

The Anti-Viet GIs

On July 7, Pfc. James Johnson, Pvt. Dennis Mora, and Pvt. David Samas were arrested by military police on the streets of New York City just prior to a public meeting they were to address. The Fort Hood Three, as they are called, were on 30 day leave prior to embarkation to Vietnam. They had filed suit against the government on the grounds that they would be ordered to fight in an illegal and undeclared war. On July 7 they were apprehended, told their leaves had been cancelled and sent to Fort Dix where they were held under confinement by the Army.

Later (but before their case could reach the federal courts) they were given direct commands to board a plane for Vietnam. This was by order of the Pentagon which has been deeply concerned by the case. The G.I.s were allowed no advance notice or consultation with their lawyer, Stanly Faulkner. They refused the order to board and were held over for General Court Martial.

On September 6-9 these three courageous Americans were court-martialed at Ft. Dix, N.J. and sentenced to 5 years and 3 years at hard labor. All of them received dishonorable discharges, reduction to the lowest rank, and total forfeiture of all pay.

From Ft. Dix they were transferred to Ft. Meade, Md. where they were to await a review of their trial and sentences by Lt. General William Train. While at Ft. Meade the G.I.s were subjected to harsh treatment. They were placed in solitary and forced to stand in their cells from 5 am to 6pm without sitting or touching the walls. If they disobeyed or spoke at all they were forced to do push-ups. They were allowed no library privileges and their mail was not getting through regularly. Mora was told, "something might be worked out" with Lt. Gen. Train if he agreed to go to Vietnam. If not "they might well become hardened criminals" after a long stay at Leavenworth.

On November 7, Lt. General Train refused to alter the convictions or the sentences. Stanley Faulkner has now taken the case before the Board of Military Review asking for a complete reversal of the convictions. If this request is turned down, Mr. Faulkner will then take the case into the Court of Military Appeals, a military court composed of civilians. Faulkner stated in an interview Nov. 8, "since the military courts have refused to consider, or even hear for one moment,

the constitutional issues upon which the defense is based--that the war in Vietnam is illegal because it violates the Kellogg-Briand Pack, the Nuremburg charter

Fort Hood Three Cont.
on Page 8 column 1.

On Reaching Soldiers

By Marc Sapir

Opposition to the war in Vietnam is growing rapidly, particularly on college campuses. Until very recently, however, activists have relied primarily upon massive protest demonstrations. Now, quite suddenly, many activists are recognizing the need to communicate with the public on a more meaningful level. The demonstrations should go on, if for no other reason than to keep the movement visible, but a deeper commitment in terms of time, effort, and approach is required.

Perhaps there is no more effective means of communicating opposition to the war than in direct personal contact, especially with those most directly affected by the war, such as soldiers,

The idea of students talking with and passing out leaflets to soldiers at the San Francisco Airport grew out of a

feeling of kinship with the soldiers by those who have been developing their own personal resistance to the draft. We want to make it clear both to the soldiers and to the public that our opposition to the draft is an opposition to the Vietnam war and to a society which can create such wars, and involves a commitment to fight not only to keep our own bodies out of that war, but to stop the supply of cannon fodder that Robert McNamara so cynically takes for granted.

Ira Arlook (a former Stanford graduate student) and I felt that to communicate with the soldiers, we had to show that we understood how difficult things are for them and how little choice they really have.

Thus, on Monday, October 31, we arrived at the S.F. Airport armed with

The Viet Cong in battalion strength, walked back in, cut the throats of hamlet chiefs and helped themselves to a vast store of antipersonnel mines, which have since caused heavy casualties among the American Marines.

In all, the Marines have killed about 2000 guerrillas in and around the priority pacification area. But they have not even begun to eliminate the Viet Cong breach.

Invalid Votes

Because identification card holders could be checked against those who registered to vote in the September 11 elections and those who registered could be checked against those who voted, the inhabitants of the pacification area went to the polls like most of the other people in Quang Nam province.

But whereas the provincial average of invalid votes was five per cent, 33 per cent of those living in the pacified hamlets cast invalid votes.

Nowhere is there any security. Some nights ago, when I was staying at Hoi An, the provincial capital, a Viet Cong defector who had been working for the government propaganda apparatus, applied for permission to visit his family in the hamlet of Hieu Nhon. The hamlet is on the outskirts of Hoi An and the man's house was only 200 yards from the district headquarters and 80 yards from a big concentration of Vietnamese troops.

