Do you care?

Do you remember that a war is going on? It started on May 11, when many thousands of people turned out to attend a teach-in opposing the war in Vietnam. Most people didn’t know very much about the war then, but already many had some feeling that something was wrong.

The VDC IS PLANNING ANOTHER MASSIVE PROTEST MEETING ON MAY 21, THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST PROTEST.

A lot has happened since last May 21. Most people know about the war now. Many know how vicious, how brutal, how unjust and unnecessary it is. Many people throughout the nation are being asked to take part in the war. And they are being asked to take part in the protest in some way. In California, motorists will come from many areas, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Stanford. In addition, representatives of various civil rights and Negro protest groups have been invited to speak, for understanding the relationship of the relationship between the government’s interests in the nation to the need of the emerging peoples of the world and to the hopes of the Americas within its own borders.

There will be a massive protest meeting on May 21. What will it be like?

We are beyond the point where we can simply protest against a single, obvious, barbaric and losing presence in Vietnam. We must face the broader issues and make clear our opposition to the element within our society and government which supports and encourages this type of behavior.

Not only the groups contacted, but the tactics and targets and the war itself will be more diverse than last year, in addition to Imperialism, the subject of the program includes: The University and the War; The Vietnam-War and the War; The Army and the War (including a discussion of the present Selective Service System).

Among the speakers who have been contacted and asked to speak are: A. J. Muste, I. F. Stone, Dick Gregory, Bernice Robinson, Dr. Robert F. Greene, Dave Dellinger, Emile Manley, John Hulet (Chairman of the Black Panther Party), Lieutenant Henry Howe (the teach-in organizer for the Black Panther Party in protest demonstrations), Carl Qashi (of SDS), Robert Scheer, a member of the Afro-American Writers Against the War, Don Ramsey (the ex-Green Beret), and many others, including the New York Times, the Chicago Daily News, the National Liberation Front has been requested to send tapes. There will be songs of popular folk singers, and poems of protest from the Vietnam Scene.

There will be half a dozen protest meetings held in the country, in addition to those held in Baltimore, New York, and San Francisco. The Committee has been contacted and asked to perform protest acts.

The promise of future brutal wars to supplant other peoples and the continuing "quiet" (but not been broken) war against the freedom of Americans themselves.

There will be a massive protest meeting on May 21. What will it be like?

The contributions of big-name speakers, poems, and songs can never be enough. Protest is not a matter of willing performers and outing audiences. That gap must be bridged. We need your help. Opposite the war can’t be carried on by a handful of people. It takes thousands. It takes money—print leaflets and distribute information, to arrange for speakers for rallies. It takes workers—to do office work, typing, mimeographing, printing, art work, and creative thinking. It takes your presence at rallies and demonstrations.

There will be a massive protest meeting on May 21. What will it be like? It will be like a shot in the arm for the movement.

If you are willing to work to show your commitment to the anti-war movement, come to the VDC meetings on Tuesday night, or stop by the VDC campus table and sign up to work on committees, or simply call our temporary office when you have free time (21). There will be a massive protest meeting on May 21. Don’t forget about the war! Don’t forget about the anti-war meeting.


times and conditions, and if you feel you are not satisfied with your government’s policies, then DONT SIMPLY SHOWING THAT YOU CARE!

If you have been asked to take part in the protest in some way, come out and take part in the protest.

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The VDC NEWS
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A YEAR OF PROTEST

How old is the Vietnam Day Committee? Technically, it is an infant, for its year and a half of existence has brought forth no movement of any size. Tactics have been abandoned in favor of confrontation, but the VDC has been forced to retreat to a more cautious posture.

For Vietnam, the Vietnameses are the Vietnamese people for self-determination and freedom. Their struggle is not a matter of numbers, but a matter of principle. It is a struggle against the French, the Japanese, and the American occupation forces. The VDC has been at the forefront of the struggle against these forces, and its members have been arrested, imprisoned, and branded as criminals.

The VDC has been active in organizing protests, demonstrations, and rallies against the war in Vietnam. It has been involved in organizing sit-ins, pickets, and other types of nonviolent direct action.

The VDC has also been involved in organizing the Vietnam Peace Christmas, a series of demonstrations and rallies held in various cities across the United States to protest the war in Vietnam.

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The bombing was a woman's march to the Army terminal. Three hundred women marched under a banner which said "Men, Men, Men, Men!"

The VDC hadn't held a general membership meeting in some time, and much of the leadership was busy in the street campaign. For two weeks in March the Peace/Rights Organizing Committee took over our anti-war protest at the courthouse, and organized the successful demonstration against Goldberg. More than a thousand people voted VDC on the war over national TV.

But the need for the VDC was so great that it began to reorganize itself. Old leaders returned from the street campaign; new leaders were found. A demonstration was planned in solidarity with the Vietnamese Buddhists and students demonstrating in the streets of Saigon, Di Nam, and Hue. A new set for April 12, and it was to be very much like a street demonstration in Vietnam, with signs in Vietnamese and English, from anti-war VDC leaders check out in fair approximations of Vietnamese culture. There was to be Vietnamese music, warm from the speakers' balcony on Telegraph Avenue, where the demonstration was held.

