

### Six Hours To Liberate South Vietnam

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the NLF. In Saigon itself, small groups of NLF soldiers were still attacking police stations.

For at least six hours on the New Year of the Monkey (1968) South Viet Nam was in fact liberated. The American power crumbled, the South Vietnamese regime vanished. The bourgeois-gentlemen of Saigon, for some time tranquilized and corrupted by U.S. power and money, woke up with the New Year to the realities of their country. They saw for the first time the face of the liberators, the peasants of Viet Nam.

This not the first time in the history of Viet Nam that the Vietnamese witnessed a TET when the thunder of war muted the firecrackers in their nation's capital. In 1789, Emperor Quang Trung who united Viet Nam after a short but successful peasant-supported revolution, liberated Thang Long (Ascending Dragon, Hanoi's ancient name) during the New Year and chased away the Nanchou forces from the Vietnamese territory.

Both Hanoi and the Liberation Radio of the NLF attributed the attacks to the cancellation of the TET Lunar New Year Truce. The Liberation Radio noted that Saigon first cut its truce from 48 hours to 36 and then cancelled it entirely. The Central Committee of the NLF was quoted as saying that the cancellation angered the Vietnamese people so it ordered political cadres and front line troops to "stand side-by-side with our people and stand up to the invading Americans and the servant government by killing them". One must remember that TET is the most important festival for the Vietnamese and that the NLF had

proposed since November 17, 1967, a one week truce.

Some people may say that the NLF must have prepared all these attacks months ahead, that such an offensive could not have been mounted so quickly. To say this is to suppose that the cities in South Viet Nam are completely under the control of the U.S. and the Thieu-Ky regime. But everyone who is familiar with this war knows that the NLF has always maintained a very strong political and military apparatus in all cities. In Saigon, the famed "Trung Doan Thu Do" (Capital Regiment) and the CIO Sapper Battalion are not very far from the U.S. Embassy, and their members are among the three million inhabitants of the city. Most of these three million citizens live in poverty besides the luxurious villas of the U.S. and Vietnamese generals.

Now that President Thieu has declared martial law, he will use it against the Buddhists, the students, the Vietnamese who want this atrocious war to end. Any dead Vietnamese shot by the Saigon police will be a "Viet Cong terrorist".

The Saigon Post on January 27 printed a story titled "The Viet Cong flag flying at American headquarters" which reads: "Passersby along Nguyen Du and Truong Cong Kinh Wednesday (January 24) spotted a Viet Cong flag flying high up a residential house. Judiciary police, alerted, subsequently arrived to investigate. Three Americans flatly refused to let the lawmen take down the flag. They were identified as SS/4 Hussey TP Hqs., SS/4 Hollar TP Hqs., and HP L.T. Humber. Later the cops with the help of a Joint Patrol Chief succeeded in bringing down the Viet Cong flags."

Maybe the three U.S. servicemen were rehearsing a future scene, maybe they were joking at the whole situation. Joke or no joke, the situation in South Viet Nam after the New Year of the Monkey will not be the same. This is high time for the U.S. to recognize that the war in Viet Nam cannot be won. As columnist Joseph Kraft wrote in the Washington Post of February 1:

"The war in Viet Nam is unwinnable and the longer it goes on, the more the Americans, already badly over exposed, will be subjected to losses and humiliations, even in placed of maximum security. That is the message the other side is trying to get across by the wave of assaults on the Saigon Embassy and other places in South Viet Nam. And because the message so obviously serves the adversary, it is tempting to dismiss it as propaganda."

Optimistic statements are pouring out of Saigon, but the realities are there for everyone to see. The sooner Washington sees them, the better for the U.S. and for Viet Nam as well.

### UGEQ

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passed unanimously but, as one delegate said later, "some (French) delegates appeared to regard the motion as capitulation by the English." Or did he himself regard it as capitulation?

### LANGUAGE A RED HERRING

Many English students on campus regard UGEQ in this light. But it is becoming increasingly evident that the union itself is putting off the race conflict in favor of other, higher, objective. Only limited gains are possible on this front, they argue, and these mainly at the expense of the overall effectiveness of UGEQ's syndical activities. UGEQ's main concern is educational and social reform, not the Canadian constitution.

### UNANIMITY A PROBLEM

It would be wrong to conclude that UGEQ is hung up on the French-English conflict. The opposite is indeed the case. One of UGEQ's greatest faults is the absence of an opposition group toward the union's methods or objectives. Delegates rarely come to congress with a bundle of briefs and ideas. Rather, they consider the work of the executive in commissions, arrive at a consensus, then play a syntax game with the final product at the plenary session stage before passing it without real modification. Such wide basic agreement on the aims and direction of the union is again evidenced by the acclamation of complete slates of candidates for the executive in the past two years. Selection boils down to the competence of the individuals nominated, and rarely to their position on policy.

In many cases the executive appears too cautious or too con-

servative, prompting delegates to after the strike ended, talking about student power (the English meaning of "l'université aux étudiants", he said) and the need for greater inter-university solidarity among the Montreal universities.

And the students, not only their leaders, have now begun to regard UGEQ as their union and its president Pierre Lefrançois as their president, even if he does speak French to them.

On at least two occasions last fall Lefrançois was loudly cheered after solidarity speeches. At the Sir George strike over the bookstore prices and profits, and at a McGill open council meeting where Rocke Robertson threw his stones at the McGill Daily and its Realist magazine reprint, Lefrançois showed himself to be a leader of English students as well as French.

The UGEQ message is becoming clearer. Majority rules, and it respects as much as possible the rights and wishes of the minority. The age of minority English domination is over, at least in student circles, and students on both sides of the linguistic line now realize the new Quebec has a place for them both. "Je suis un Québécois" is translatable. Those who do not share a nationalistic feeling for Quebec will drift off into North America. Those who do will stay behind and build a new Quebec.

demand stronger action. Normally in such organizations, CUS for example, the executive must badger the members to support more vigorous actions or policies. The Laval delegation was disappointed at the new \$1.25 per capita fee. They had authority from their campus to commit \$2.00 per capita to the union, and broadly hinted they would kick in the extra 75 cents voluntarily.

Such examples indicate the solidarity which exists within UGEQ, and it shows itself best in times of crisis.

### L'UNIVERSITE AUX ETUDIANTS

University of Montreal students and a delegation from McGill showed up at Sir George's one-day strike last fall, to express support. U de M student association president Jean Doré held court for reporters and others

### ELECTED, RESIGNED, HIRED BACK. HE'S STUDENT TREASURER.

VANCOUVER (CUP) Mar. 4 — First, he was elected. Then he was asked to resign. Now they've offered him \$300 to come back again.

Dave Hoye was elected University of British Columbia student union treasurer a year ago. But the student court recently decided he was ineligible because he didn't enrol in September. They just found out.

He resigned, but now council finds they can't do without him, so they've hired him back as a financial advisor to student council president Shaun Sullivan, who was appointed acting treasurer for the rest of the school year. Hoye will "advise" Sullivan until the newly elected treasurer takes office.

AND THEY SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE



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