

# WINTER★SOLDIER

A PUBLICATION OF VIETNAM VETERANS



AGAINST THE WAR/WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION



25

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## LAWTON FACES THIRD TRIAL VVAW-WSO BATTLES V.A. GOONS

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"WE'RE HERE TO PROTEST CUTBACKS OF THE VA STAFF, THE PROPOSED TAXES ON VETERANS' PENSIONS, AN INADEQUATE GI BILL, A LACK OF JOBS, AND NO BENEFITS FOR THOUSANDS OF VETS WITH BAD DISCHARGES." A Vietnam veteran at the Milwaukee demo

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LOCAL ADDRESS

# EDITORIAL

A short time ago, the people of this country had a new Vice-President crammed down our throats--Nelson Rockefeller. His appointment clearly exhibits just who the U.S. government is representing and who that government acts in the interests of--the rich and powerful owners, not the poor and working people.

Shortly after Rockefeller's appointment, he was given his first major job--to head up the President's blue-ribbon panel formed to investigate the CIA. There has been a lot of talk about the CIA recently. First, its covert activities abroad began to seep out and it became clear that the CIA was doing much more than "intelligence gathering," but was actively involved in toppling governments, i.e. the Chile coup. It should come as a surprise to no one that over 2/3rds of CIA funds and manpower are designated for covert operations and their support. Overt intervention in other countries has often proved futile, as seen in the victory of the Indochinese people. Because of this, more "low-profile" methods have to be developed if the U.S. is to continue its intervention and aggression.

Now we learn that the CIA has been spying on people and organizations here in the U.S. which the government views as threats to "internal security." That is no big news either, so why all the excitement? Because along with these "revelations" about the CIA's domestic spying came the news that some of it was directed at the rulers of this country--the rich, the politicians, etc. That is what the uproar is all about. You can bet that if CIA domestic operations had only been directed against the oppressed people of this country and those who are struggling against imperialism, there would be no blue-ribbon commission to investigate their activities; but the CIA has stepped into the arena of the government, of the wealthy, of those who control the country.

We can expect this blue-ribbon commission on the CIA to do a complete whitewash because those on the panel and those whom the panel represents stand for the same interests as does the CIA. The basic reason behind CIA operations--both at home and abroad--is protection of the U.S. economic empire. The CIA serves the needs of imperialism; it serves the needs of people like Rockefeller -- the imperialists who run this country. A cover-up of CIA activities is essential because the imperialists can't afford to lose their ability to meddle in the affairs of the world's people. They need the CIA too much.



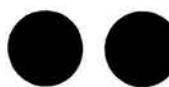
WINTER SOLDIER

# NEWS BRIEFS

## ROUDEBUSH REFUSES TO AID VETS

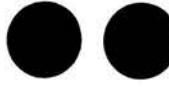
The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee suggested to the Veterans Administration that they discontinue to foreclose mortgages for veterans under the Veterans Home Loans Program due to the rising unemployment.

Richard L. Roudebush, VA administrator, refused to aid the vets who would be affected by losing their homes because of foreclosed mortgages, saying that veteran unemployment wasn't high enough, therefore it was unnecessary to do this. Vets unemployment during the last quarter of 1974 for the age group 20-24 was 15.3%, or over twice the national rate. While unemployment for other veterans isn't quite as high, (7.7%), the rate is rapidly rising. Roudebush has once again proved that his interests are not with veterans, but rather with the ruling class.



## RUCHELL MAGEE DEMOS SET

Two demonstrations will occur on February 8th in support of Ruchell Magee, serving an indeterminate sentence in San Quentin Prison. Magee, a Black political prisoner for almost 20 years, has been fighting for his life since trying to escape from the Marin County Courthouse in 1970. The demos will take place in Washington DC, sponsored by the Revolutionary Union, the Revolutionary Student Brigade and VVAW/WSO; and at the gates of San Quentin, sponsored by the February 8th Coalition which includes VVAW/WSO.



## ANGOLA WINS INDEPENDENCE!

Angola, the largest of Portugal's colonies in Africa has won independence. After 14 years of armed struggle the people of Angola have won the fight for liberation, culminating 400 years of resistance to the tyrannical rule of the Portuguese imperialists. Independence will come on November 11, 1975.

The people's struggle for liberation of Angola and their victory marks an end to Portuguese colonial rule in Africa. Two other ex-colonies of Portugal have won independence recently. Mozambique will gain independence on June 25th and Guinea-Bissau will achieve independence on September 10th. The liberation of these countries attests to the growing world-wide movement to end imperialist rule of Third World nations.

## FRIEDMAN GOES TO TRIAL

Danny Friedman, charged with 3rd degree assault goes to trial on February 10th at the Queens Criminal Court in New York City. This charge stems from an "Honor Vietnam Veterans Night" held at Shea Stadium, where members of VVAW/WSO were attacked by Stadium guards. The vets had placed a banner from the railing, as many other vets groups had done. The guards singled out the VVAW/WSO members and hauled them off into a dressing room, where they tried to beat them up.

During the ensuing police assault, one guard was hospitalized with injuries. The New York City chapter will be leafletting and urging people to attend the trial in support of Friedman who is innocent of this charge.



## NATIONAL STUDENT MEETING HELD

The Revolutionary Student Brigade (RSB), a fighting mass student organization with over sixty chapters throughout the country, held its first National Council Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin in January. Delegates from these chapters met for two days summing up their work and discussing positions that the RSB will take in the future.

The meeting was marked by great enthusiasm as the students talked about the revolutionary growth of the student movement on campuses from Boston to California. As a result of these discussions the RSB voted that the organization would concentrate its work in three main areas: fighting cutbacks and police repression and supporting liberation struggles against imperialism, particularly in the Middle East.

For more information on the RSB, contact: RSB National Office, 1647 N. Paulina, Chicago, Illinois 60622



## VVAW/WSO HOLDS DEMO IN CHICAGO

The Chicago chapter of VVAW/WSO recently held a demonstration at the VA Hospital, as part of their continuing program of 'War on the VA'. Approximately 30 people picketed at the VA demanding decent benefits for all vets. One speaker talked about the rising crisis of the imperialist system, linking the conditions of vets to that of other oppressed people. From the VA, the demonstrators went to an unemployment office nearby to demand 'Jobs or Income for All'.

# Veterans Administration running scared **'WAR ON THE VA' GROWS**



Jailed Demonstrators Still Militant

"We're here to protest cutbacks of the VA staff, the proposed taxes on veterans' pensions, an inadequate GI Bill, a lack of jobs, and no benefits for thousands of vets with bad discharges", shouted a Vietnam veteran in front of Wood VA hospital on December 18th, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

All of a sudden, about 15 hospital guards rushed out of the hospital and tried to drag the speaker from his stand. The crowd stood their ground between these Government Service Administration (GSA) police and the speaker. When the cops started shoving, the veterans and others shoved back. Soon many of the GSA guards were lying on their backs with vets and others standing over them. The police had to resort to mace to save themselves and protect their retreat.

**"IF WE'RE GOING TO LICK 'EM WE GOT TO BE TIGHT, AND WE'VE GOT A GOOD START. WE SHOWED THEM THAT WE MEAN BUSINESS"** - Black World War II Vet.

The demonstrators then moved the picket line to another main door where lots of out-patients were coming and going. For protection, the people formed a moving picket line around their speaker: patients and members of VVAW/WSO. They spoke bitterly about the rotten conditions inside the VA hospital.

One speaker ran down how the VA, the largest health system in the country, has the worst patient to staff ratio. He said the \$13 billion a year government agency is not replacing discharged workers at Wood. In fact, they are laying off at least 13 part-time employees. For example the staff cutbacks have already cut the number of therapists in a hydrotherapy ward from 2 full-time and 3 assistants to just one therapist. He must regularly administer whirlpool baths to 43 patients. This situation cuts down on the frequency of the baths and increases the dangers of accidents in the ward.

Another speaker told how a lack of qualified doctors and a disrespect for the veterans lead to the patients being used as guinea pigs for medical students. One patient who had back problems had his stomach cut open! A third speaker ran down how federal cutbacks were affecting disabled vets. A vet who was considered 10% disabled, is now not considered disabled at all. A vet who is 100% disabled is now 80%. The vets will be getting less money, but it doesn't stop there. The government now wants to tax the money they've already cut down. This speaker also told how the hospital needs Spanish-speaking doctors.

Still another vet told how the head of the methadone program threatened to cut his patients off methadone if they joined the demonstration. The methadone patients, many of whom became addicted as a result of Vietnam, are being strung out on a "Long Acting Methadone Program." Many object that they are trapped in an addiction as bad as heroin and are demanding a drug-free rehabilitation program.

Inside the hospital militant patients who wanted to join the picket line and rally where threatened by guards. Some were intentionally scheduled for therapy at the same time as the protest was going on outside. In spite of this some patients joined the marchers in the bitter cold still in hospital gowns to address their supporters.

