

FACT SHEET ON DOW AND NAPALM

WHAT IS DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY?

Dow is the 52nd largest industrial corporation in the U.S., manufacturing a number of products from Saran Wrap to Napalm and crop-killing chemicals used in Vietnam for defoliation. 5% of Dow's total sales of \$11.3 Billion in 1966 were channeled to government contacts. Dow produced 54,620 tons of Napalm B last year. In comparison, the total quantity of napalm used by the U.S. in Korea was 32,215 tons.

We recognize that the Dow Chemical Corporation does not just make napalm. We applaud the good work that is done at Dow. However, we feel that the immorality of Napalm overrides all other considerations in our relationship to Dow. It means little that Dow makes plastic for plastic surgery while it still makes napalm to disfigure faces to require surgery. (We must concede, though, that providing both the problem and the cure is in the best traditions of American business.)

WHAT IS NAPALM?

Napalm is a highly flammable sticky jelly made by adding to aviation gas a chemical compound of aluminum naphthenates and palmitates. These thickening substances, developed in 1944-45 under contract to the Chemical Warfare Service, cause the flaming jelly to adhere to its target, whether structures or human bodies.

Recently, a new thickener has been discovered--polystyrene--which produces a more adhesive type of napalm known as Napalm B. The polystyrene is made by Dow Chemical at Torrance, California.

HOW NAPALM IS USED IN VIETNAM

The cities along the coast of South Vietnam are not Saigon controlled areas. In the Viet Cong areas, there are only thatch-roofed villages and small groups of huts where peasants live.

The most effective use of Napalm in Vietnam is in part of the campaign to terrify peasants in Viet Cong areas to move to American-controlled areas. U.S. pilots are "given a square marked on a map and told to hit every hamlet within the area." (Washington Post, March 13, 1965). This "strategic bombing in a friendly allied country kills significant numbers of innocent civilians every day in South Viet Nam." (New York Times, September 5, 1965). "Ten civilians for every VC according to Special Forces officers, (Newsweek, March 14, 1966).

The deliberate policy of forcing large numbers of peasants to move from their ancestral homes to Government-dominated areas is accomplished largely by aerial bombing and is "a major reason that 730,000 people fled into refugee camps" in 1965. (New York Times, January 2, 1966).

THE VIETNAM WAR

Let us make clear, however, that our opposition to the war does not rest upon the use of Napalm. We oppose the war because it is an aggressive war by an imperialist power, the United States. The "necessary" use of napalm on villages merely indicates the nature of the conflict--that the people of South Viet Nam support the National Liberation Front. We oppose the use of bombs, guns, grenades, and gas as well.

PROTEST DOW'S PRESENCE ON CAMPUS
PICKET NOON THURSDAY
NOON RALLY AND PICKET FRIDAY

Stanford SDS