At midnight the Viet Cong entered the house,

shot and killed the man and critically wounded his wife.

How Many Secure?

The following day I asked a senior official how many of the hamlets in the province could be regarded as secure. He pointed to a chart showing that 155 hamlets out of 696 in the province were secure, 154 were disputed and 386 were under the full control of the Viet Cong.

"If you or I wanted to spend a night in one of the hamlets, how many would be secure enough to permit that?" I asked.

He paused for a minute while he consulted a map. Then he pointed to an island about 12 miles offshore. "There's one hamlet on this island," he said. "I think we could sleep there without danger."

Adventurous Pilots

The presence of the U.S. Marines has succeeded in keeping main force Viet Cong and North Vietnamese units out of the Nang area. At the same time, however, it has emphasized the depths of the Viet Cong infrastructure.

I have flown on several occasions in the past few days with the adventurous pilots of Air America, who are paid enough to risk almost all hazards of the monsoon season and much else besides.

All have agreed that it is safer to risk the weather at wave top or tree top height than it is to make the ground control approach circuit at Da Nang, where Viet Cong gunners in once "pacified" areas lie in wait.

Inter-Continental Features

the booklet about the Fort Hood Three, Pfc. Johnson, Pvt. Samas, Pvt. Mora, who have been sentenced to 5, 5, and 3 years at hard labor for refusing direct orders to go to Vietnam, with the exposé on the Vietnam War by former Green Beret Master Sergeant Donald Duncan, printed in Ramparts last year, and with a firm commitment that we will not let the U.S. send us to Vietnam, regardless of the consequences.

Immediately after we entered the airline terminal, Ira handed out two of the Duncan pamphlets to soldiers; both accepted. Within about 20 seconds a police officer invited us to accompany him to the Operations Office. There we were told that we were violating an Airport regulation and were sent on to the assistant director of operations.

Within Our Rights

Suffice it to say that we spent the next two days running around San Francisco and the Airport, consulting with various kindly bureaucrats, with Edward Keating, Editor of Ramparts, and with the ACLU, which informed us that we were perfectly within our rights. (Cont. p.6)

LEAFLETING SOLDIERS (cont. fr. p.3)

On Wednesday morning we returned to the Airport, prepared to be arrested (our lawyers were ready to come down to the county jail to put up bail). But we won without a fight. We were called in, reprimanded, and told to leave. We told the coordinator of police activities that we would stay until arrested. We stayed, spoke to many soldiers, gave out about a dozen Duncan pamphlets, a half dozen on the Fort Hood Three--and were not arrested.

Approached Young Soldiers

We usually approached young soldiers, men who looked like inductees and not career men. In the few cases in which we did approach older men we were quickly rebuffed. In general, however, soldiers tend to be less hostile than civilians. Those who do not like you or what you are doing say so in plain, though non-aggressive terms. Others, hesitant to take the literature, still stop and talk a while. And a considerable number are receptive both to talking and to the literature.

Men who have been to Vietnam usually reject the protest movement and the literature, but when asked what they think of the war will often respond, "It's stupid," or, "I hated it, I'm glad I'm out." My general impression is that most soldiers possess a kind of stoical resignation rather than any definite, affirmative feelings about the war.

Finally, we were called back into the office and told that as a result of consultation with the Manager of Public Utilities and the Mayor of San Francisco, it had been decided that we could leaflet

if we held the number down to four people at any one time and to no more than two on any level. We are to leaflet outside the buildings and to police the area when finished. We also must furnish the names and addresses of people who join us in the project.

After consulting the AGLU we have decided that, for now, we will comply with these regulations, although we are unsure of their legality. We have won the right to leaflet, which is the important thing, and if we find the rules restraining and unworkable we may request changes.

If we can contact a hundred soldiers a week for an extended period, perhaps we can assist in changing the stance of the American soldier in Vietnam from acquiescence to, at least, silent resistance.

TOY COMMITTEE (cont. from p. 2)

A press conference will be held just after Thanksgiving announcing the beginning of the Christmas leafletting. This year ads may be placed in busses. There are a number of groups forming on the war toys issue. In Berkeley: Mrs. Jane Lundine, 820 Coventry Rd.; In Palo Alto: Mary Lou Greenberg, 38A Escondido Village, Stanford, Calif.

