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World Briefs

DDT makers sued for \$30-billion

NEW YORK (LNS) — A \$30 billion damage suit was filed Oct. 14 in federal court in an attempt to attack those responsible for DDT poisoning and related ecological crimes. The suit, filed by Carol Vannacone, names eight companies, the principle manufacturers and distributors of the insecticide. In stating the charges several instances of direct damage done by DDT are cited as well as anti-trust violations by the corporations, who have fixed prices and crushed competition. Mrs. Vannacone, whose husband is associated with the Environmental Defence Fund, filed suit on behalf of all the people of the United States . . . all of whom are equitable owners of the natural resources of the U.S. . . . entitled to the full benefit, use and enjoyment of the environment and natural resources without damage or degradation from the illegal acts and conduct of the defendants in the furthering the production, distribution and use of the broad spectrum, persistent chemical biocide, DDT.

U.N. committee backs guerrillas

UNITED NATIONS (LNS) — The United Nations Special Committee on Apartheid recently recommended direct aid to guerrillas fighting white governments in southern Africa. Calling for an end to "fruitless appeals" for trade embargoes and other relatively impotent actions, the committee's report said: "the United Nations must give utmost priority to promoting assistance to the South African liberation movement in its legitimate struggle." The report does not call for direct action on the part of the U.N. It is, however an encouragement to the Afro-Asian bloc to adopt such a resolution. The report also suggests that nations give food, clothes, medicine, educational material and money to the liberation movements, and that guerrillas be given travel aid, documents and communications equipment.

Seale chained at trial

CHICAGO (LNS) — The trial of Bobby Seale, one of eight defendants charged with conspiracy in connection with the disturbances at last year's Democratic Convention in Chicago, is becoming a landmark in U.S. legal precedence. Seale was effectively denied his right to counsel when Judge Julius Hoffman ruled that the fact that Seale's lawyer Charles Garry, was slowly recovering from surgery in a California hospital, did not constitute grounds for a delay in the trial. Still not satisfied that justice was being served efficiently, Hoffman, Oct. 29 had Seale chained to a metal chair and gagged in order that he not interfere in his own defence. In San Francisco Seale's convalescing lawyer commented on Hoffman's strong-arm tactics. "I have never heard in my entire legal career of such outrageous treatment of a defendant in any U.S. court." In connection with Hoffman's decision to deny Seale a defence, Garry commented, "Even in Nazi Germany the police state never reached the proportions where the state was afraid to have a defendant open his mouth in court. This shows that the police state is here, and due process and all the constitutional guarantees are a mockery." After three days of such treatment by the court Hoffman, Monday, ordered the chains and gag removed; he gave no explanation for the action. Meanwhile in San Francisco counsel Garry, said he would not come to the trial now even if he were fully recovered. He said that the trial should be dismissed immediately since it was "irretrievably prejudiced against Mr. Seale and all of his co-defendants."

Lebanon might be next Vietnam

BEIRUT (Guardian) — Following the armed confrontations in Lebanon Oct. 18-25 between the Lebanese army and the Al Fatah, the U.S. State Department issued several statements voicing its concern for Lebanon's security. The statements were interpreted in New York as being rationalizations for a possible future U.S. intervention in the area. There has been speculation in Washington that U.S. President Richard Nixon is looking for an issue to divert public attention from the problem of Vietnam, and it is felt that the Lebanese crisis has provided him with a suitable issue.

Cuban 'saviors' caught on beach

HAVANA (Guardian) — The Cuban Government announced October 19 that an infiltration force of 10 Cuban exiles was stopped by members of the Cuban army on a beach near the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay. Three of the infiltrators and two Cubans were killed. In testimony before the Cuban government, the infiltrators confessed that they had been prepared in training camps in Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Speaking on Cuban television, the leader of the band said he had been told by U.S. officials in Miami that the majority of Cuban people were opposed to the revolutionary government and that the infiltrators would be regarded as the country's saviors. The purpose of the landing party was to perform and encourage sabotage against schools, hospitals and factories.