**"THE GSA GUARDS ARE STILL COMPLAINING ABOUT THEIR INJURIES. AND IF THEY STAND IN OUR WAY AGAIN THEY WILL HAVE MORE TO TALK ABOUT"** - Korean War Vet.

At the end of the protest the people raised some spirited chants for all the patients that boomed off the walls of the big building: "The VA clinics are butcher shops, we need more doctors, but you hire more cops" and "Decent health care is our right: we're sick and tired and ready to fight!"

As the demonstrators were leaving the police attacked again; twenty GSA guards backed up with local police. Knowing that the "War on the VA" is part of a national vets movement, they have to try to stop it before it grows still larger. There were twenty-five minutes of hand-to-hand combat as the demonstrators and police clashed. Several police landed head first into their own squad cars and several bounced off the concrete. Eleven of the demonstrators were arrested as a result of the police attack -- none were injured. As of this time charges have not been filed, while the US federal attorney awaits orders from Washington.

While Gerald Ford talks about healing the nation's wounds, the government could not embarrass itself by charging the eleven. These people had fought for big business, been wounded for doing that, only to come home to face unemployment and butcher shop hospital conditions from the same big business. All that the VA officials could do was to try and stop the vets from talking the truth by sending out their goon squads to try and shut them up.

**"IT'S THE FIRST TIME VETS FROM WORLD WAR II AND VIETNAM COULD AGREE ON SOMETHING BESIDES WAR STORIES! THIS FIGHT IS ALL OURS"** - Vietnam Veteran.

VVAW/WSO members went back to the hospital that night to find patients putting up the demonstration poster all over the hospital. Some were xeroxing more copies. More of them now see the struggle as their fight. The action was a great success. Patients and others vowed, "next time there'll be more of us and we'll be ready!"

These actions at the Woods Hospital in Milwaukee are part of an overall national campaign that VVAW/WSO is working on to fight for decent benefits for all veterans. Contact your local chapter to find out what we are doing in your area.

## Join VVAW/WSO

For more information or the address of the nearest chapter, call or write to us at:  
827 W. Newport  
Chicago, Illinois 60657  
(312) 935-2129

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# VIETNAM LIBERATION FIGHTERS CAPTURE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL

News reports from South Vietnam describe a country in turmoil. Facts, such as the liberation of Phuoc Binh (a province capital), mortar rounds landing in Saigon, US planes directing fire for Thieu's troops, the disabling of the Saigon power station, are mixed with charges about North Vietnam breaking the Paris agreements, and the US government's requests for more money for the Saigon dictatorship. Sifting through all the propaganda which the US peddles to its news media, however, one fact stands out clearly: the liberation forces are winning and Thieu with his US government backers are daily losing ground.

Phuoc Binh, also known as Song Be, is the capital of Phuoc Long province, a large jungle-covered area located from about 40-75 miles north of Saigon. Even five years ago, the city of Song Be was the only Saigon-controlled outpost in the province, a control enforced by a US Army brigade. The province chief, hated by his people, was one of petty dictators found throughout South Vietnam, who had created his own militia. But even with this armed band, he could not drive more than a couple of miles outside Song Be in safety. There was, in the beginning of January 1975, fierce fighting as the liberation forces took the town. News reports in US papers cried out about the "fate of the 22,000 civilians" in Phuoc Binh--and, in the same paragraph, talked about the intense bombing of the city by Thieu's forces. Other reactions by Thieu included an immediate request for more US \$s, and the terror-bombing of the liberated forces headquarters city of Loc Ninh.

Strategically, Phuoc Binh is not a vital town--in fact, while the focus was on Phuoc Binh, the National Liberation Front (NLF) was making more important gains in the Mekong Delta area of South Vietnam. But the liberation of Phuoc Binh did give Thieu and the US government the opportunity to accuse the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) and North Vietnam of a major violation of the Paris agreements, and to say that the US was now free to break the agreements in response, totally ignoring the fact that Phuoc Binh has been a tiny dictatorship in the midst of a liberated province for years.

The fact is that the US has systematically violated the agreements ever since they were signed. US surveillance flights over North Vietnam, specifically prohibited in June of 1973 have again begun. And the fall of Phuoc Binh gave the Pentagon and the Ford administra-



Anti-Thieu Demonstration in Saigon

tion the chance to start beating the war drums for more money for Thieu. It is not lack of money and ammunition which is causing Thieu to lose in South Vietnam--it is the struggle of the Vietnamese people to be free from the control of Thieu and the US imperialism which Thieu represents. In the words of Pres-

ident Nguyen Huu Tho, leader of the NLF "Practically all the areas illegally occupied by Thieu have been recovered, resulting in the liberation of hundreds of thousands and the conditions have been created for other hundreds of thousand of people to once again have the right to decide their own future."

## Cambodia FIGHTING INCREASES

The strategic noose is tightening on the Lon Nol capital of Phnom Penh as the Cambodian liberation forces close in on the last stronghold of US imperialism in Cambodia. As the liberation forces move closer, Lon Nol's support withers away even further: in the first 11 days of January (following the New Year's Day offensive) over 22,000 people have rallied to the liberated area, and many of Lon Nol's troops are refusing to fight any longer.

One of the keys to Phnom Penh is its supply route: for years, the US has shipped ammunition and other supplies up the Mekong River to the capital. But the People's National Liberation Armed Forces of Cambodia (PNLAF) are making that route impassible. By liberating the small towns and hamlets along the river, the PNLAF is now in a position to stop any supplies from reaching Phnom Penh by that route.

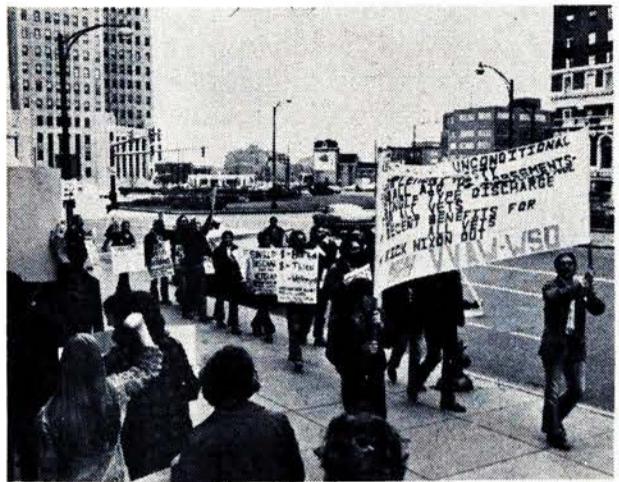
Since the US people forced aid cutbacks to Cambodia, and US cessation of its open military support of Lon Nol, the US government has had to use other methods to keep its dictator in power. The most recent maneuver is Bird Air, a "civilian" airline operating from Thailand; funded by the US, operating US Air Force planes (with the insignia painted out), and using Air Force pilots (who have 'returned' to Thailand as "civilians")

Bird Air has been airlifting military supplies with its 10 C-130 flights per day--its greatest capacity. That amounts to 200 tons per day--mostly ammunition. But ammunition is being used at a rate of 600 tons per day, to say nothing of the 600 tons of rice needed each day in the capital city. And plans are already drawn up to increase the airlift capability rather than see Lon Nol's government collapse. All of this activity goes on beyond the scope of the Congressional limitations on military aid to Lon Nol, once again underlining the bankruptcy of relying on the US Congress.

While Lon Nol and his government use the vital airplanes coming into Phnom Penh for ammunition to keep themselves in power, the people of Phnom Penh come closer to starvation. Meanwhile, in the liberated areas, the people have launched an offensive in agricultural production. Despite a season of drought followed by floods, there were two rice-harvests in the past year throughout the liberated zones--and three in some places. Operating under the slogan "Getting water to grow rice, and getting rice to overcome the US imperialists," the people have built dikes and canals to grow the food needed to support the PNLAF. On all fronts, the people's struggle continues, and reign of Lon Nol draws to an end.

## Implement the Agreements

# VVAW-WSO National Meeting MEETING SETS NEW PROGRAM



Buffalo Vets Day Demo

From December 27-31, 1974, VVAW/WSO held its fourteenth National Steering Committee Meeting (NSCM) in St. Louis, Missouri. Delegates from nearly every region of the country met to discuss and determine national policies and programs for the organization. The National Steering Committee is the highest decision-making body of VVAW/WSO, which meets every six months. It is composed of 8 delegates from each region who are elected by the members of that region to represent them.

The beginning of the meeting was spent with analyzing the strengths, weaknesses and direction of the organization. Each region spoke to the concrete conditions in their areas, summing up work and the successes of building the struggle in their communities. This was followed by workshops which met to discuss specific areas of work and political questions facing the organization. The reports from these workshops served as the basis for the whole body to then discuss and vote on what the national organization must do in the coming period.

