them wage their struggles. Our job is to point the way in directing blows against the oppressor, and through the course of waging struggle, to bring people into the anti-imperialist movement. If we are to perform this task, we have to win people to us. The masses of veterans aren't going to automatically flock to our banner, but will have to be shown that we are acting in their interests and involved in serious business. To do this means that we have to be out there with the masses of people we are trying to organize on a consistent, daily basis. By doing this, we will be in a position to show people that we do mean business, that we will be there when struggles arise, and that we are willing to take up those struggles and see them through to the end. If people get the impression that we are some fly-by-night group, they will be much less willing to become involved in waging struggle because they will think that we won't be around if the "shit hits the fan." We have to show them that we will be there and this requires being out in the midst of the daily struggles on a regular basis.



Uniting with the Masses: Consistent work is not enough; we can consistently do the wrong thing or consistently ignore the real aspirations of the people and substitute what we think the masses should be moving around for what they are, in fact, moving around spontaneously. This doesn't mean that we should tail behind the spontaneous activity of the masses, but at the same time, if people are moving around something, it is our job to try to plug into that struggle and provide conscious leadership for waging that struggle, while at the same time, broadening and deepening the lessons of how the VA is just one part of the imperialist system. If we are to plug into the scattered, spontaneous struggles that people are involved in, we must first find out what they are. This requires investigation, i.e.: talking with people regularly and finding out what's on their minds, finding out what's really going on with the VA, what current policies are, etc. For example, the new St. Louis chapter is just beginning to do work around the VA. For the past several weeks, chapter members have been going to the VA regularly and just talking with people to find out what they're thinking. They are finding out that one of the major gripes the vets have is the VA's attitude that all money for services is coming out of the bureaucrat's own pockets. The vets are pissed at this attitude because they thought the VA was supposed to be there to serve the needs of veterans, and not that the vets should serve the VA by not coming around to personally rip-off the VA honchos. By finding out this gripe of the majority of veterans, as well as other complaints, the chapter is drawing up a petition. Without the understanding of what the

vets at that particular VA are really pissed off about, a petition might not be successful. But by investigating the conditions and ideas of the vets, the chapter will be better able to draw up a petition that the vets can relate to and can be brought into struggle around.

The necessity for uniting with the masses cannot be overemphasized and is one of the major aspects of successful organizing. If we don't unite with the masses of people and their real aspirations, they won't pay any attention to us. We have to find out what the masses are interested in moving around and then unite with their demands -- while at the same time, always trying to broaden and deepen those demands and raise peoples understanding of the system as a whole and how it operates. The Chicago chapter has found that a failure to really unite with the masses can hold back the struggle and postpone breakthroughs in their mass work. For example, during Chicago's Vietnam Veterans Day demonstration, a small contingent of people went inside the lobby of the VA regional office to take the Vietnam Vets Day demands to the people waiting there. A speech was given and leaflets were passed out. One of the major errors of the action was that the speech given was not agitational in nature and did not link up with the immediate, daily demands of the masses who were hearing the speech. Because the chapter did not unite with the aspirations of the people they were speaking to, the people did not fully unite with the chapter's action. Later during the demonstration, the chapter people were maced by the VA cops. Though the people inside the waiting room did get excited during the macing (some of them were also maced indiscriminately), they did not really rally around the attack brought down on VVAW/WSO by the VA goons and did not come to the chapter's defense. This is because the chapter had earlier failed to really speak to what was on people's minds. This error was corrected after the chapter made a tactical retreat to the steps outside the building. Once outside, the chapter gave speeches through a bullhorn and these speeches did a better job of uniting with the veterans and VA workers that were going in and out of the building, and people were much more willing to come and talk with chapter members, take leaflets, and they expressed greater solidarity with VVAW/WSO. If we don't directly unite with people and speak to their demands, needs and aspirations, then we are cutting ourselves off from the masses of people. We cannot expect these people to unite with us because we have not shown them that we are acting in their interests and raising demands which are important to them. If we do unite with the masses in a consistent way, we will be showing people that we are an organization which is serious about taking up their struggles, and through this, we will be able to bring them into the growing movement of vets capable of dealing real blows at the imperialist system.

