

# Demonstration calls for investigation

## Death of B.C. Indian white-washed

VANCOUVER (CUP) — About 200 people gathered in front of the court house here to protest the racism and inequality in the Canadian court and police systems on February 25 after the death of a B.C. Indian in November.

They demanded that B.C. Attorney General Les Peterson press charges against two RCMP officers involved in the beating death of 55-year old Chilcotin Indian Fred Quilt, and want a public inquiry into the death and the "whitewash" inquest that followed.

Quilt was taken from his truck and beaten in front of his family, then left at the roadside by "peace officers". Although testimony by the eye witnesses and the surgeon who performed

the autopsy clearly indicated that a beating had taken place and that death had probably resulted from a kick in the stomach, the inquest ruling was that no one was responsible.

The protestors demanded that the government end the "fascist and racist judicial system" which led to the death of Quilt and the exoneration of his attackers.

Howard Adams, former president of the Saskatchewan Métis Association, told demonstrators that native people will not get justice from the government and called for community control of police.

"We should organize and learn to protect ourselves," said Adams. "We recognize Fred Quilt died a tragic and brutal

death, but we must concern ourselves with the broader issue, the fascism in the society we live in."

"We must attack and expose the judicial system for the realism of it and what it does to increase oppression of Native Canadians in their everyday lives."

Adams noted that in Saskatchewan where the Native people number less than five per cent of the population, 90

per cent of the women in jails and over 60 per cent of the men were Native.

A representative of the B.C. Federation of Labor also addressed the demonstrators, about half of whom were native people. He said that the Quilt case is just one example of "the state using its power to discriminate against people." The Federation supports a public inquiry.

Clarence Dennis, law director of the B.C. Union of Indian Chiefs, pointed out that "the jury was chosen directly by the RCMP. The coroner, S. S. Leith, is himself a former RCMP officer." He demanded that "the police be made accountable for their actions in this and in all cases."

Two other demonstrations were held in Prince George and Prince Rupert.

## Anti-war movement revived

The Atlantic Conference on the Indochina War held last weekend at Dalhousie resulted in the formation of the Vietnam Mobilization Committee (VMC) and a decision to revive the anti-war movement in Halifax.

At a meeting held in the Weldon Law Building on March 18, approximately 60 people discussed the war itself and the politics of the anti-war movement. The consensus was for the establishment of a broad coalition which would bring the ever-present American involvement in Indochina back into the spotlight. This was considered of prime importance as this is a U.S. election year and Nixon is expected to use his much-publicized troop withdrawal from Vietnam as a major campaign platform.

The VMC, which will be



(Steve Jones/dal photo)

Participants in the Atlantic Conference on the Indochina War

deciding on actions for at least the immediate future, faces several possibilities. Two of these are the demonstration on April 22, the international day of protest against the war, and/or uncovering more facts concerning war research being conducted in the Metro area.

The closing session of the conference saw the passing of two policy statement resolutions.

(1) Having analyzed and discussed the American aggression in Indochina, the Conference totally condemns the American war machine and its collaborators, including the Canadian government. We demand the unconditional withdrawal of all aggressive forces in Indochina and the dismantling of all war apparatus in that area. We support the seven point program formulated by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam in July 1971.

(2) We participants in the Conference express our solidarity with the people of Indochina in their struggle against American aggression.

The Vietnam Mobilization Committee will meet Sunday, March 26, at 2 p.m. in Rm. 318 of the Dal Student Union Building.

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