

the gateway

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experts mass for antiwar talks

Amidst rumors of ceasefires and "peace" in Vietnam, more than 200 students from across the country attended a student antiwar conference in Toronto. The conference assembled the largest number of Canadian experts on Vietnam ever seen at one conference including Prof. Gabriel Kolko, from York University, author of *Roots of American Foreign Policy*; Claire Culhane, former nurse in Vietnam and author of many books on Canadian complicity; James Steele from Carleton U, author of *Rationale for War in Vietnam*. The conference also heard keynote speakers Fred Lovgren, national co-ordinator of the Student Mobilization Committee in the U.S., and Bobby Seale, national co-ordinator for NPAC who told more than 500 people to hit the streets in massive demonstrations on Nov. 18.

Throughout the conference speakers hammered away at Canadian complicity, and the U.S. presence in Vietnam.

In a brilliant speech, Prof. Kolko analysed the patterns and recurring themes of the Vietnam war. He pointed out repeated American military defeats, followed by cyclic military escalations in response. Opposition to the war by the public has limited the U.S. war effort, and brought about the collapse of the U.S. army as a fighting unit. These factors were further compounded by inflation, and the remarkable courage and military ingenuity of the Vietnamese.

As a result, Kolko said, the American government had systematically generated optimism for peace in Vietnam at various times, noting Johnson's peace plan's eight years ago, Nixon's four years ago, and

the current election peace plan. The effect is a immense "credibility gap" and a jaded and sophisticated public.

What the U.S. really wants, said Kolko, is a partition similar to Korea, with accords along the lines of Geneva 1954, which cannot be achieved, or have any lasting value. Such a ceasefire would win Nixon the election, time and co-opt Vietnam and its allies in the process.

Other speakers spoke of Canadian complicity. Project Antiwar of McGill university presented its comprehensive study "How to Make a Killing in Vietnam", a preliminary report concerning Canadian economic involvement with the Pentagon and the War in Indochina, which won national headlines a short time ago.

Prof. James Steele, presented evidence that Canada had all along been an ally of the United States on the International Control Commission and that we are in no way a neutral or "peacekeeping" country in that war.

The second day of the conference heard Fred Lovgren detail in a hard hitting speech the recent U.S. escalations while peace talks flourished. In fact, U.S. bombing, now at atomic bomb intensity, has never been higher. The Thieu regime has stepped up its terror and repression in the countryside, and has already massacred 40,000 political opponents under project "Pheonix". He stressed the great urgency to step up antiwar activity, and the power of people acting together in a worldwide antiwar movement.

Tranth Thieu of the Vietnamese Patriots, made one of the most significant and moving speeches, for which he received a standing ovation. Thieu spoke of Nixon's unprecedented diplomatic betrayal at the conference table, and held the U.S. responsible



"We've got to hit the streets, and we've got to hit the streets in massive numbers," Bobby Seale told delegates to last week's anti-war conference in Toronto.

for continuing the war. However, he warned that even if an agreement is signed the war will not be over, and that only the strategic approach of U.S. intents in Vietnam would differ. Thieu urged continued antiwar support, stating "we must make double the effort - Nixon has to stop the war."

The discussion of the action proposal revolved around several apparent themes. First of all, it became clear the U.S. intervention had actually escalated, and as long as this was the case no peace would come to Vietnam. Secondly, Canada through offering troops to be sent to Vietnam, was actually escalating its complicity in that war. The conference reaffirmed the right of the Vietnamese to self-determination, and emphasized that neither Americans or Canadians have any right to be there.

Coming out of the discussion, a national Student Mobilization Committee was set up, with its co-ordinator Barry Godson of Peterborough, Ontario. It was decided to launch a national fight against any Canadian troops going to Vietnam, making this a central issue in the Nov. 18 demonstrations. As well cross-country co-ordinators would link

the various campus antiwar groups in a national struggle against campus war research and Canadian complicity, culminating in a March Day of Student Protest. A Bill of Rights was put forward to be used by SMC activists in the high schools to fight for political freedom. Plans were also laid for the national antiwar paper, the "Mobilizev" and publication of pamphlets.

Edmonton antiwar activities played a prominent role in the conference discussion. Returning from the conference, activists from the U of A Vietnam Action committee projected renewed and intensified activities. On Armistice Day, a antiwar benefit with Hot Cottage was held. On Wednesday Nov. 15 a speakout on the question of "Peace in Vietnam" will be held, with Henry Malta, chairperson of UAVAC speaking. The slide show the "Automated Air War" will also be shown. UAVAC activists also plan to publish a pamphlet on the findings of their special campus war research project. Then, on November 18, at 2:00 p.m., a rally at the legislature buildings and march to Winston Churchill Square will be held as part of the International Day of Protest.

jails, boredom

lead to drug use

"Emily Murphy could provide some interesting insights into the drug problem even though her book was written almost a half century ago" suggests Dr. John Craig at Thursday nights forum on the non-medical use of drugs sponsored by the med students.

Dr. Craig, who runs a street clinic treating alcoholics and drug addicts, feels that some of the difficulties surrounding drug use and abuse were pegged by Janey Canuck (pseudonym for Emily Murphy) in her book *The Black Candle*. Heroin can be found in jails and in fact jails provide some of the best training grounds for drug users. Since Janey's time however, Canada no longer is the major distributor of illegal drugs for the U.S.

New York has about one million addicts and because the habit costs one hundred dollars a day it is easy to see why muggings and criminal activity has increased. The number of addicts in Edmonton is suspected to be about five hundred said Al Jones, co-ordinator of Point Three, a volunteer organization which works with alcoholics and drug addicts.

Jones believes the question to be more subtle than just hard drugs as he considers cigarettes addictive. "Just when does the drug addict present as a problem, when he harms himself, when he harms his family or when he harms society?"

Point Three, which receives many referrals from Dr. Craig, tries to re-organize addicts and their time through community involvement and while they have very few funds they do manage to obtain professional help from the psychology department of the U of A, the Citadel theatre and Grant McEwan college.

The causes of addiction are obtruse but seem to reside in the "hoi polloi" and their struggle with boredom. Dr. Craig claimed that cities are not pleasant places to live and in Canada's winter they become worse. The forms of entertainment like "b" bars are such drab and dreary places with too much noise and no intimacy. 'People are trying to hide their boredom, they are afraid to accept that the Brave New World is here and It is.'

Dr. Craig received much publicity last year concerning his use of methadone. He outlined the use of methadone as being: for the rest of the addicts life or for a short period to reduce the anxiety of withdrawal period. He also mentioned that it is harder on the addict to withdraw from methadone than heroin.

Dave Gladdes who was to field questions concerning the government's role felt that 'the government is doing little due to the outdated laws like those recommended by Janey Canuck and a commission without a chairman.'

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U of A Vietnam Action Committee chairperson Henry Malta tells of troops placed on stand-by at the Griesbach military base in Edmonton for possible deployment in Vietnam. Photos by Brenda Whitney