Follow-Up Work: In several chapters doing work around the "War on the VA," follow-up work has been a big problem. We have to develop good and efficient methods of following up on contacts. It is highly unlikely that after meeting a person at the VA once or twice and talking to him/her, that person will be ready and willing to jump into the full life of chapter activity. It is excellent that people do express solidarity with the work of the organization, show an interest in what we're doing, and come to us for help and leadership. However, we should develop ways through which such people can begin to see VVAW/WSO as their own organization, join the organization and begin playing an active role in organizing others. One thing that we have learned about follow-up work is that it has to be personal. We can't send postcards or chapter newsletters to people informing them that we exist and when our next

chapter meeting is. Instead, we have to go out and meet and work with these people in a more personal way and talk with them so they can understand the necessity for becoming involved in an organization, and that through organization, victories can be won. We are making contact with hundreds of people around the country who are signing petitions, buying copies of WINTER SOLDIER, stopping to talk to chapter members at the VA, etc. We need to develop ways of reaching out to these contacts, continuing discussions with them, and eventually, bringing them into the life and activity of the chapter itself.

We also have to understand that new people, in particular, may not always be interested in doing everything that the chapter does. Levels of involvement of people will differ and we should not expect too much or be unrealistic in what we're asking people to do. A new person may be interested in leafletting or selling newspapers, but may not want to get together to help write a leaflet or may not be interested in coming to meetings. Another thing that sometimes happens is that a new person may be won to coming to a chapter meeting, but may not come back after the first couple of meetings. If this happens, then the chapter should examine the character of the meetings and develop ways to insure that chapter meetings are mass in character, and that new people are not ignored as the older chapter members sit around and discuss things which new people cannot relate to. We have to guard against being "cliquish" in chapter meetings or against becoming debating societies, i. e. giving the impression that the chapter members are so tight and in such high level political agreement that new people may not see that there is a place for them to provide in-put into discussions and participate fully in the chapter decision-making process. When we do get new people to meetings, we should draw them out, pay attention to their ideas, struggle with them and make them understand that there is a place for them in VVAW/WSO.

If chapters have methods of follow-up which have proven successful, please send them to the NO so that we can get the information back out to people. Many chapters are facing problems with follow-up work, so if your chapter has been setting up personal meetings with new contacts, or whatever method you're using, get the information in to us.



Victories Can be Won: In leading the struggle of veterans, it is important that we show people that victories can be won and that there is strength in united action. This may take on a variety of different forms, but the determining factor should be in practically showing how when people get together to fight back, it is easier to win victories than if each person tries to wage his or her struggle alone. A good example of this occurred in Washington, DC during the Vietnam Veterans Day demonstration there. Prior to the action, the DC chapter had made contact with a brother who had his disability cutback. He had tried to get a meeting with

some of the VA bureaucrats to protest the cutback, but no one at the VA would talk with him. On March 29th, as a picket line was set up outside, a small group of chapter people went in with this brother to "jam" the VA about the cutback. Because this brother was not alone, but had a group of people fighting with him, a meeting did occur. The VA still did nothing, but it was a victory that the meeting was even held. The brother who had been cutback could see that it was a victory and that it was united action that forced the VA to meet with him. As a result, he is now working with the DC chapter and is a part of their weekly VA picket lines. As word of this action of jamming the VA gets around, other people at the DC VA may also be going to understand that there is strength in numbers. This tactic of taking small contingents into the VA around specific cases can be an effective way of both showing the VA that we mean business and that we are fighting back against their cutbacks and other jive, as well as uniting with the masses and showing them that we are willing to take up their fight in a conscious, organized way. Though this kind of victory may be small and limited, it is important to show people that victories can be won and that we can put the VA up against the wall if we do it in a united way.

We should be taking up individual or specific cases. People will learn the nature of their enemy only through the course of struggle, just as through struggle they also learn that when the masses of people unite, victories can be won. We should search out cases which have potential for teaching lessons as to the nature of the VA and the whole imperialist system, and use these cases to draw people into seeing the necessity of building the vets movement to struggle against that system. To do this, we should be aware of what the VA is up to. For example, people should check out the article on domicilaries which is in the April/May issue of WINTER SOLDIER. Though organizing people in the domicilaries should not be the major aspect of our work, it is an example of how the VA in Milwaukee is operating and we should take the lessons of the struggle going on in the domicilaries out to other people. We should also be aware of new directives and policies of the VA which are going to affect large numbers of vets and around which struggle can be initiated. An example of this is that on Feb. 28th, the VA sent out a national directive putting a stop to all out-patient care for people with psychological problems which are not "service connected." This means that if a vet has a psychological problem and has been getting treatment as an out-patient, he can no longer receive this treatment unless he checks into the VA as a patient on a long-term basis. It also means that in the future, out-patient psychological care for "non-service connected" problems will be non-existent. This is just another example of how the VA is cutting back its services. We should be aware of these kinds of things and be in a position to inform people of these cutbacks and take up the struggle around them.

