

# COSMOPOLITAN U.N.B. AT NEWMAN CONVENTION

by STEVAN D. KARON

Last week's column was completely contorted and unrecognizable from my original since it had to be cut due to lack of space.

Anyway, I would like to bring up a smouldering problem which has been completely forgotten in the recent months. The subversion and guerilla tactics of the Viet Cong against the South Viet Nam government is really nothing new, in that it has been going on since the French left that area. A few months ago, the U.S. government which has committed its support to President Diem, introduced the "strategic hamlets" system in that area. With its establishment everyone seemed to believe that the Viet Cong rebels had been beaten. Since that plan is similar to the kind the British used in Malaya to flush out and beat the Red guerillas in that area. Unfortunately this is quite misleading since the British operation in the Malayan jungles differs with the conditions the Americans are up against.

The major difference is that in Malaya the rebels were Chinese as to the Malayan natives while in Viet Nam such distinction is not present. Secondly the

Malayan plan deals with a jungle area and therefore villages are a vital source of supply. In Viet Nam, protective hamlets will not cut off the Viet Cong as it did to their jungle brethren since they can get supplies from neighbouring Laos. Besides that, the people of Viet Nam have endured constant warfare for twenty years now. So that they really don't care either way but just want to be left alone.

This puts the U.S.A. in a very awkward position. They have committed themselves to support Diem yet are afraid to over-do it. This gives the U.S.A. only two choices; either leave the area and let the Reds have it resulting in the loss of the whole South-East Asia area or bring in massive aid and military support. The latter will blacken American foreign policy yet it is the only way if they want to prevent that area from becoming Communist. It is a tough choice, but it will have to be done now while there is still time for success. The Reds want us to lose interest which will result from more procrastination. I hope the U.S.A. won't disappoint the Viet Nameese as they did in Laos.

The Atlantic Regional Convention of Newman Clubs convened in Halifax Friday, January 25th with over twenty visiting delegates in attendance. Representing the U.N.B. club were Frances Guest, Monica McDonald, Madeleine Therriault, John Gatien, Pierre Hebert and Richard Lord. Delegates were also present from Memorial University, Prince of Wales College and the Dal-Tech Newman Club.

The convention consisted of a series of lectures, group discussion and workshops all centered on the main theme, "A POSITIVE APPROACH TO RELIGION: A DIRECTION FOR THE FUTURE". Various aspects of this theme were presented by Msgr. John McCarthy, Rev. J. O'Connor, S.J. and Msgr. Gerald

Murphy.

Social highlights included a guided tour of the city of Halifax and an informal gathering Friday evening. Most Reverend J. G. Berry, Archbishop of Halifax, spoke briefly to the delegates at a banquet Saturday evening which was followed by a semi-formal dance.

At the annual business meeting, Ross Wayland, Eastern Regional Vice-President of the Canadian Federation of Newman Clubs, and President of the Dal-Tech Newman Club, was delegated to represent the Atlantic

Region at the National Convention in Vancouver next September. Richard A. Lord, President of the U.N.B. club, was elected next year's national CFNC vice-president for the Atlantic Region. Next year's regional convention will be held in Fredericton under the auspices of the U.N.B. Newman Club. The national Newman Clubs' publication "CROSS-LIGHT" was thoroughly discussed and full support lent to its continuation.

Visiting delegates were particularly impressed by the outstanding hospitality of the Halifax Newmanites and their families and the excellent programming under the direction of the convention chairman William Fitzgerald. The convention concluded with a Communion Breakfast on Sunday morning, January 27th.

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