Four days before the demonstration, the VDC headquarters was bombed. But preparations for the demonstration went on. There was discussion of whether or not to apply for a permit; to do so and be refused would shift the locus from support of the Vietnamese to a civil liberties case against the Berkeley police. It was decided not to force the police to give us a permit, but to give them the ultimate law to the very end. So some last-minute talks between VDC lawyers and the police reinforced the impression that the police were concerned about sound-ordinance violations and keeping the demonstration on the sidewalk.

But the police were apparently given a mandate to do more than was necessary to protect the demonstration and keep it orderly. They viciously and brutally broke up the demonstration, charging in to seize the sound equipment with clubs swinging. They told their utmost to start a riot.

But the leadership managed to move the demonstration down to City Hall, where the right to protest was asserted and speeches were made in solidarity with the Vietnamese demonstration -- the heartfelt words of those "under the club" all over the world was most strongly felt that night. Four thousand of us turned out on April 12.

As the day of struggle ends and a new one begins, the VDC is experiencing an opening. A year of continuous protest has been wearying -- and exciting -- for leaders and rank-and-file alike. More and more young Americans have committed themselves to the struggle of their brothers in Vietnam by joining the fight here, demanding that their government get out of Vietnam.

Those who joined the struggle in Berkeley have been perhaps the most fortunate. While they have had to shed many illusions -- about American pages of history -- they have learned how to fight together in a hundred ways and how to stick it out through thick and thin. And they have justly begun to feel that a new and successful American victory has been won. (And people all over the world who will have forgotten the dedication and the stand with the struggle and be hopeful because of the victory.)

WE'VE MADE A START, BUT WE NEED A HAND

Last month in New York, in L.A., in San Francisco, and in Berkeley, terrorist bombs have been blown up headquarters of left-wing groups opposed to the war. Not only the VDC but every intellectual and organization opposed to the brutal war in Vietnam must face the issue of whether the extension of brutality and terrorism to this country can be allowed to put an end to our activities. It is a question which must be answered after the effect of the bombing comes perilously close to "the right wing of the New Deal," looks slightly past midnight, April 5, while VDCers worked on creating papers for the April 13 street demonstration, a bomb with the intensity of thirty sticks of dynamite ripped the building apart. The intention was not just to prevent fear, but to murder and destroy. The murder was not accomplished; the demonstration was. VDC lost its typewriter equipment, its typewriter, its entire library, complete layout equipment, approximately $100 worth of literature, all of its art and poster supplies -- and its headquarters.

Even before the bombing, VDC was over $500 in debt. The debt was primarily the accumulation of a huge phone bill; personal loans; the costs of demonstrations; personnel; and distribution of literature. Financial support of the International Committee and contributions to the cost of producing the film, "Days of Protest," the debt, in short, arose from a year of coordinated public education and direct action to oppose the war in Vietnam. It was worth the cost -- but can it continue?

OUR DEBT IS STEADILY DECREASING... BUT

The bombing has had its effect, looks THE VDC HAS NO OFFICE. We have no money to buy a house; we can't rent one because no insurance company will cover a building ruined in a bomb that has been bombed.

THE COST OF EDUCATION IS HIGH. In the past, the VDC has needed from 100,000 pieces of literature per month. Monthly costs for phone and telephone communications, publicity and mailing amounted to around $500 a month. All our literature was destroyed -- large sums of money will be needed to replace it. We do not have the funds.

LATE MAY 21 COST THE VDC $12,000 for speakers, publicity, and all of the related expenses. We hope to once again communicate with a large segment of the community in a meaningful way, but we don't have the funds.

SUMMER is traditionally a dormant time to keep a movement going. But although Cal students left last summer, there were here from Mills, Merritt, and other local colleges and youth from across the nation came to Berkeley to work with the VDC. Many stayed on; many returned to their own communities to spread the message and to organize active peace groups. Recent mail indicates that even more young people will come to Berkeley to work with the VDC this summer. Will we be in a position to put them to work?

THIS PROTEST AGAINST THE WAR CAN NOT END WITH A MARCH, A DEMONSTRATION, A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN.

The continuation of rancorous anti-war movement which will go on educating ever-increasing segments of the public is up to you. WE NEED YOUR MONEY NOW!

Mail donations to the VDC have ranged from $1 to $100. The large donations are important. The small ones are vital. The VDC News is mailed to approximately 3,000 people. If each person would donate even 51 we would have enough money to keep going.

Funds urgently needed to continue a work with this newspaper, direct action and other activities, the Vietnam Day Committee urgently needs financial help. Your contributions, however large or small, will help us mount anti-war activity.

I wish to contribute: 

On a monthly basis

Name

Address

Make checks payable to: Vietnam Day Committee. Send to Mike Delacour, 2407 Fulton St., Berkeley, Calif.

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CRACKDOWN!

by Karen Steinman

DENVER: Court Martial for Antis
Lieutenant "TAG" McCoy. Alleged to be Discharged for Dereliction of Duty.

FILM OF VDC

by Jerry Rubin

Propaganda is an art — which the American left has been woefully in-
capable of mastering. Greens and even too many clowns, sycophants, mechanists, clerks, and other laggards have tilted many of our heated and often irre-
sentimental arguments on slogans can be transformed into something in communicating with the American public.

To reach people we are going to have to develop a new political impres-
sion. Our puppet shows are a small start in this direction. We can-
not expect to get through to the American public if we do not learn to tell them our story in such a way that they will understand it.