How the Ruling Class Responds to our Work: Just as we have to be in touch with the masses of vets and VA workers to be able to determine what is on their minds, we also have to have an understanding of how the ruling class is responding to our work. We need more specific information about this kind of thing, but it is clear that the VA, and the ruling class as a whole, is scared of what we're doing. They are locking patients in their wards so as to prevent VVAW/WSO from physically uniting with the patients. The VA understands that in unity there is strength, and they don't want that unity developing in their hospitals and offices. The VA can see that VVAW/WSO is taking up the struggles of people at the VA and that we are beginning to win the leadership of many of these people. We can, therefore, expect the VA to do whatever they have to in order to put a stop to our organizing. At Viet-

nam Vets Day demonstrations in Chicago and Milwaukee, this took the form of trying to stop people at the door of the VA with mace. It was clear that they did not want VVAW/WSO inside the building. The macing of demonstrators was a new tactic used by the VA and people should be aware of it.

Another important aspect of knowing how the ruling class is responding to us is getting this information out to the masses. For example, in Chicago, the chapter did a leaflet talking about the macings that had gone on at the March 31st demonstration. They summed up that the macing was a sign that it was the VA who was weak and the people who were strong and because of that strength, the VA had to resort to macing people in order to keep them "in line." These kinds of lessons are important to take out to the people we're trying to organize. We have to make people understand who it is that the VA really serves, i.e. it doesn't serve veterans, but the ruling class and their imperialist system. If people are attacked or harassed while doing work at the VA, we should turn this back around on the VA by showing them, and the masses of vets, that attacks won't stop our work, but will only make us more determined to continue the struggle. Again, summing up these kinds of attacks for people will help to show them that we do mean business and that we are a fighting organization which is ready to take up their struggles.

## National Office Reports

### What's A Newsletter, Anyhow???

Unless it's used, it's not much of anything.

Because we consistently discover that people either are not reading the newsletter, or not even seeing it, it's necessary to ask once again what people think the newsletter should be used for, and how it can be made as useful as possible--or if we should stop sending it out, or what.

At this point, we are trying to include in the Newsletter that information which we feel it is necessary for people to have--that includes work sum-ups, lessons learned, mechanical things (meetings, address lists), information which we are asked to pass along to the organization. It also includes added information around articles in Winter Soldier which can be useful in terms of talking about the paper. And it includes what we see as "nice-to-have" information--for instance, the information from the PRG in this issue. In the past, the Newsletter has not been used for polemics or for theoretical discussions of line.

We have seen the Newsletter as a resource which could be used by the general membership of the organization--at least, many parts of it. But, in most places, that is not happening. One thing which we could do is send out more copies to chapters. We could attempt to reorganize the material. We could make it shorter (or longer), or print it more regularly. Our limits are time and money (we can't afford to print or to send out too many copies). But our major limitation is not knowing what people see as the most useful means by which to get the necessary information out to you--so please let us know.

### GI Work Weekend

A GI work weekend is tentatively scheduled for early June. In all probability it will be the weekend of June 8-9. The site of the meeting will be in Cincinnati, Ohio. All chapters doing regular GI work are invited to send two representatives to the meeting, and regions not doing GI work are invited to also send two representatives.

The main emphasis of the work weekend will be to sum up the GI work of the past few months, since the adoption of the GI program. Chapters attending should come to the meeting with prepared written reports and proposals. Chapters currently involved in GI work, but unable to attend the work weekend, should submit written reports for the workshop well in advance of the meeting so as to facilitate reproduction of reports for the meeting.

All necessary logistical information on location, food and housing arrangements will be forthcoming in the very near future. Agenda items and suggested agendas should be submitted in advance to allow for publication.



