

[9-27-65]

OPPOSE U.S. AGGRESSION IN VIETNAM

SUPPORT STUDENT RIGHTS

JOIN THE MAY 2ND MOVEMENT

As the war in Vietnam escalates, the pressure on American students increases. President Hannah tells us he cannot imagine how any "loyal" American could publicly question the war--- and students who do question the war are intimidated and sometimes expelled from the University. The pressure of the draft is heightening; soon they will be taking students. We must respond to these pressures; we must resist efforts to silence dissent, and we must oppose the draft.

Students at MSU have a special responsibility in the Vietnam situation, because it was MSU that virtually established the Saigon government after the Geneva Agreements of 1954. Professor Wesley Fishel of the Political Science department played a significant role in bringing Ngo Dinh Diem to power in South Vietnam. Many of the men who speak of "objectivity," and criticize the May 2nd Movement and the Peace in Vietnam Committee for being "subjective" were and are themselves deeply involved in the US intervention in Vietnam. This raises the question of the quality of our education: what sort of course in international law can a man teach when he has intimately aided the US to defy the law? This is only one example. It is for us, students on this campus, to expose and fight this hypocrisy to demand education, not indoctrination.

The May 2nd Movement is a national student organization to oppose US imperialism abroad and the subjugation of our universities to the control of US imperialism at home. The University is a community of scholars, and power in the University should logically reside with the students and faculty. The Administration's proper function is to carry out policy set by the community of scholars, and to perform custodial tasks to leave students and faculty free for the process of education. The scholars must repossess the University!! Members of the May 2nd Movement support the Committee for Student Rights and work for its continued success. Our national newspaper FREE STUDENT publicizes the work of CSR---Paul Schiff's case is discussed in the next issue.

The May 2nd Movement at MSU is not a "chartered student organization." We do not recognize the pretended right of the Administration and its puppet student Government to decide who shall or shall not organize. We seek instead the recognition and support of the students.

Our first meeting this year will be Saturday, 2 October, at 3 o'clock, at 134 Gunson Street, East Lansing (351-5529). We must plan local activity for 15 and 16 October, which have been set aside as International Days of Protest against the Vietnam war.

READ FREE STUDENT

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Inside

MSU-OSU Basketball results, p. 5; Goldfinger reviewed, p. 7.

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STOP THE WAR--MSU students demonstrate their feelings about the U.S. foreign policy in Viet Nam. They marched on campus Monday carrying cards and signs saying the U.S. should withdraw all its troops from Viet Nam and settle the war through peaceful negotiations.

Photo by Kenn Roberts

U.S. Viet Policy Protested By 120

Protesting U.S. policy in Viet Nam, some 120 demonstrators marched two hours in extreme cold Monday afternoon.

Signs carried by demonstrators demanded "Self-Determination for the Vietnamese People," "Peace in Viet Nam" and "Yanks Come Home."

The group gathered at noon at Beaumont Tower and marched single file past Berkey and Bessey. They disbanded at the East Lansing Post Office.

Organized by the MSU Com-

mittee for Peace in Viet Nam, a student group started two weeks ago, the demonstrators consisted of students, faculty members and East Lansing Citizens.

"We feel the present policy isn't accomplishing anything," a spokesman said. "The only other alternative open to us is to escalate the war which at best would end up like Korea."

"We're for carrying out the 1954 Geneva Agreement which stated there should be free elections," he said.

Arnold Strasser, Great Neck, N.Y. senior and chairman of the committee, said that the committee may continue its work although it was originally organized for Monday's demonstration.

"This student demonstration reflects our commitment as Americans to an immediate cease-fire in Viet Nam, to peaceful negotiations and the withdrawal of United States troops," he said. "Americans must face reality and make their demands known. We must end this senseless war."

Ten North Wonders students marched ahead of the demonstrators. They carried red signs saying "Drop the Bomb," "Burma Shave" and "Roses are Red" (with a hammer and sickle).

"We're demonstrating against the demonstrators," one said.

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Comments and Opinions Page

A-6 VOLUME 111, NUMBER 175

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1965

Campus Loudmouths Obscure Real Issues

The vital role of the opportunity for dissent in a free society is recognized in the U.S. Constitution's first amendment which guarantees freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

These rights stand highest among those which set America apart from Communist-ruled and other totalitarian countries where people who differ with any policies of the state must keep silent or risk their lives if they dare to express themselves in the way that Americans take for granted.

Whatever other effect they may have had, events in many parts of the United States over the weekend served to point up the difference between the orderly and dignified expression of views on national issues and the irresponsible and ridiculous methods by which some persons choose to express their opinions, or at least the opinions they profess to have.

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The target of the latest round of demonstrations was American involvement in defense of South Viet Nam against Communist aggression.

Among the more asinine and shameful aspects of the protests was the announced plan of the National Coordinating Committee to End the War in Viet Nam to try to make a citizens' arrest of the commander of a U.S. Air Force base in Wisconsin on a charge of conspiracy to commit murder in Viet Nam.

Other insults and abuse were heaped upon members of the nation's armed services and their families. During a teach-in on the Rutgers University campus in New Jersey a student was reported to have punched the mother of a serviceman who reportedly had slapped him after he said military personnel in Viet Nam were "drips."

Military induction centers were selected as some of the sites for demonstrations.

In Lansing about 60 persons took part in a march which ended at the White Motors plant on S. Washington Avenue to protest the production of army trucks destined for Viet Nam. The marchers were accompanied by a contingent of Lansing police officers assigned the duty of preserving order.

Here, as in other places, the dem-

onstrators, including the usual assortment of youths with beatnik beards and unkempt hair, drew the jibes and jeers of many spectators.

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In Madison, Wis., the national leader of the demonstrations said, "I think the government got the message."

"The message was that a very large number of people disagree with American policy in Viet Nam," he said. "Our expectations were wonderfully fulfilled. At least 100,000 persons took part."

His own figure supports the statements of others who have pointed out that the college students among the demonstrators represent only a tiny fraction of the students of institutions of higher education.

In this connection, it needs to be noted that only a small handful of Michigan State University's more than 35,000 students turned out to demonstrate against U.S. policy in Viet Nam and that other MSU students were among the anti-demonstration demonstrators.

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If, as claimed, 100,000 persons took part in the nationwide demonstrations against U.S. policy in Viet Nam, it figures out to about one-half of one-tenth of 1 per cent of the nation's population.

Still another important point is that there is no way of assessing the significance of the demonstrations as far as this country's Vietnamese role is concerned.

As usual, there were among the demonstrators those whose appearance and antics have come to be associated with a large assortment of protests and who seem to be making a career of demonstrating against anything and everything.

Of course, there are some Americans who honestly, and for what they believe to be good reasons, are critical of this country's participation in the war in Viet Nam. Their right to express their opinions in proper ways is beyond question but their voices are too often drowned out these days by the noisy and disorderly antics of those who seem chiefly interested in drawing attention to themselves.