This national meeting was of great importance -- both to VVAW/WSO and the anti-imperialist movement. The organization decided that our responsibility to the growing struggle against imperialism is for us to build a fighting veteran and GI movement -- a movement which will be integrally involved in insuring that U.S. imperialism is wiped from the face of the earth. We also discussed such major questions as

the continued war in Indochina, the rising danger of war in the Middle East, the struggle for universal and unconditional amnesty, the current economic crisis, conditions facing GIs and veterans, and the development of a national program of work for the organization.

## National Program

The best way VVAW/WSO can fight the oppression coming down on veterans and organize these people into the struggle against imperialism is for us to wage a national campaign around the conditions that veterans face -- a campaign to attack the entire Veterans Administration system. The system we live under, U.S. imperialism, is in deep crisis. After decades of trying to seize the resources and cheap labor of Third World nations, imperialism is being thrown out of these countries, defeated by liberation struggles around the world and the resistance of the American people here at home. Since one of the major sources of profits for big business is being cut off, as a result of the victories of the many liberation struggles, the imperialists are having to turn more and more to the poor and working people here in the U.S. to dump their crisis on. That is what the current economic situation is all about -- inflation, recession and unemployment for the masses of people and profits for the scum at the top.

Veterans are also facing the rising attacks on people's living standards. Unemployment is much higher for Vietnam-era vets than the national average, particularly for minority veterans. The GI Bill is 300% lower than it was for WWII vets. The quality of medical care at VA hospitals is deteriorating, and staff is being cutback. Anyone who has been to the VA for help knows that the VA tries to obstruct or flatly deny these benefits.

Veterans were tricked and forced into fighting a war of aggression which was not in their interests, and they have returned to a society which is unwilling and unable to meet their day-to-day needs. Why? Because the VA is part of the whole system, the imper-

ialist system, and that system is run in the interests of the small class who control everything. The VA is not answerable to the masses of veterans, does not have to account for its actions to vets and generally is used to beat vets down, to "pacify" them and try to keep them from fighting back against the system.

But vets are fighting back and they are fighting mad! Because of this, VVAW/WSO has declared war on the entire VA system -- the hospitals, the administrative offices, the drug programs, the job training programs, the GI Bill, the vet reps on campuses, the community vets programs, the federally funded rip-off programs and the poverty pimps who leach off the people's real problems and try to divert the struggle. The only way that vets, and all people, will get what is rightfully theirs is if they fight for it. Through our campaign against the VA, VVAW/WSO hopes to lead the struggle of veterans and build that fighting movement of vets which will be able to deliver a powerful blow in the struggle for freedom in this country.

One of the prime targets of our program is the VA hospital system. This system, the largest of all hospital systems in the country is also one of the worst run. The doctor/patient ratio is lower than most county general hospitals. The red tape, racial discrimination, regimentation and harassment "greet" vets as they walk through VA doors and shows the inability of VA hospitals to really serve the needs of the millions of veterans who are forced to seek help from the VA. We are organizing in these hospitals, going to patients and helping them to fight back. We are working with the hospital employees, the majority of whom really care about the problems of veterans, and supporting their struggle against the staff cutbacks which are currently plaguing the VA system and to help in the fight to see that needed programs in the VA are implemented.

Along with our campaign being waged against the VA, VVAW/WSO also adopted a national program of work for building the anti-imperialist GI movement. For years, GIs have been fighting back against the repression, racism and role of the military; VVAW/WSO will more consciously take up these struggles in a systematic way and increase our organizing among active-duty people. We believe that the military does not serve the interests of GIs, nor the majority of American people; instead, it is used to protect the interests of U.S. imperialism -- both at home and abroad. Our program for GI work is a tool to help GIs organize against the conditions they face in the military and line that struggle up

(Continued on next page)



Vets Day in Milwaukee

(Continued from previous page)

with the struggles of veterans and all other working and oppressed people to defeat this bankrupt system we live under.

VVAW/WSO also plans to continue its fight for universal, unconditional amnesty for all war resisters. That fight includes the 580,000 vets with less-than-honorable discharges, the



Tacoma VVAW/WSO on Vets Day

thousands of people living underground here in the U.S. the people in prison and those who have received criminal records as a result of resistance to the war, and those currently in exile abroad.

On top of this, VVAW/WSO continues our effort to see that the continued war in Indochina is ended once and for all, supporting the Indochinese people in their fight for self-determination, freedom and independence. This struggle did not end with the signing of the Paris Peace Accords as the U.S. continues to pour billions of dollars into Southeast Asia in support of dictators like Lon Nol of Cambodia and Thieu of South Vietnam. The fight of the Indochinese people is our fight, the fight of veterans and non-veterans alike, and our support for their struggle will continue until the people of Indochina are allowed to control their own destinies.

Finally, the National Steering Committee of VVAW/WSO voted to add a new national slogan to our program -- JOBS OR INCOME FOR ALL! -- to speak to the current economic crisis in the U.S. We raise all of our demands in the spirit of seeing an end to the system of oppression and exploitation which currently governs us -- U.S. imperialism. We look forward to years of growth and of struggle, and finally, to the day when that system which oppresses us will be smashed once and for all.

- \* UNIVERSAL, UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY FOR ALL WAR RESISTERS!
- \* IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT -- END ALL AID TO THIEU AND LON NOL!
- \* DECENT BENEFITS FOR ALL VETS!
- \* SINGLE-TYPE DISCHARGE FOR ALL VETS!
- \* JOBS OR INCOME FOR ALL!

HUNG JURY

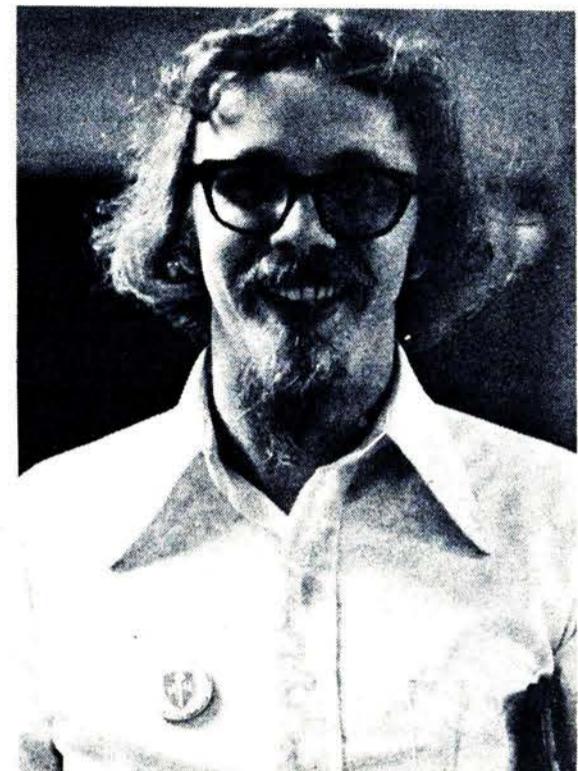
# HOOD MISTRIAL

On Feb. 6, 1974, Bob Hood (a VVAW/WSO member) was stopped and brutally beaten by a member of the Oakland Police Dept. (OPD). On Jan. 6th of this year, Hood's trial on charges of felonious assault on a police officer with a deadly weapon began. After 2 weeks of trial, a mistrial was declared because the jury was hopelessly deadlocked. The judge in this case ordered that no one was to speak to the jurors about their deliberations (even though they had been dismissed) thus, is it not yet known if the 7-5 majority were voting for acquittal or conviction.

The frame-up of Bob Hood began with his arrest following a reign of terror by Oakland police as a result of the killing of Marcus Foster and kidnapping of Patricia Hearst by the SLA (Symbionese Liberation Army). Bob was driving a car which had recently been purchased by a friend; Hood was stopped in this car because it had formerly belonged to an alleged member of the SLA. He was asked to get out of the car and was then attacked by Officer Ted Burrows of the OPD. Following the brutal beating, Bob was arrested for allegedly assaulting Burrows with a deadly weapon -- a 3" pocket knife that was found in Bob's pocket after he had been handcuffed.

Hood's trial was a clear attempt at a railroad, though it proved unsuccessful when the government failed to get a conviction. Jury selection took only 4 hours, giving the defense no chance to even question half the jurors. The government was allowed to introduce abundant testimony concerning the SLA in their efforts to inject panic into the jury and accuse Hood of being involved with the SLA. They failed to produce any evidence to substantiate their allegations, and with regard to the charges against Hood, the prosecution did not produce much evidence at all. Three police officers testified about the alleged assault, but the testimony of these cops was contradictory. Only one would testify that he had seen Hood pull out the pocket knife; the other policemen testified that they did not see Hood with the alleged "weapon."

