

W
FILE / SUBJ.
DATE / SUB-CAT.
11/68

MINISTER HITS TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM VIETNAM

Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1500 GMT 28 Nov 68 W

[Text] The Australian minister for the army, Mr Lynch, in the Federal Parliament today gave an emphatic no to a request that Australian troops be withdrawn from Vietnam. A leading member of the opposition Labor Party, Brain, had sought the troops' withdrawal because he said there was an unlikelihood of a military victory in Vietnam and also the possibility of a peaceful settlement. He asked Mr Lynch whether he considered that the Australian Government could justify the continued loss of young lives in the conflict. Replying, Mr Lynch said he would not contemplate issuing any instructions for the withdrawal of troops. The performance of Australian troops in Vietnam in the past and at present was a matter of great pride and, said the minister, the troops acted in a meritorious way especially in (?Quang Tri) Province. Since entering into the campaign the Australians had materially contributed to the reduction of enemy resources.

S. VIETNAM YOUTHS PRAISE MELBOURNE PROTEST

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 1633 GMT 27 Nov 68 B

[Excerpt] Hanoi, VNA November 27--The South Vietnam Liberation Youth Union has sent a message to progressive Australian youths hailing them for having held a demonstration on November 10 before a jail in Melbourne to demand the release of John Zarb who refused to serve in the Australian forces--in South Vietnam.

The message, released by GIAI PHONG PRESS AGENCY, pointed out: Your valiant action against the sending of Australian troops to South Vietnam as cannonfodder for the U.S. imperialists is a valuable support to our struggle against the U.S. aggressors, for national salvation.

It not only helps protect the lives of young Australians, but also contributes to the development of the militant friendship between the Australian and South Vietnamese youths. It also expressed thanks to John Zarb's family.