

VIETNAM: THE HAWK, THE DOVE, THE OWL

When Dolf Droge talks, or sings, about Vietnam, he does so with authority. A former correspondent with an NBC television news affiliate, he had worked in and worked on Indochina for 12 years

He was in Vietnam before the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu in 1954, later worked with the United States Information Agency, and in 1966 was named training chairman in Vietnam for the Agency for International Development. He is a career civil servant and has been on loan to the White House during the administrations of the last two Presidents.

And when Dolf Droge talks and sings about Vietnam, he presents a startling viewpoint. In a one-hour discussion with Illinois Congressman Philip M. Crane, Droge talks about a "gigantic homework gap" evident in United States dialogue on Vietnam. He talks about American protesters "with a totally bourgeois, middle-class Judeo-Christian hangup who feel they have to go to Armageddon everyday, who want their country to be totally guilty so they can totally repent."

Droge paints a revealing picture of the Vietnamese in a 2,500-year-old people "who would consider us as a 200-year-old experiment doing nicely so far in the United States." In their long history of war, they have always won when the enemy weakened itself at home.

Dolf Droge is not only a Vietnamese expert and historian, but also is a folk-singer who writes his own songs and music. In one of several songs he uses to tell his story of Vietnam, he points out that American discussion of the war effort has been a "hawk and dove discussion" and that such a view is totally irrelevant. What is needed, he says, is an "owl position," a position and discussion of Vietnam based on understanding of the people and their long history. In "Vietnam: The Hawk, The Dove, The Owl" Dolf Droge offers a frank, penetrating look at the war and the people.