

Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity — Lord Acton

Perhaps it's because Vietnam is now 'hip'

The growing interest of the York community in the problems of the Vietnamese people is heartening at a first glance. One gets heartened to find a growing number of people concerned with the American genocide of the people of South East Asia.

However, there is some consternation if one really examines why some of the most 'political' or 'hip' people are finally interested in the very serious question of American imperialism in South East Asia.

I would postulate that most of these people are opposed to the war finally because it is the 'in' thing to do. Ever since the liberals Lindsay, McGovern and Kennedy jumped on the bandwagon using the war as a vehicle for their own political ends, there are a lot of people who feel that opposition to the war is now a respectable thing.

The key question is whether the people who are interested in the moratorium are really interested in the larger question of American atrocities abroad and at home. I would venture to say that the government is actually behind the moratorium and would hypothesize that the government would like to get out and to prop up an anti-communist government in South Vietnam. This is the same cry of the moratorium people who want to bring American boys home. I would say that this cry is tantamount to the governments' position of the Vietnamization of the war.

In a recent issue of Guardian there was a front page caption saying that any Vietnamization of the war would mean a longer war. The liberation movement of Vietnam has been fighting for over 30 years and most observers feel that they will not stomach a puppet regime of the Americans in the South.

I would like to find out whether the people interested in the moratorium at York are interested in setting up a people's government in the South or are they only interested in reducing American casualties by bringing



Reluctant to pull out.

American boys home.

The leaders of the moratorium who prefer to have respectable speakers at their rallies are suspect. They do not want to align with the people who they think are the more militant elements of the Vietnam Mobilization Committee. Most of the speakers who are scheduled for the moratorium platform will echo the cry of Lynch-'em Burn Johnson and Nazi Nixon who solemnly say they want to end the war in Vietnam.

I don't see any qualitative difference between the government's position and the position of Lindsay, McGovern and Kennedy. Anyone who

points to these liberals should not forget that Kennedy belongs to the same party as Jimmy Sasland and Dicky Russel.

These people, if they are sincere, have to address themselves to the larger question of American genocide in Laos, Thailand and the Phillipines. I am not so sure that the key question is now Vietnam. The brave people of Vietnam have shown that they can handle themselves. They have survived, and are winning, against the most sophisticated arsenal in the world.

The questions I would like to ask the people in the moratorium are many. Does American withdrawal of troops in Vietnam slow down the octopus of the military-industrial complex?

Does withdrawal of troops from Vietnam stop exploitation in Latin America?

Does the cessation of the war in Vietnam end the U.S. financing of Portugese atrocities in Angola and Mozambique? Does it end malnutrition and starvation of more than 10 million Americans?

I would like someone to assure me that there are people involved in the York moratorium who are also interested in these questions. The American octopus is all-encompassing and cutting it off in one area would only mean a resurgence in another area.

I am very apprehensive about the 'hip' people who are involved in the moratorium.

Three years ago Shalom Lappin and myself debated against the Edmund Burke Society of University of Toronto in Vanier common room on the question of the war. After the debate there was a show of hands of people as to who was on which side. We were overwhelmingly defeated. I wonder if these same people are finally against the war.

people were against the war because it is a respectable issue and the mass media is now with them.

Where were these people when American bombs were raining on the heroic people of Vietnam?

I think the radicals at York should move very fast to see that the liberals do not monopolize the moratorium here. The people of Vietnam do not need the liberals or the 'hip' people. The struggle of the Vietnamese people is part of a global struggle against Yankee imperialism and racism. Anyone who seriously wants to challenge the octopus should get in the struggle to smash U.S. aggression.

--Horace Campbell

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It would be great to know that they have finally understood the issues and have changed their minds. It would however, be very pathetic if these