

National Committee for a
CITIZENS' COMMISSION of INQUIRY
on U.S. War Crimes in Vietnam

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*Please give a call if
we can work together -*

Tod Ensign

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NATIONAL VETERANS' INQUIRY INTO WAR CRIMES:

A YEAR-END REPORT

Over two and one-half million GIs have returned home from the Vietnam war. They are going back to their jobs, their studies and their families. Yet, for twelve months of their lives, many have been compelled to be executioners of inhuman policies in Indo-China. To know this truth, one need only ask a combat veteran his opinion of the My Lai massacre. His tendency to defend the men of the Calley platoon stems from his knowledge that policies and strategies employed by the military leaders in Vietnam inevitably lead to massacres.

Since its formation following the disclosure of the My Lai massacre in November, 1969, the Citizens' Commission has conducted hearings with Vietnam veterans in 13 cities. We are now presenting a National Veterans' Inquiry into War Crimes at the Dupont Plaza Hotel, Embassy Room, Dupont Circle, Washington, D. C. on December 1, 2, 3, 1970. This inquiry will be conducted in defense of all Indo-China war veterans: those who died there and those who returned home injured--physically and mentally.

All of the veterans testifying are honorably discharged and will provide detailed, eye-witness accounts of war crimes committed by their units--listing dates, locations and units involved. The testimony of over 100 veterans will be presented during the three days of hearings. More than 50 of these veterans will present their testimony in person. Some of this testimony has been previously disclosed at Commissions in 13 U. S. cities. The presentation will coincide with the trial of Lt. Calley at Fort Benning, Georgia.

NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Mora, Fort Hood Three, vet organizer Howard Levy, M.D., U.S. Servicemen's Fund (USSF) Andy Stapp, American Servicemen's Union Donald Duncan, Movement for a Democratic Military Jan Crumb, Vietnam Vets Against the War Susan Schnall, USSF Ron Wolin, Veterans for Peace in Vietnam (New City) Noam Chomsky, Professor of Linguistics, M.I.T. Fred Cohn, Lawyer Bill Davidson, Professor of Physics, Haverford College, New National Mobilization Steering Committee Douglas Dowd, Professor of Economics, Cornell, New National Mobilization Committee Don Freed, Playwright Eugene D. Genovese, Chair, Dept. of History, U. of Rochester Dick Gregory - Phil Hutchings, Writer Mary Kaufman, U. S. Nuremberg Tribunal Staff Member Sylvia Kushner, Chicago Council Helen Lamont, Emergency Civil Liberties Committee Paul Lauter, Resist, New University Conference Julius Lester, Author Conrad Lynn, Civil Rights Attorney Herbert Magidson, Business Executives for Peace, Chairman, Individuals Against the Crime of Silence Floyd McKissick - Joanna Misnik, National Student Mobilization Committee John Moran, Professor of Philosophy, Manhattan College J. B. Neilands, Prof. of Biochemistry, University of California Berkeley Grace Paley, Greenwich Village Center Max Primack, New National Mobilization Steering Committee Mark Sacaroff, Professor of English, Temple University David K. Anderson, Executive Director, U.S. Coast Justice Secretary General International War Crimes Tribunal Jerry Schwinn, Director

Specifically, testimony gathered will be divided into four separate program areas: (1) Ground combat operations (search and destroy, free-fire zones, "Zippo squads", etc.) (2) Treatment of civilians and/or prisoners by U. S. forces (interrogation and torture, detention centers, civilian prisons, etc.) (3) The air war (saturation and pattern bombing of civilian centers, use of cluster bomb units, napalm, white phosphorous, helicopter gun-ships. Also, the defoliation program, general destruction of croplands, forests, rivers/watersheds, etc.) (4) Pacification and resettlement of civilian population/refugees (description of "New Life" hamlets, barbed-wire concentration camps, civilian prisons similar to Con Son).

In addition, expert witnesses from the intellectual and scientific communities including J. B. Nielands, Noam Chomsky, Richard Falk, Peter Weiss, Robert Lifton, Chaim Shatan, will offer interpretive analyses of the testimonies offered by veterans. These will be drawn from three areas: (1) International law (2) Chemical and biological science, and (3) Psychiatry.

This inquiry provides an ideal opportunity for the American people to gain new insights and perspectives, as well as documentation of tactical field policies and weapons employed in Indo-China.