

Isn't the Thieu administration (despite its flaws) better than the communist government in the north ?

All reports show that the people of North Vietnam are healthier, better educated, and freer than are the people of South Vietnam. While the Saigon regime has enriched itself with American dollars, the government of North Vietnam has solved problems in agriculture, medicine and education by working with and learning from the people.

The problems of the Thieu regime are not mere flaws—corruption and repression have been a feature of all South Vietnamese administrations since the US began backing Diem in the 1950s.

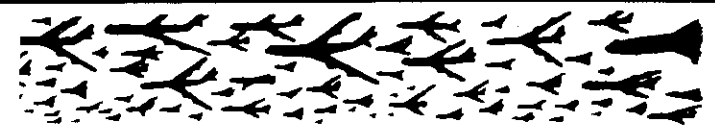
Well, just what does the other side want, anyhow ?

The major goal that the North Vietnamese and the NLF are fighting for is exactly the same goal that the revolutionary leaders of our own country fought for 200 years ago: independence. They are fighting the Americans because they believe the problems in Vietnam can be solved only by the Vietnamese people themselves...without any foreign interference.



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Indochina

Questions and Answers

Don't we have the right to bomb Hanoi since their area of South Vietnam violated the Geneva Accords ?

No. The Geneva Accords of 1954 stated clearly that the dividing line between north and south Vietnam was only temporary and not to be considered an international boundary. Vietnam is one country. People from the north have every right to help their countrymen and women in the south.

It is amazing that the US government can talk about the Geneva Accords with a straight face. Each Administration since the Geneva conference has consistently violated the agreement's provisions, which outlawed new military bases, new foreign troops, and which provided for nationwide Vietnamese elections. President Eisenhower wrote in his memoirs that elections would have produced a landslide victory for Ho Chi Minh due to his popularity as leader and liberator of his country. The Pentagon papers confirm that others in Eisenhower's administration agreed. The guarantee that the elections did not take place, and Vietnam has remained divided ever since.



Won't military pressure force Hanoi to release our POWs ?

Of course not. Past wars have shown that POWs are released only the battles have ended and a political solution is found. Many wives of our POWs have denounced Nixon's war policy because they realize that it only produces more American prisoners and further delays the day when their husbands will be released.

As long as Nixon places Thieu above the interests of captured US pilots, and as long as our military involvement continues to drag on in Indochina, there can be no exchange of prisoners.

Hasn't President Nixon agreed to withdraw all US forces if Hanoi will release our POWs ?

No. Nixon has said only that he would make an agreement if the other side drops their arms and stops fighting. It is unrealistic to expect the resistance forces to agree to such a cease fire as long as Americans remain in Vietnam and continue to provide military arms and other assistance to the Thieu regime.

Nixon's proposal contains no specific date for total withdrawal of US forces, nor does it mention the use of numerous air and naval forces surrounding Indochina.

How can we accept the Vietcong seven point peace plan when it demands that we overthrow the Thieu government

The US government is not asked to overthrow anybody. Our leaders are simply being asked to face reality. There can be no peace in Vietnam as long as the US persists in backing Thieu and the repressive policies he stands for.

He represents no one but himself and a small collection of corrupt politicians and Army officials. To maintain himself in power, Thieu requires massive amounts of US aid and weapons. This winter the NLF stated that the fighting would end only after the US had set a date for complete withdrawal of US troops and after the Saigon government, minus Thieu, had abandoned its war-like policies.

Under the 1968 "understanding" didn't Hanoi promise LBJ that they would not attack across the DMZ into South Vietnam?

No. The 1968 bombing halt was entirely unconditional. The only thing the North Vietnamese agreed to do was come to the Paris peace talks. Recently the North Vietnamese released records of secret meetings held with the Americans just prior to the bombing halt. Ambassador Harriman is quoted as saying, "There is no question that we have told you that we make no condition, that we will stop the bombing without conditions." The US has declined to provide any records of the secret meetings to prove the existence of any "understanding".

Nixon has already brought home over 400,000 troops and pledged to end the war. Why don't we give him a chance?

Nixon has been forced to bring home most of the US ground troops. High US casualties could no longer be politically accepted. Morale and discipline hit an all time low as soldiers in the field rebelled.

In fact, the war is not winding down at all. US ground troops are being replaced by American financed Asian forces, backed by massive computerized air strikes.

Nixon did make a peace pledge, yet 3½ years later we see that the war has broadened to Cambodia and Laos, and now the bombing has been re-escalated to near record levels.

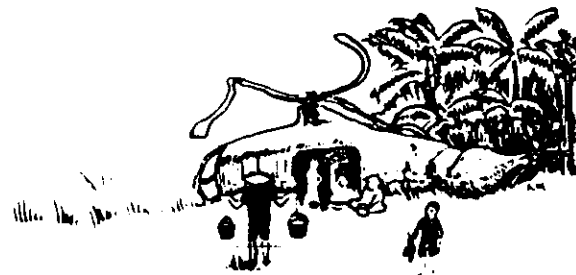
Why don't we just bomb the hell out of the enemy?

In fact, the US has bombed the hell out of the Indochinese people. According to Defense Department figures, since 1965 the total tonnage of bombs dropped on Indochina by US pilots is more than twice that used during WWII and the Korean War combined. The majority of these bombs have been dropped since Nixon took office. Continuation of the bombing can only bring more suffering, stiffen the resistance, and further delay the chances for peace.

Shouldn't we bomb Haiphong harbor to warn the Russians that they should stop arming the North Vietnamese?

Although it is true that the Soviet Union provides the bulk of military aid to the North Vietnamese, the total amount of this aid is quite low—especially when compared with the billions of dollars worth that flows from the United States to Saigon. Were it not for this overwhelming US military influence (which allows Thieu to command the fourth largest Army and Air Force in the world), the other side would not have to rely on Soviet support to the extent that they do.

Even so, official US calculations show that Soviet aid has declined sharply since the bombing halt of 1968. The Russians, like the Chinese, have shown absolutely no interest in American requests that they reduce aid to the Vietnamese. For the Americans to think now that they can bring this about with military threats is not only mistaken but extremely dangerous as well.



Haven't our pilots been careful not to bomb civilian locations?

Detailed interviews with refugees in Laos and South Vietnam show that the opposite has often been true. Whole villages have been shelled to punish inhabitants for sheltering guerillas or to get the people to move to government controlled areas. The US has made no secret of its willingness to destroy villages. Leaflets like the following one found by an American journalist have been widely used in Vietnam: "US Marines will not hesitate to destroy, immediately, any village or hamlet harboring the Vietcong." Recent Senate reports show that aerial bombing has resulted in thousands of civilian casualties.

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