The defense had filed pre-trial motions concerning their introduction of testimony about Officer Burrows. During the past four years, 11 citizen complaints have been filed against Burrows -- one for rudeness, two for false arrest and eight for excessive use of force and violence. The motion to present this evidence as to the history of Burrows was denied. Hood was also denied the right to talk about the politics involved in this case during the trial and every time he raised the subject, the prosecution raised objections which the judge sustained. The government was definitely trying to keep this frame-up



Bob Hood

under tight control by not allowing the real reasons for Bob's arrest to be presented in court -- political repression.

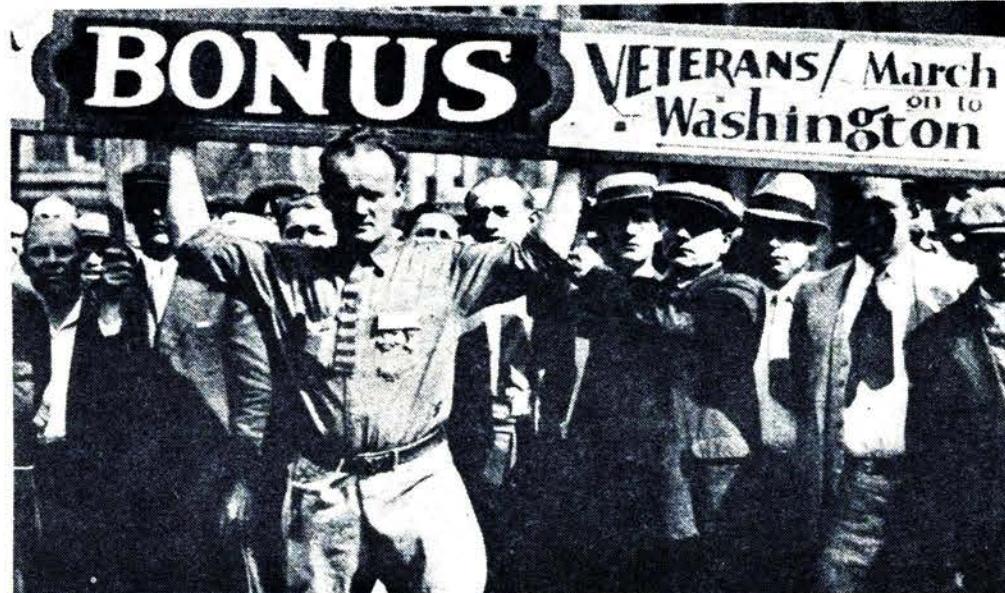
On Jan. 15th, over 175 demonstrators protested the persecution of Bob Hood outside the courthouse. The judge had gotten an injunction against the demonstration, but the rally was held anyway and was filled with speeches and loud chanting. Also, the courthouse was packed with supporters throughout the two-week trial.

As we go to press, it is not yet known if the charges against Bob Hood will be continued into a new trial. Also, both of Hood's attorneys were found in contempt of court and the outcome of these citations are not known. But one thing is clear -- trials and frame-ups like that of Bob Hood will continue as political resistance grows in this country. It is a common tactic of the government to arrest people involved in the struggle against imperialism, and by doing so, attempting to stop the work of those people and tie up the energies of organizations in defense work. But the arrest of Bob Hood has not stopped that work. The chapter he belongs to in Oakland has continued to grow. Wherever there is repression there will be resistance, and the attempts to discredit Bob Hood and VVAW/WSO in Oakland are no different.

For more information contact:  
VVAW/WSO Legal Defense Committee,  
4919 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA,  
94609.

## PART 5: VETS MOVEMENT

# VETS DEMAND ACTION



"Bonus" Vets Ready to March

In June and July, 1932, the situation in Washington, DC, was critical. Between 20,000 and 25,000 vets and their families were camped in and around the city, and their anger was growing. Much of this anger was being directed toward the government-sponsored leadership of the B. E. F. (the Bonus Expeditionary Force which was the largest organization of vets in the Bonus Army)--ex-general Glassford, DC police chief; and his henchman, W. W. Waters, B. E. F. Commander-in-chief. The masses of vets wanted action; all they were getting was talk, excuses, and deception--lots of militant speeches, but no action.

On July 10, the main body of the California contingent straggled into Washington. Their "leader," (more accurately, mis-leader), Royal Robertson, had managed to lose 2/3s of the contingent in the month it had taken to cross the country, and ripped off large chunks of the money donated by sympathizers along their route. Robertson did understand, however, what the vets were looking for. His first step was to apply for a parade permit and, when the vets arrived at the Capitol, they decided to stay: in Robertson's words, "We're taking our blankets with us, and if Congress adjourns without paying the Bonus we'll follow its members home and aid in defeating them for re-election." Not only the California vets, but vets from the B. E. F. flock ed to the Capitol building.

There followed a series of hassles, familiar to more recent demonstrators in Washington: the vets were told they couldn't stay on the Capitol grounds, then that they could stay but couldn't sleep. The lawns were sprinkled to discourage sleeping on the grass. The vets reacted with what came to be known as the "Death March": a constant stream of vets walking in and out of the Capitol grounds. For five days and nights they marched; one vet collapsed twice in one day and still got up to rejoin the slow

march. Inside the Capitol, special bands of Capitol police nervously fingered tear-gas bombs which had been stockpiled when the vets first arrived in DC. Now they were brought out into the open for the first time. The tension increased as Congress rushed toward adjournment (the House had passed the Bonus Bill, the Senate had voted against it; the vets were demanding that the Bill be reconsidered before adjournment.)

Despite the precautions, however, Glassford and the Hoover administration were not much worried by Robertson and his calls for action: they saw his motives more clearly than his followers did. First, Robertson had already put forth the idea of following Congressmen home to their districts, which would break up the vets and get them out of DC. This had been the government's plan all along. Second, Robertson was proposing that the Bonus be paid to "needy vets, certified by local officials, welfare or veterans' bureaus"--a rank-splitting device which would break the unity of the vets. The mass of veterans had come to DC spontaneously, demanding the Bonus in order to survive. Because there was no real organization, the government was able to plant its own leaders, and the vets were willing to follow these leaders until they proved utterly bankrupt. Finally, the vets aimed their actions at Congress--few of the vets in DC understood that the system, not Congress, was at the root of the crisis. They had come to Washington for action to meet their immediate needs, not to push for longer-range solutions.

So long as they had control of the leadership, whether Robertson or Waters, the government felt secure. Rank and file leadership posed the greatest danger. The Workers-Ex-Serviceman's League, though small, was such a group. While the "Death March" continued, the WESL organized demonstrations in support of the march. Their call was for unity; in the words of one WESL leader,

"Only the united mass action of all the veterans and their supporters will force Congress to pay the Bonus." They attacked racism; one of their slogans was "Veterans, Negro and white, Unite." They insisted on rank-and-file leadership. They also understood the need for organization, calling for a convention which would establish a real structure so that the vets could have unified actions.

Because the WESL (which had been the group to call for the march in the first place) had members of the then Communist Party among its leadership, "red baiting" was constant. The furor was so great that some vets were prepared to throw bricks at a WESL march, until reminded that these were the same people who had served in the same trenches in WWI. Police attacked WESL rallies; Water's MPs harassed WESL speakers; it wasn't until the vets were finally forced out of DC at bayonet point, that numbers of vets saw the WESL had the right approach.

With the "Death March" still going on, with WESL demonstrations near the Capitol, the time came for Congress to adjourn. Fearful of what could happen, Glassford and Waters concocted one of their great moves--Waters was arrested. Masses of vets had their attention diverted from what Congress was doing to the arrest of their "leader," even though the "leader" has been thoroughly discredited. By the time the scheme was played out and Waters was released, the Congressmen were out of the capital and on their way home. But adjournment did not have the whole effect the government wanted--vets did not follow congressmen home. They stayed to demand that Hoover call Congress back into session.

Public support for the vets was building. Crowds in DC came to support the vets. A brigade of vets wives formed and issued a call to veteran's wives around the country to go to DC to support their husbands; those wives already in DC refused police offers of "more comfortable" quarters than the sordid camps in which their husbands lived. More support came from GIs. A company of Marines, called out to protect the Capitol, had to be sent back--35 of them refused to move from their barracks, while others would not pick up their rifles when ordered to do so.

The government had about run out of tricks--they had co-opted leadership, they had tempted and bribed vets to go home, they had harassed and attacked demonstrations, but still the vets remained. There was only one thing left--use brute force, the ultimate weapon of a desperate state.

Next issue: "Bloody Thursday" and after.

# FREE GARY LAWTON AND

In an atmosphere of continuing repression, the third trial of Gary Lawton (a member of Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization) began on January 8th in Riverside, California. The first two trials of Lawton ended in hung juries, though a majority of jurors saw that Gary was innocent. Though Lawton is being tried for the murder of two white Riverside policemen, his real "crime" is being Black and organizing the minority community in Riverside to fight back against the attacks brought on this community by the Riverside rulers. The struggle to free Gary Lawton is of major importance to all people in this country and for this reason, it is necessary to understand some of the history of this struggle and its relationship to other struggles currently being waged in the U.S.