### National Steering Committee Meeting

The next NSCM is set for the July 4th weekend; it will be held in Milwaukee. This is a change from the place decided upon at the last meeting. Since that time, it has become impossible for Ohio to host the meeting, and Milwaukee has offered to take on the job. They will be sending out mailings concerning that meeting within the next couple of weeks.

### Funding

In late March we sent out a special appeal to the chapters in hopes of getting enough money to keep the office going and to print the various papers. As of the time this Newsletter was written, the following chapters have responded: Milwaukee, Allendale (Michigan), Hawaii, the N. O. , Baltimore, San Diego, Salinas, Los Angeles, Washington DC, New York City, London, Houston, and Orange County. Milwaukee, Hawaii, London, and Houston each sent in at least the \$100 we suggested in that letter. The revolutionary thanks of the National Collective and of the organization as a whole to these chapters, and to all the other chapters who will be doing the same thing.

And, of course, a reminder: a new issue of the paper is out and has to be paid for so we can afford to print another issue. Chapter dues--\$1 per person per month--should also be coming in more regularly. It is our organization and it is our responsibility to support it.



### Barry Romo Accepts Nomination to National Office

At the St. Louis NSCM, several people were nominated for the position of National Coordinator. Thus far, the only person to accept nomination is Barry Romo of Riverside, California. We will continue to announce acceptances and declinations of nomination in the newsletter as we are notified of them. Below is Barry's resume so that chapters can familiarize themselves with his history of political work.

#### Resume of Barry Romo

27 years old

born and raised in San Bernardino, California

Military: Joined the Army in January, 1966 -- Released in January, 1969

Was a Lieutenant with the Americal division while in Vietnam (July, 1967 to May, 1968).

VVAW/WSO: First regional coordinator of California region -- Feb-June, 1971

Elected to position of California representative (equivalent of sub-regional coordinator) and filled this position from June-September, 1971

Elected to position of regional coordinator again and served from October, 1971 to April, 1972

Elected to National Office in April, 1972 and re-elected in April, 1973. He left the NO and returned to Riverside, CA in April, 1974.

Elected to position of southern California sub-regional coordinator in June, 1974. He has been re-elected twice and still holds that position

Miscellaneous VVAW/WSO activity: Testified at Winter Soldier Investigation in February, 1971 and headed the California delegation to Dewey Canyon III.

As a National Office representative, Barry coordinated VVAW/WSOs participation in the Miami Conventions national demonstrations.

Represented the organization on a trip to Hanoi in December, 1972 (during the Christmas bombings).

VVAW/WSO delegate to the Cambodian Solidarity Conference held in Paris in December, 1973.

Other Political Activity: Prior to joining VVAW/WSO, Barry was involved in student anti-war work and community work around police repression.

In August, 1974, he was elected to the position of coordinator of the Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee and still holds that position.

Has been a member of the Revolutionary Union since August, 1974.

### Notes From the Paper Packer -

Over the past few months the number of Winter Soldiers that the chapters have been ordering has been reduced due, we think, to a more realistic assessment of just how many papers we can sell. As a result we have ordered less papers each month, saving money, and at the same time, selling more papers. We think that this is really a good thing. This month, we found a slight increase in the number

of papers that the chapters wanted, meaning that chapters have found that now they can sell more papers and make better use of them. Because we need to know how many papers the chapters will want before we go to the printer, it is imperative that you let us know by the 15th of the month, how many papers you want of the next issue. This month, one chapter increased their order from 800 to 2,000 papers, but didn't tell us in advance. Luckily, we over-ordered due to a miscalculation on our part, and were able to give them all that they asked for. If this happened with several chapters it could result in our not having enough papers to go around. SO PLEASE LET US KNOW BY THE 15th OF EACH MONTH, HOW MANY PAPERS YOU WANT.

Due to rising shipping costs, we have taken to sending most of the papers out by parcel post, which is cheaper in many cases. The result has been that we are spending a lot of money on pre-paid shipping costs. Many chapters have been paying the shipping costs, but we ask that if you haven't you start paying the full amount on the shipping bill that we send along with the order. This will really help us out.

Each month more and more chapters are paying for their papers. We hope that you will be able to keep this up, and we hope that the chapters that have been falling down in paying please remember that if you pay, we can have a next issue for sure.

