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ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM

Mr. Romesh Chandra, General Secretary of the W.C.P. has sent a telegram to S.E. Hyunh Tan Phat, President of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, which reads as follows:

"On this third anniversary of the foundation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, the World Peace Council, representing peace and anti-imperialist forces from all continents, sends to your excellency, the heroic people of Vietnam and the PRG its fraternal greetings and expression of solidarity.

The WPC contributes all its strength to the world movement for the victory of the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people.

In an effort to mitigate its numerous defeats, the American imperialist policy intensifies the escalation of its war and crimes.

But the Vietnamese people's victory is assured in spite of everything.

At present, peace committees the world over are stepping up their continuous and united efforts in order to multiply their actions against these crimes and this war of aggression, for the total withdrawal of the American troops and the resumption of the Paris talks on the basis of the PRG seven-point proposals.

We salute the victories won by the liberation forces and assure you of our devotion to the cause of the freedom and self-determination of the Vietnamese people who identify themselves with the cause of freedom and peace of all mankind.

Helsinki, June 6, 1972

AN ATTEMPT TO WIPE OUT LIBERATED AREAS

Day after day, B 52s continue to pit and scar South Vietnam, and every day the American Command broadcasts dry, lifeless communiqués of similar content: B 52 bombers, flying in separate formations have pounded enemy troops and their positions in South Vietnam..." And they hit out in all directions, as, according to them, the enemy is everywhere.

Our imagination can make up for what is left out of these communiqués. Let us take Quang Tri. "More than 30 B 52s have dropped more than 1000 tons of bombs" on this town and the surrounding areas in 12 raids in the course of a single night.

A 1000 tons of bombs dropped, covering 10,000 metres, at the dead of night... how many new victims, women, children, and old people have been thrown nameless into martyrdom?

On Quang Tri - these words betray unintentionally the aims of the American Command. Quang Tri in fact was liberated on the first of May, and was henceforth governed freely by the National Liberation Front and other sections of the Saigon Administration which have broken away.

Out of range of the guns of Saigon which suffered one of their severest defeats there, Quang Tri is earmarked for extermination by the American Airforces - like Dong Ha, Bong Son, Tam Quang, Hodi An, where the cannons of the Seventh Fleet take turns in bombarding the coastal towns.

The American aggressor is determined to destroy everything that lives, thinks or moves in the liberated areas, as well as houses, pagodas, churches and the total ecology.

Thieu Protected by the B 52s

In the three months since the beginning of the offensive, of the liberation forces, it is due to the American airforce that the Saigon troops have not been swept aside, hunted, and more severely thrashed that they actually were. When it goes badly for Thieu's troops, the B 52s arrive, heavy with death, dropping their deadly cargoes on everything beneath. An Loc, Kontum, Hue, - so many names of towns which testify to this insane murder.

After the bombardment of Coventry by the Nazis in the second world war, a new word coined, "Coventrisation" - symbolising the systematic destruction and bombing of a town from the air. There could be a thousand new names, based on the towns and villages of South Vietnam not only on Coventry...

Trying to make up for their numerous successive defeats, American policy has had no other recourse than to escalate the war, and thus commit more crimes against humanity. Nixon has thus established himself, and his name will go down in history as that of a man who instigated the most cruel and destructive activities against peoples and countries who refused to submit to "his law".

IN THE UNITED STATES

Indicative of the political pressure which Nixon's escalation is building up in the U.S.A. against the war in Indochina, is the new state-wide petition which thousands of Californians have already signed. Presented in the form of a "State Initiative Measure on the South East Asia War" and directed to all State representatives for official state action, the petition is summarised as follows: "...and according to this policy they demand the representatives and officials of the State of California to do all in their power prevent manpower, taxes, and State resources from being used to further military presence, logistical and financial, of the US in South Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand."

The "Vietnam Veterans Against the War" (VVAW) one of the most vigorous anti-war organisations in the U.S.A. announced that its membership is now over 25,000, of whom over three thousand are members of an active-duty branch of G.I.s in Vietnam. Recently, the VVAW made another contribution to peace by producing, in a 24 page document, information from active G.I.s on the military build-up, which indicated that new escalation was in preparation.

The "Ad-Hoc Military Build-up Committee", initiated by George Stein, radio news man, reported that during its three weeks in existence, from April 8 to April 26 it made public that 25 ships, 486 planes and 30,650 U.S. military men were sent to Vietnam from bases all over the world.

The Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice (PCPJ) is making education on the PRG 7-Point Peace Proposal a major part of the U.S. movement's current campaign to reverse the Nixon war policy. One example is the current action designed to "break the news media blockade" of information on the proposal. In San Francisco, peace activists have picketed leading newspapers, radio, and T.V. stations and are engaged in massive distribution of material on the PRG proposals.

IN THE REST OF THE WORLD

ARGENTINA

On the announcement of further escalation of the Vietnam war by President Nixon, two meetings took place in Buenos Aires, to draw up a plan of action. One was held by the Argentine Council for Peace, the other by the Movement for Solidarity with Vietnam.

On the 13 May, a great demonstration at the heart of the capital attracted more than 2000 people, and was organised by the Movement for Solidarity with Vietnam. Thousands of people applauded the marchers as they passed through the centre that Saturday evening. In the afternoon, a meeting attended by more than 300 students took place in the assembly hall of Buenos Aires University, organised by the same movement.

Much happened in the rest of the country. In Rosario, there was a mass meeting in the town centre. In Tucuman, students of the Faculty of Medicine held a meeting. In Cordoba, the Faculty of Architecture organised a meeting attended by over 800 students. In Avellaneda, another meeting of the Faculty of Technology attracted workers, students and trade union leaders. In Rosario, the Peace Council of the province of Santa Fe organised a meeting in the Faculty of Pure Sciences. It was attended by Alberto Casella, the engineer, who is President of the Argentine Council for Peace, and a Presidential member of the WPC.

On the 18 May, a delegation headed by Father Ingratta and Alberto Casella, passed a resolution to the American Ambassador in Buenos Aires. Despatches were also sent to American Senators who oppose the war in Vietnam. A telegram was sent to the Argentine Minister of Foreign Affairs urging the government to demand an end to the bombing of Vietnam, and a lifting of the blockade on the ports of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

The announcements and resolutions against the escalation proposed by Nixon, and in support of the people of Vietnam, were published by the Argentine Council for Peace, the Movement for Solidarity with Vietnam, the National Meeting of Argentinians, the University Federation of Buenos Aires, the Argentine Union of Women, as well as many trade unions and student movements.

A document supporting the Appeal of the World Conference in Paris has already been signed by more than 100 personalities from art and cultural fields. Also, the campaign to collect funds for Vietnam has been intensified.

AUSTRALIA

In all of the main cities, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth, spontaneous demonstration at U.S. consulates, Pan Am offices and other U.S. establishments occurred within hours.

Organised demonstrations and protest marches led by the anti-war movement took place within the next two to three days. Some tens of thousands of demonstrators blocked city streets in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, which led to brushes with police and about 100 people were arrested. In some cases, American consulates in Pan Am offices were the targets for stones and other missiles.

At a quickly convened national meeting in Sydney on May 21, some 40 delegates from the diverse groups in the anti-war movement decided to recommend preparations for nation-wide protest and activities to block escalation by the U.S. government.

The Australian movement calls for solidarity with the liberation forces of Indochina as the only realistic path to the ending of the war.

In addition, it calls for further exposure of the fraud of Vietnamisation, and plans were also laid for direct economic assistance to the liberation forces.

ECUADOR

At the end of May the National Committee for Solidarity with Vietnam was established at a meeting at Quito, and was attended by personalities, students and representatives of various workers' organisations. The Committee stated its plan of action and called upon all democratic and progressive organisations to display their solidarity, and support the heroic people of Vietnam.

SPAIN

Despite the presence of numerous police, in Barcelona, on the 26th of May, several hundreds of workers and students demonstrated against the American policy in Vietnam, outside the offices of various American companies.

PERU

On 20th of May, a crowd of students, priests, nuns, journalists, artists, intellectuals, workers and young people marched through the capital. They marched for more than three hours, chanting "America out of Vietnam" and "Murderer Nixon."

The demonstration took place on the instigation of numerous organisations which included: (1) The Movement for National Sovereignty, International Solidarity and World Peace, (2) General Federation of Peruvian Workers, (3) The Religious Movement and (4) The Movement for Church Solidarity.

VENEZUELA

A march for peace in Vietnam and for the immediate withdrawal of America from Vietnam was organised by the Venezuelan Committee for Peace, which has the support of many political and social groups. Starting from the centre of the capital they marched through popular sectors of the city during the night from the 17th to the 18th of May.

This was repeated the next day, and concluded with a social gathering for peace in Vietnam, on the 19th of May. This was attended by artists, public figures and representatives of various organisations.

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