The major event which set this racist attack on Gary Lawton in motion was the April, 1971 killing of two Riverside policemen. Officers Christiansen and Teel responded to a burglary call on the edges of Riverside's Black community and were ambushed by unknown assailants. Eyewitness reports stated that four men had been seen fleeing from the scene of the shooting -- 3 white teenagers and one short teenage Black with an Afro haircut. (It should be noted that Gary Lawton is 34, 6'3", of heavy build and partially bald). A reign of terror was unleashed on the community of Riverside and in the confusion, no clues as to the identity of the assailants were found. However, someone had to pay for the killing of these cops and with no clues, the police singled-out Gary Lawton. That was almost four years ago, and after nearly two years in jail, two trials, and incredible harassment, the struggle to free Gary Lawton is still going on.

The reasons behind this outrageous frame-up of Lawton are clear. He has been active in organizing among Third World, poor and oppressed people in Riverside since 1968. He headed up the city's Black Congress, an organization which fought for the rights of all oppressed people within the community. Lawton struggled for decent housing, against discriminatory employment practices, against segregation, and organized people to fight back against police brutality within the community; he was deeply involved in fighting for decent living standards for the people of Riverside. Because of this, it is not difficult to understand why Lawton has been made the target of this political attack waged by those who rule Riverside.

Gary was arrested shortly after the killing of Christiansen and Teel, even though he had taken 3 lie detector tests which proved "no deception" on his part. In order to bolster their case, Riverside police also arrested two other Black brothers to stand trial along with Gary -- Nehemiah Jackson and Zurebu Gardner. All three were charged with murder

and conspiracy to murder, even though they had not met prior to their arrests. All of these brothers were denied bail and were held in the segregation unit of the local jail until Sept. 1972, when their first trial began.

The first trial was held in Indio -- an isolated, predominantly white, desert community 75 miles from Riverside. By moving the trial, the government attempted to undercut the support for these brothers, figuring that the poverty of their supporters would prohibit them from traveling to Indio for the trial. The government witnesses in this trial were a highly unreliable group -- police officers, paid police informers, prisoners who had been in jail with the defendants and who had been offered lesser sentences or the dropping of charges if they would testify against Lawton, addicts whose habits were supported by Riverside police in return for their testimony, etc. Government testimony was riddled with contradictions from beginning to end.

On the other hand, eyewitnesses testified that it was not Lawton they had seen escaping the scene of the ambush. Witnesses testified as to the whereabouts of the three defendants at the time of the shootings -- proving that none of the brothers were anywhere near the area of the police ambush. Despite this evidence, however, the jury was unable to reach a definitive decision and the first trial ended with a hung jury in February, 1973. The vote of the jury was 9-3 for acquittal. Remarks from the jurors included: "It is a frame-up... They have no real evidence... In the beginning it was prosecution. Now it is persecution."

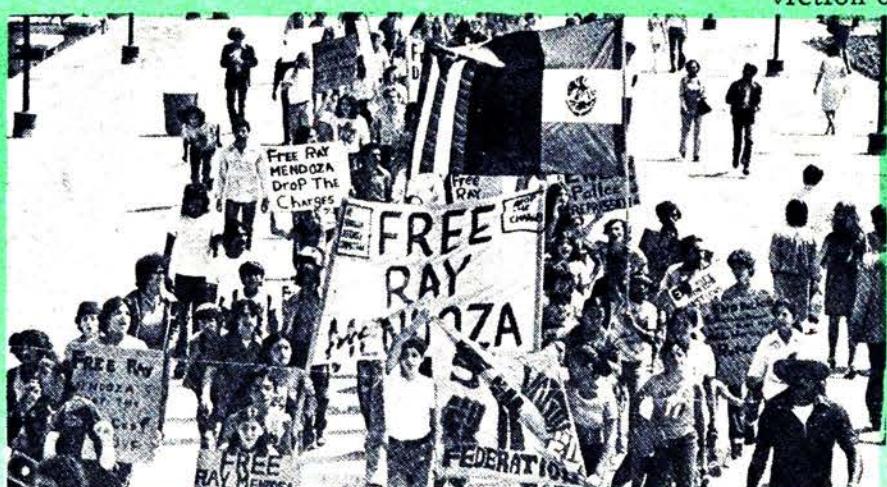
The second trial was moved back to Riverside and began in June, 1973. Bail for the brothers was finally granted and they were released after nearly two years in jail. Also, Nehemiah Jackson was severed from the case because the prosecution felt that his clean-cut college student image would hamper their chances for getting a conviction; and the government was definitely out to get a conviction this second time around. Later, all charges against Jackson were dropped.

This second trial contained much the same evidence as did the first trial. On top of the same group of police officers and informers, the same eyewitnesses and the same witnesses testifying in the brothers' defense, concrete evidence to the fact that the Riverside Police Department (RPD) was bribing witnesses was introduced. However, this apparently made no impression on the jury, and as with the first trial, this second jury was also hung. A mistrial was declared after six months of trial, with the jury voting 8-4 for conviction of Lawton and 7-5 for conviction of Gardner.

Since the conclusion of 1973, there have been many developments in this case. All charges against Zurebu Gardner, were dropped. The District Attorney stated that he would drop the charges and after two trials and convictions, Zurebu is finally free from the charges. This is seen as a real victory for the defense. It is now crystal-clear what the government is trying to do. They will now be going after Gary Lawton alone in an attempt to conceal his true identity and to get a racist conviction; but even so, the defense has collected as information which will be presented in court that evidence points to Gary Lawton but at one white police officer, formerly a paid police informant, who was involved in the ambush that Officer Lawton was investigating for the prosecution. It was having an affair with Officer Lawton and that it was Officer Lawton who was responsible for the ambush. (This is the same officer who was reportedly paid an admitted heroin user and was known to cost of his habit, for perjury during his first trial). Though evidence is known, the RPD made no attempt to identify the officer as to the identity of the officer.

The Gary Lawton case has been a focal point of the rest of the Riverside community. Many witnesses and defense workers have been intimidated or arrested by the police during the course of this struggle. In May, 1973, the Black Panthers (RPPDC) and VVAW/WSO held a rally in front of the courthouse to show support for Gary Lawton. One Black Panther, William Palmer, who was known for publicly assaulting a police officer in front of the courthouse, police tried to arrest him. Chukia Lawton (Gary Lawton's brother) and his wife, Naugh, were brutally attacked by police during the rally. Chukia Lawton was questioned by the police about his wife's whereabouts and was arrested without a warrant. Both Chukia and Naugh were attacked and beaten by several police officers. Chukia was left unconscious, and all three were charged with assault and battery. Rusty Mendoza was charged with intent to commit assault on a police officer in the line of duty. The trial for both men began in June, 1973, after a week long trial on these charges. The jury was hung. They were to be retried, but the judge ordered the case dismissed. It would cost the tax-payer a bogus charge. Zurebu Gardner was charged with assault as a result of the beating he received. His date has been set for his trial in September, 1973.

The struggle of Gary Lawton continues.



Demonstrators demanding freedom for Ray Mendoza



Gary Lawton



Chukia Lawton, Gary Lawton

# ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS

ion of this second trial in Nov. many developments surrounding against Gary's co-defendant, dropped in Oct. 1974. The there was a lack of evidence and continual harassment, Zurm these trumped-up charges. A victory in this struggle, but what the government is trying be going after Gary Lawton concentrate all their fire for a even this becomes more difficult has been long suppressed mes to light. It was disclosed points not at three Black men, officer. Wayman Vaughan, informer, stated at the time ficer James Tennell (chief in-secution of the Lawton case) with the wife of one of the slain was Tennell who arranged the same Tennell who had person-heroin addict \$30 a day, the perjury against Lawton in the evidence pointing to Tennell was no attempts to further investi-lead the government has receiv- the real killers.

case is not isolated from the community. Between 50-100 workers have been harassed, by the RPD since the begin- In March, 1973, members of al Prisoners Defense Committee WSO were at the Riverside support for another RPPDC mem- who was on trial for supposed- officer. While at the court- arrest Palmer's 14 year-old (Gary's wife) and Rusty Bro- attacked by police when they about Palmer's son being ar- ant. Zurebu Gardner was also seven cops, Chukia was chok- all three were arrested. Chukiaault and resisting arrest, and th interfering with a police of- cy. They under-went a three- charges which ended in a hung re-tried beginning Jan. 13th, the charges dropped because payers too much money for such ebu Gardner was also charged ult of this courthouse attack; no his trial.

