

Thursday, Oct. 19, 1967
11:50 a.m.

35

Pres. file

MR. PRESIDENT:

The first four pages of this show one major
reason Hanoi is holding out.

W. W. R.

Attachment (10/18/67 Worldwide treatment of current issues")

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... PROTESTS AGAINST VIET-NAM WAR
... MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT SOUGHT
... NATO ENTERS A NEW ERA
... DEATH OF CHE GUEVARA - II

ANTI-WAR DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE U.S. AND ABROAD

Media in various countries of Western Europe, South Asia, and Latin America reported planned local demonstrations sponsored by "peace" groups in conjunction with the "Viet-Nam week" in the U.S. Very little editorial comment has yet appeared in non-Communist newspapers.

The demonstration staged in Oakland made headlines in today's British press. A London editorial said the current anti-war demonstrations in this country would "harden" Hanoi's refusal to negotiate, but "fortunately ... would not divert President Johnson from his course."

Moscow reported the Oakland and New York manifestations and alleged that similar demonstrations were being held "all over the world." Hanoi gave heavy play to the "week of protest." It announced the formation of liberation front and North Vietnamese moral-support groups which, it said, have issued new anti-war appeals to the people of the U.S. and the world.

Headlines in Britain

Today's British press headlined the Oakland anti-war demonstration:

"U.S. POLICE CLUB DRAFT DEMONSTRATORS"
(Liberal Manchester Guardian)
"TEAR GAS HALTS U.S. ANTI-WAR PROTEST"
(Conservative Daily Telegraph)

The Times of London reported that "squads of police today broke up an anti-Viet-Nam demonstration... in Oakland, California. Dozens of demonstrators were felled by truncheons and more were incapacitated by tear gas."

"Will Harden Hanoi's Position"

The Daily Telegraph's editorial said the anti-war demonstrations would "harden" Hanoi's intransigence.

"Fortunately there is reason to believe that increasing criticism and organized protests in America against the Viet-Nam war, although they increase the strain in the White House and in the field, will not divert President Johnson from his course or seriously affect the war effort. Unfortunately, what they are doing is to harden the North Vietnamese government in its refusal to negotiate....

"Hanoi's latest hope is that civilian morale in America will crack under a small dent in affluent living and the irksome realities of responsibility, before the morale of the hunted, starving, outnumbered, battered and decimated Viet Cong and North Vietnamese.... The critics of President Johnson would sweep the country if they could suggest a convincing alternative policy....

"The sooner Ho realizes that he cannot win on American campuses and boulevards the war he is losing in Viet-Nam, the sooner will he come to the conference table."

A Times editorial concentrated on Congressional criticism. It said the decision of Australia and New Zealand to increase their Viet-Nam forces "will provide President Johnson with ammunition when dealing with Congressional criticism that the allies are letting America fight the war alone."

West Europe's Communist Press Support

In France, Communist Humanite advertised demonstrations to take place October 19-22 in Paris and in 20 departments of France. It said "hundreds of thousands of Frenchmen will consider it an honor to participate in the Saturday marches. Under our coordinated blows, the aggression will finally be extinguished and freedom will flourish in the land of Viet-Nam."

In Italy, Communist papers today 1) reported that "thousands" tried to reach the U.S. Embassy in Rome in order to demonstrate, 2) announced

that anti-U.S. demonstrations would be held October 20-22 in 12 areas, and 3) played up U.S. anti-war activities.

In Finland, Communist Kansan Uutiset reported that 21 organizations would be represented at a demonstration on October 21 in support of demonstrators in the U.S.

Non-Communist Treatment

Christian Democratic-left Giorno of Milan yesterday carried an account of the demonstration held Monday in London by American students and British anti-war marchers.

West Berlin's independent Morgenpost yesterday discussed U.S. public dissent in general terms. It called the U.S. "a nation split over the war in Viet-Nam, with criticism being backed by the public as never before. ... U.S. politicians who opposed the engagement in Viet-Nam are being carried away by the wave of war weariness."

In Belgium, "sympathy" demonstrations have been announced in five cities for the period October 20-25. In Brussels, a rally to be held by the newly-formed "Viet-Nam Coordinating Committee" on October 21 was to include a "debate" on the war.

Asian, Latin American Reports

South Korean papers today ran wire service accounts of anti-war demonstrations "sweeping the U.S."

Radio Pakistan reported demonstrations "throughout" the U.S. Jang of Karachi front-paged the death by immolation of a Los Angeles woman.

In India, Bombay papers first reported that a march on the American Consulate-General would be held October 21 to coincide with the Washington march, and then carried a new date of October 19.

In Brazil, nationalistic Correio da Manha of Rio reported that the National Student Union was coordinating a nation-wide Viet-Nam week October 16-21, and that students at Belo Horizonte would conduct a mock trial of President Johnson on October 19. The story made no mention of U.S. demonstrations in the same period.

In Chile, Communist Siglo announced that Uruguayan, Colombian, and Panamanian delegations would take part in a "continental youth solidarity meeting on Viet-Nam" in Santiago October 26 - 29.

Moscow, Hanoi Media

Moscow radio beamed a commentary to this country on the Oakland and New York demonstrations. It said "hundreds" of young Americans in the U.S. were throwing their draft cards away, that "hundreds of thousands of men and women of America" would "march against the Pentagon next Saturday," and that "all over the world, meetings and demonstrations are being held and protest petitions are being presented against the war."

Hanoi said newly-formed Vietnamese moral-support groups had issued anti-war appeals to the people of the U.S. and the world. Its wire service yesterday distributed three versions of a message addressed to U.S. protest groups from "the South Vietnamese People's Committee for Solidarity with the American People" which had just been formed.

Protest Movement "Highly Valued"

The message hailed "the National Mobilization Committee -- NMC -- and the Students' Mobilization Committee -- SMC" for their "drive from 16 to 21 October aimed at strongly manifesting your determination to demand that the U.S. Government put an end to its war in Viet-Nam. We highly value the American people's movement." It said the "solidarity" group would establish relations with interested South Vietnamese and with U.S. military personnel "who wish to return to their country or go to another place."

Other Hanoi messages were from the "Viet-Nam Peace Committee" to U.S. protest groups and "the Viet-Nam Women's Union" to American women who "have staged meetings and demonstrations before the White House and right into the Pentagon."

Hanoi said seven Americans had immolated themselves to protest the "dirty war."