The Toy Resource Kits, compiled by S.F. Touy Comm., are available from S.F. Women for Peace.

Dear Bert,
609 21, 1966
This will be my first letter to you! I've written a few months ago to your CO at T.S. (you can see how much we did it did)

Dead Letter

A letter from a Berkeley Women for Peace member to sailor Bert Kanewske, now in a naval prison in Portsmouth, N.H. for refusing to cease his peace campaigning activities while on duty at Treasure Island has been returned to its writer by the Navy censor because it allegedly "contains information pertaining to criminal activity."

Shirley Thurston Lee wrote to Kanewske that he had inspired her by his "courage, decency and standards," stating that she has "a glimmer of hope that there are a few beautiful Americans left."

"There are many places I'd rather be than a military prison, but it does seem preferable to being forced to burn people's homes and bomb their hospitals and use hideous weapons to murder them," the letter goes on.

Mrs. Lee also mentioned that she and her husband had filed for the refund of 23% of their income tax as a protest to the war, stating that "Uncle Sam will not return them (the taxes), but it has shaken him up no end. We taxpayers are going to put him on the defensive by taking him to court!"

Enclosed with the returned letter was a "Check List of Errors for Rejected Letter," listing the reasons for which the Navy will not let letters get through to prisoners. The item on the list checked by the censor was "containing information pertaining to criminal activity."

And on the back of the list was typed the cryptic term, "You support criminal activity." No other explanation was provided.

UNITED STATES NAVAL DISCIPLINARY COMMAND Portsmouth, N. H.

Check List of Errors for Rejected Letter

The enclosed copy, addressed to an inmate of this institution is returned to you for the reason indicated below:

- () Use of obscene or profane language used.
- () Check no stamps under thoroughly prepared.
- () Excess postage money enclosed, but no money found to cover.
- () General authorization must be obtained by addressee.
- () Contains information pertaining to criminal activity.
- () Photographs enclosed which cannot be delivered because of time or will not hold inspection stamp.
- () Your letter is too long to permit inspection.
- () Writing too illegible to permit inspection.
- () Letter contains obscene or profane language.
- () Letter contains confidential material.
- () See reasons for explanation.

You support criminal activity

This page had already been layed-out when we received Shirley's letter, so we started over. The article to the left is from the Barb. Only part of the letter to Bert Kanewske is reproduced.

I.F. Stone, cont. fr. p.7

Army forces in this excerpt from the same speech: 'South Vietnam is under an attack, already several years old, by forces directed and supplied from the North, and reinforced by regular units—currently some 17 identified regiments—of the North Vietnamese Army.'

"To be explicit, let me assure you that the Department of Defense believes Ambassador Goldberg's speech includes the intent that Viet Cong military units would be deactivated in any proposed withdrawal of external forces from North Vietnam. (Italics added). In response to your specific questions:

"(1) and (2) The number of troops on each side to be withdrawn from or to remain in South Vietnam will be major items to be negotiated whenever North Vietnam can be induced to come to the conference table. The numbers arrived at will be critically dependent on the situation at the time of negotiations.

(3) As previously indicated, the Viet Cong would not be free to continue the war during any phased withdrawal of external forces. Hence, the Joint Chiefs of Staff have not addressed such a contingency.

(4) The views of the Joint Chiefs of Staff invariably are considered at the highest levels of our government on all major decisions affecting the course of the war in Vietnam. U.S. policy on Vietnam as presented to the UN was no exception to this well-established procedure.

(5) The same general guidelines applies equally to consideration of the views of our allies.

anyway, you are quite famous now. I'm sure you'd rather enjoy fame in a different manner though.

My name is Shirley and I'm with the honor. St. Bar... the community for... it's not... they... the way of life.

I've already wanted to say that because I'm not -- you inspire me! I've read and read and heard hundreds of speeches regarding the illegality and immorality of the war.

In the beginning when I was fully into the communism, I was sure...

my country was playing, I was sick as if I'd pulled out my parents were Al Capone and Marie Storer since then the heart had gone -- for my country -- and in its place stands SHAME

As when I look at your country, your decency, your standards I have a glimmer of hope that there are a few beautiful Americans left.

DON'T BUY, SERVE, or HANDLE
PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTED BY CALIFORNIA WINE ASSOCIATION

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-AMBASSADOR
-ELEVEN CELLERS
-red rooster
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-ARISTOCRAT

a.r. morrow victor hugo