Gary Lawton is also not isolated

from what is going on in the rest of the country. The repression in Riverside is just one example of the increased nationwide attacks against Black, Chicano, Asian, Native American and white working people in communities all across the country. There is the instance of Operation Zebra, where Bay Area police stopped and searched every Black man in a reign of police terror following shootings in the community. Elsewhere in the Bay Area, there was the case of Tyrone Guyton -- a 14 year-old Black youth who was murdered by police in Emeryville, California after he had stolen a car. Another youth, Clifford Glover who lived in Jamaica, Queens (NYC) was walking his stepfather to work when an unidentified man pulled up in a car and told them to stop. Fearing being robbed, Clifford and his stepfather ran; Clifford was shot in the back by a plainclothes cop, Thomas Shea. Shea was acquitted of murder in a white-wash trial in New York.

There is the case of Tony Wilkins, a 26 year-old Black community activist who was murdered by Los Angeles police. Wilkins had taken a group of children from a community youth group to hear a concert at the Hollywood Bowl. Police accused the group of gate-crashing (though they had tickets); a small scuffle started and when police fired, Wilkins was killed. There is the case of Ray Mendoza, a 20 year-old Chicano recently sentenced to two life sentences in prison after being tried on charges of shooting two drunk, off-duty cops in Milwaukee. These policemen were brutally beating Mendoza outside a tavern when the shootings took place. There is the case of Antowyn Cauley, a 20 year-old Black man living in Chicago who is standing trial for charges of disorderly conduct, assault on a police officer and use of an unlawful weapon. These charges stem from Cauley being stopped by police, forced spread-eagle on a parked car and then shot in the back. There is the continued attempt by the government, Teamsters Union officials and growers to smash the United Farm Workers in their efforts to organize themselves. There is the persecution and deportations of so-called "illegals" in the government's attempts to divide working people. Police are used to detain, harass and deport Latinos -- whether they be on the streets, in the fields or in the shops. There are the decade long trials of Ruchell Magee in California and Martin Sostre in New York. There is incredible repression in the communities of Atlanta, Dallas, and Detroit. The list is endless and growing daily.

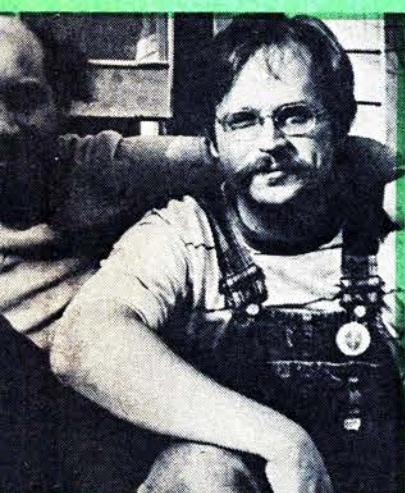
Some of these attacks have been planned, such as the attempts to stop the work of Gary Lawton; others are indiscriminate attacks on minority communities; and still others have stemmed from people being in the wrong place at the wrong time. But one thing is clear -- they are not isolated or separate govern-

ment attacks, but just a few examples of the incredible repression coming down on minority people in particular, and on poor and working people in general everywhere across the country. Imperialism does not only function in countries abroad; it also exists in all of its exploitative brutality here in our own back yards. As the economy continues to crumble and the owners of the corporations continue to find their profits are dropping, they will attempt to throw their crisis onto the backs of the working people here in the U.S. But the masses of people are resisting these attacks, fighting for better living and working conditions; and repression is the only way imperialism can respond to these struggles.

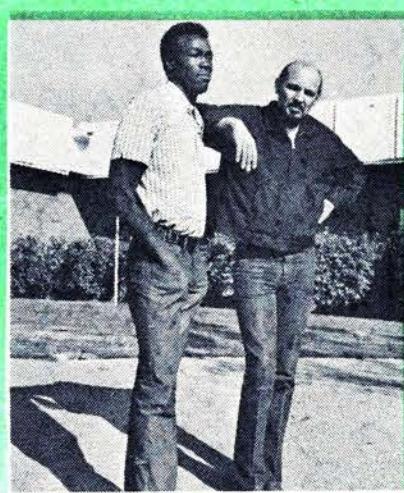
Attacks such as the racist and repressive campaign being waged against Gary Lawton will continue to be used by the state in the hopes of intimidating people into submissiveness and a fear of fighting back. Gary Lawton is a man who has been a much too effective community organizer and who continues to speak out for the rights of all oppressed people. For this reason alone, the government finds it necessary to silence him, to stop his work, and to try to show other people that they should just sit back and allow the government to retain its control. But the people of this country will not put up with these lies, with these frame-up trials, and with the incredible police repression going on within our communities. People must continue to organize to fight back -- we are the ones who should be controlling our own lives!

During the almost four-year struggle to free Gary Lawton, many lessons have been learned. We have learned that there is no "justice" in the court-rooms of America; we have learned that it takes more than a good lawyer to beat a trumped-up charge; and we have learned that the state is not a neutral bystander which insures equality for all. But the major lesson learned is that the freedom of Gary Lawton will not come through the courts -- it will come about through the support of the masses of people in this country who are fighting for the freedom of Gary Lawton and who are organizing themselves to fight repression in their own communities. The struggle to free Lawton would never have come as far as it has if it had not been for this support of a mass struggle. With the third trial now going on, that support is needed more than ever. As Gary Lawton has said, "FREEDOM FOR ONE IS NOT ENOUGH-FREE US ALL, SAY ON!"

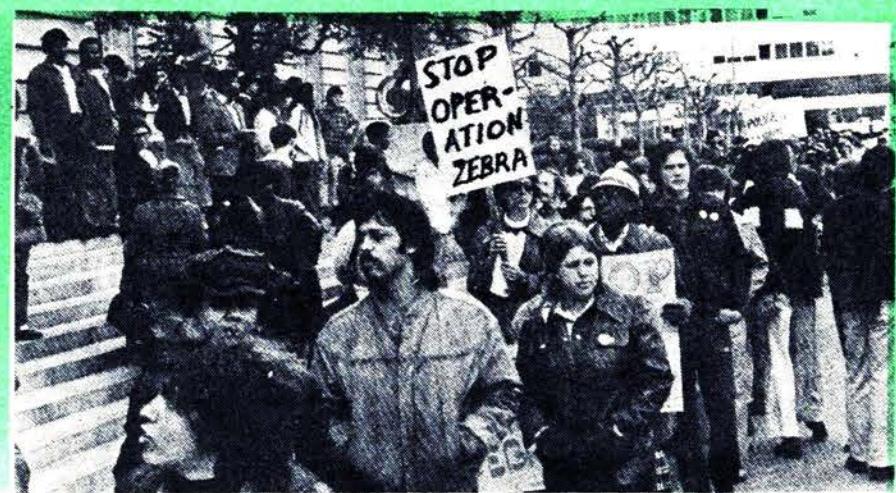
For more information and to send the desperately needed financial contributions, contact: RPPDC, P.O. Box 244, Riverside, California 92502.



Lawton, Rusty Bronaugh



Gardner and Lawton



Demonstration protesting Operation Zebra

# G.I.S STRUGGLE

## BLACK G.I.S ATTACK RACISM

On the morning of January 16th, 100 black GIs, men and women, took control of a dining hall at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota to protest racist treatment by the Air Force.

The previous evening was marked by a large fight in which several airmen were injured, following a banquet and dance honoring the memory of Dr Martin Luther King. Military authorities tried to cover up the incident by stating that it was in no way related to the Dining hall takeover the next morning.

Initially the dining hall was seized by 100 GIs, 27 of whom remained the entire 6 hours of occupation. The black men and women agreed to give control back to the base commander, Col Robert Spencer, with the agreement that no reprisals would be made against the militants. All the GIs involved then returned to duty with the exception of 5 representatives who entered into discussions with Col Spencer. They will be discussing the demands expressed during the takeover, the chief of which was "better race relations on base and in the community."

With national attention focusing on Minot AFB, located just south of the US-Canadian border, the Pentagon was forced to admit that things weren't going smoothly there and serious racial problems do in fact exist at Minot. It was, in reality, the unified action of men and women rising up together that brought attention to the conditions.

The military officials have tried to make the takeover appear as an isolated incident that mysteriously occurred, rather than the direct result of the racist practices and conditions that the military continually perpetuates and encourages.

The situation was best summed up by a spokesman for the GIs involved in the takeoever, who stated: "We were there because of major problems that exist on base and in the community, and I don't mean the weather."

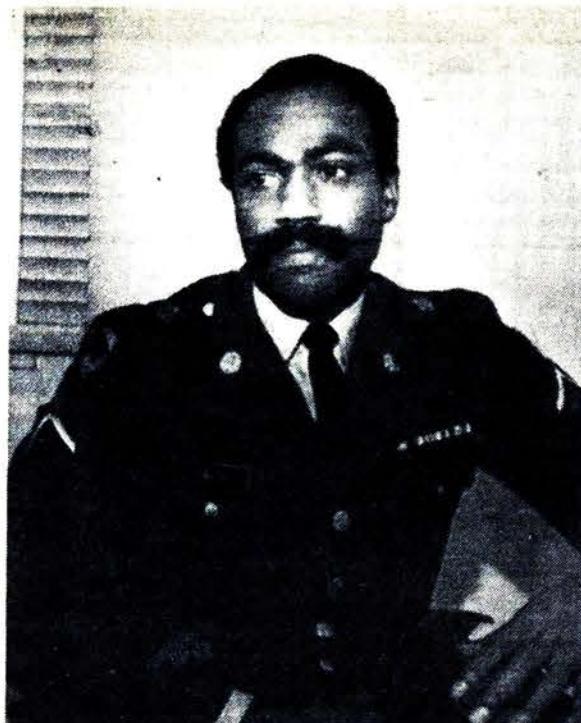
## NEW RULING IN SMITH CASE G.I.s RIGHT TO RESIST

A GI can use "reasonable force" to resist an illegal arrest by MPs. That is what the Court of Military Review recently decided in the case of Billy Dean Smith. He is the GI who was arrested and brought to trial for supposedly "fragging" (throwing a fragmentation grenade at) an officer in Vietnam.

When the MPs tried to arrest him on charges which he knew were phoney, Billy Dean resisted this false arrest with force, and wound up being charged with assaulting an MP as well as the "fragging" charge.

At his trial in Fort Ord, California, which gained worldwide attention, Billy Dean, with the support of many thousands of GIs and civilians, won acquittal of all charges except the "assaulting" of the MP. For that he got a reduction in grade to E-1 and a bad conduct discharge. On the appeal, the Army Court of Military Review overturned the assault conviction, reasoning that since he knew he was innocent of the charges for which he was arrested, Billy Dean had a right to resist arrest. The court said that the acquittal "served to establish the arrest and apprehension to have been unlawful. Thus he was entitled to resist such an arrest with reasonable force."

Of course this is a great victory for Billy Dean Smith and the many people who supported him. But, it is also a step forward for all GIs who are constantly being harassed and busted by mil-



Billy Dean Smith

itary police of the various services on phoney charges. Usually, what happens is that they beat the hell out of a GI and then charge HIM with assault. Until now that has almost always resulted in heavy penalties for the GI.

The new decision in Billy Dean Smith's case seems to give GIs the right to resist these phoney busts with force. We are not advocating you use force to resist every arrest. But, we are saying that you do not have to take abuse from Military Police and that if they are wrongfully messing with you, you can use reasonable force to resist.



THE THINKING GI

General, your tank is a mighty vehicle.  
It smashes down forests.  
And it crushes a hundred men.  
But it has one defect:  
It needs a driver.

General, your bomber is powerful--  
It flies faster than a storm.  
And it carries more than an elephant.  
But it has one defect:  
It needs a mechanic.

General, a man is very useful.  
He can fly and he can kill.  
But it has one defect :  
He can think.

Bertolt Brecht



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# McALESTER

Of all the atrocities at the Oklahoma State Prison at McAlester, none was worse than "The Rock," the prison's isolation unit. Described by one prisoner as a "medieval chamber of horrors," the Rock was burned to the ground on Oct. 19th. The underground prison newspaper noted, "That the captives performed this long-needed step in penal reform without injury or loss of life is cause for rejoicing. The action was a complete and total victory for the people...." Recently, ten McAlester prisoners have been charged with second-degree arson, and have a preliminary hearing on Jan. 24th.

The burning of the Rock is just one incident in a series of acts of resistance in response to the repression and racism of the State. In July, 1973, a \$20 million fire destroyed a large part of the prison during a summer of prison uprisings; but instead of reacting to the inhuman conditions which caused the rebellion, the state officials increased repression. Guards took sadistic delight in gassing inmates locked in their cells, particularly those kept in isolation. In May of 1974, Bobby Forsythe was murdered in one vicious gas attack; he died locked in his 5'x8' cell,

begging for help, as guards refused to listen. The official verdict on his death was that it was from "natural causes," although it was clearly the result of gas. As a result of the outraged protests of prisoners who gained the support of people around the country, a federal grand jury is now investigating that blatant murder.

Prisoner lawsuits brought another change. District Judge Luther Bohannon ordered a whole laundry-list of changes including such basic rights as receiving and sending mail, access to attorneys and legal materials, and basic medical care (a "doctor" hired after this ruling was later arrested as a con artist with no medical training--the prison administrators who had checked his credentials said that it was difficult to find a doctor for the prison system). For several months, the worst of the violations of basic human rights stopped --aided by a new warden. Then he fell victim to the political infighting between the then Governor David Hall (since indicted for bribery) and the board of corrections, and the terrorism returned under a series of ex-military officers playing warden.

## WHAT IS VVAW-WSO?

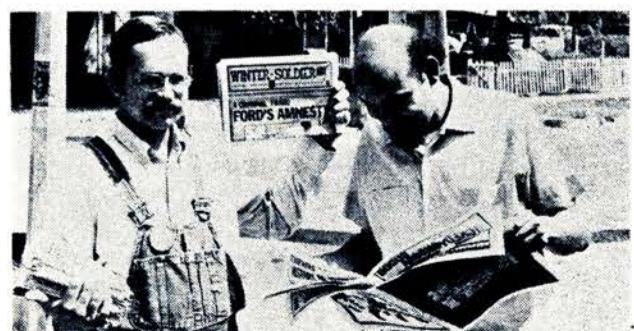
Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization (VVAW/WSO) is a mass, anti-imperialist organization which focuses its work on the struggles of veterans and GIs. We began as a group of Vietnam veterans actively protesting the war in Indochina. As our protest grew, however, we came to realize that the real problem was not just the war but the system of imperialism. Based on our experiences in Vietnam and our experiences after we returned to the United States, we now see what imperialism is: the system which exploits the poor and working people around the world and here at home in the interests of the corporate profit-makers. Imperialism needs wars like Vietnam in order to survive.

Today, we are fighting against imperialism on two fronts. As we have in the past, we actively support the liberation struggles of the Indochinese people and demand an end to US involvement in Indochina. Since we see that imperialism also exploits people all around the world, we support the many other liberation struggles as people fight for freedom and independence.

But we see that the same system of imperialism which tries to suppress other people is hard at work here in the United States. As a result, we have taken up people's struggles at home. We have declared war on the whole Veterans Administration network which does not and cannot meet the real needs of veterans. We struggle against the racism and repression in the US military. Because of the current economic crisis, we are fighting for jobs or income for all, not just for veterans who are hard hit by unemployment, but for all people who cannot get work under the system of imperialism. We work with political prisoners around the country in support of their struggles. And we are in the forefront of the fight for universal, unconditional amnesty for all war resisters. All of these struggle are part of the overall struggle against imperialism; they make up our national program for action.

This program is carried out by our members who work in chapters throughout the US and overseas in Japan and England. Chapters also work on local programs and campaigns. Our members are veterans and non-veterans, GIs and civilians who struggle to end imperialism, understand the importance of building a fighting veterans and GI movement, and are making that movement grow. We are doing our part to fight a system which oppresses us all; if you want to join in that fight, or to get more information about our national or local programs, contact the local VVAW/WSO chapter, the regional office, or the VVAW/WSO National Office, 827 W. Newport, Chicago, Illinois 60657 (phone: 312-935-2129).

## WINTER SOLDIER Subscribe TODAY!



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In October, the Rock burned. During the pre-trial hearing of the 10 prisoners charged with arson, political prisoner Bennie Bell, after being handcuffed, shackled and gagged, was pistol whipped in court on orders of the judge and stood in front of the bench with blood dripping down his face as the judge entered a plea in his behalf. On Jan. 5th, five wings of the trusty facility (housing for so-called "honor" prisoners) at McAlester were destroyed by fire.

Prison officials, representing the state, continue to attack prisoners; racism is blatant -- of the McAlester 10, seven are Black, two are Indians, and one is white. But prisoners see racism for what it is--an attempt to divide the people. A call put out by a coalition of prison groups states: "The Dept. of Corruption wants Blacks & Whites & Browns to be at each other's throats because that makes us easy to control.... We are all ONE united against a common oppressor. JUSTICE is being on the dry end of a bloody knife, but let's be certain that the knife of justice is left in brown uniforms and not brown skin. Racism sucks! We are all brothers. UNITED we are indestructable!"

With the increasing repression comes increasing resistance: brothers at McAlester have learned the lessons of the past. As one prisoner has written, "The people who run McAlester have tried to institute a militaristic regime using brutality, force and violence in an effort to conquer the gooks of McAlester, but we gooks are not having any of it... We realize that the institution of prisons is a tool of class and ethnic oppression... Lash (the head of corrections) and his retired colonels are in the process of learning the same lesson that Amerikkka learned in the rice paddies of Vietnam, namely that short of murdering us all there is no way to enslave people... whose lives are committed to cooperation and UNITY!"

We are in a recession. President Ford, in his State of the Union speech before Congress, finally came out and admitted it long after we already knew what was happening. After raising the hue and cry that the number one enemy was inflation, Ford pulled a complete reversal and is now saying that recession is number one.

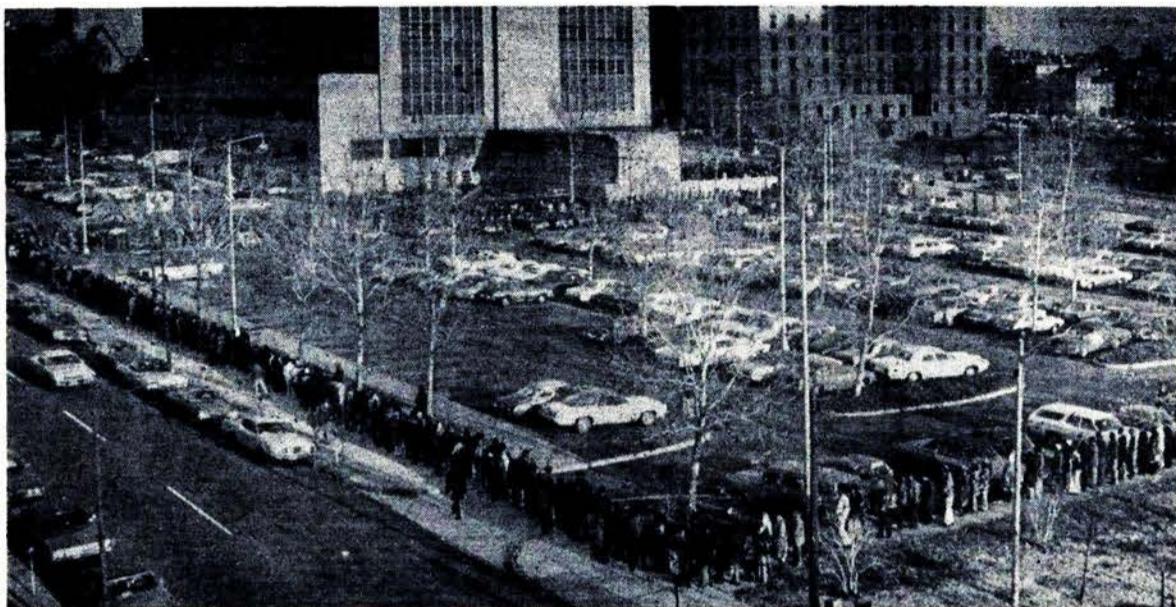
The economists are coming up with all kinds of theories on what has gone wrong and how to fix it. With all the gobbleygook these "experts" are saying, it's almost impossible to understand what they're talking about. However, what comes across clear as a bell is their conclusion: things are bad; they are going to get worse; and the American people should be willing to sacrifice to keep the system afloat with inflation, unemployment and speedup!

We live under the system of imperialism and certain basic facts about that system clearly reveal what the real problem is. Who creates the wealth? Workers. Workers create everything in society. It is the labor of working people that makes the cars, the machines, the clothes, the schools. Workers make crude oil into gasoline and construct the skyscrapers; workers also build the shabby buildings that they must live in. There is hardly a thing people need and use that is not made by workers.

On the other hand, what do the imperialists do? Virtually nothing, yet they own just about everything. All the things produced by workers are owned by that small strata at the top; the Rockefellers, Mellons, DuPonts, Gettys -- the people who own all large industry. Anyone who works knows that they produce in one day thousands of dollars worth of products, yet their wages do not equal the value of what they have produced. What the owners get is the difference between what they pay the workers (and what they pay for overhead) and what they sell the product for, and that difference is their profit -- the extra sweat wrung from the workers. They didn't do anything to get it, so it is virtually stolen.

The owners know that the less they have to pay workers, the more profit they will make. The harder and faster they can make people work, the more profit they get. So wages are kept down and "productivity" is kept up with speedups and new machines. But there is a catch to keeping wages down -- it is working people who have to buy what is produced. And if wages are pushed too far down (either directly or by inflation) then it is impossible to buy those products. Therein lies one of the key reasons for the current (and just about every) crisis of imperialism -- overproduction. Goods pile up because people cannot afford to buy them. So, the imperialists start laying off workers to cut back on production. That means that even less can be purchased and that means more cutbacks and more layoffs.

# RECESSION: A SYSTEM IN CRISIS



And Still Growing--Baltimore Unemployment Line

It does not mean that there are so many products that they can't all be used. It means that there are more than people can afford to buy, even though everyone sure could use what's been produced.

Every ten years or so this ripoff system goes through a crisis. During those times, millions of people have been thrown out of work and many left to starve. The last major crisis, the Great Depression, didn't end until the start of WWII. With that war came huge government spending on defense, thus pumping up the economy and avoiding the continuing spiral downwards of the depression. Since WWII, the U.S. has printed a lot of paper money to finance all that government spending. That is one of the main causes of inflation. But because of this country's enormous wealth and military power, imperialism has always been able to export inflation. What this has meant is that the main effects of inflation were not felt here. It was forced onto the weaker nations who had to trade with the U.S. at inflated prices. The precious foreign aid money that the U.S. sent these countries had to be used just to pay for all those inflated goods. So, while these underdeveloped countries faced skyrocketing prices and unstable economies, our economy stayed relatively stable.

However, those days are gone. The weaker countries did not let this setup continue where they got pushed around and had their resources plundered at will by huge U.S. companies. They are fighting back to gain control of their own resources and destinies, fighting U.S. imperialism tooth and nail. U.S. markets abroad are not secure anymore. With the great defeat handed U.S. im-

perialism by the Indochinese people, all the contradictions that are inherent in this system started coming out again -- this time, full blown.

Prices started to rise. The government reacted with wage controls but prices kept going up. Freezing the wages at a time when prices kept going up exposed the "theory" that it is wage increases that make prices go up. Now the imperialists are really in a bind. Overproduction has led to recession. As shown by President Ford's economic proposals, you can't fight inflation and recession at the same time. It's one or the other without really solving either. They couldn't avoid this crisis anyway, because it is the very nature of imperialism itself that these crises happen. So they must continue to throw people out into the streets to try and save their system -- a system which doesn't serve the interests of poor and working people.

But that's not the answer working people have. Our answer is to fight these layoffs and cutbacks. VVAW/WSO has joined the fight against the attacks that the imperialists have launched on our living and working standards. As part of that fight, we are raising the demand: JOBS OR INCOME FOR ALL! This system is not run in our interest, so it is not in our interest to save it. We must join together, employed and unemployed, veteran and non-veteran, to fight for our jobs or be given adequate income when our jobs no longer exist. And only by fighting back can we hope to end this rotten system once and for all!

# MENOMINEE INDIANS SEIZE MONASTERY



Menominee Warrior Society

In the early morning hours of New Year's Day, approximately 40 armed members of the militant Menominee Warriors Society seized control of the abandoned Alexian Brothers monastery near Gresham, Wisconsin. They declared it under control of the Menominee people for the purposes of a long-needed medical center for the 4,000 tribe members in the area. From the beginning, these Native Americans withstood, first 250 state and local police, and then 400 Wisconsin National Guardsmen ordered to the site by Wisconsin Governor Lucey. The Menominees have held the monastery for three weeks.

The Indians struggle intensified back in 1954 when the federal government passed the infamous "Termination Bill." When the "Termination Bill"

went into effect in 1961, the Menominee Tribe, along with other Indians, were drafted for this experiment, which meant a loss of status as a federally recognized tribe. The Bill opened up Menominee land as valuable vacation property and timberland to exploitation by big business.

Termination also meant a loss of federal services which included hospital and medical care. In 1963 an epidemic of tuberculosis caused great suffering for the Menominees. The average life expectancy is only 43 years; other problems are a high infant mortality rate, suicides, 25% unemployment, and the highest dropout rate in the state of Wisconsin due to an inadequate educational system.

The determination of the Menominee people now in the monastery, added to by large and militant demonstrations in Madison, Milwaukee, Chicago and other cities have had a telling effect on the government's position. The forcing of the National Guard to allow in food, reduce the number of checkpoints, and turn the electricity on again are examples of the government's weakening position.



Recent developments have been the beginning of negotiations with the state, with American Indian Movement spokesmen Dennis Banks and Russell Means representing the Menominee people. Negotiations have been broken off periodically when the Indians felt that the State's forces have violated the ceasefire agreement. On January 18th, the Menominee Warrior Society evacuated some of the women and children from the monastery, being skeptical of the intentions of the National Guard, who have maintained that they are there to "enforce" the peace.

Clearly, the government is backing off and the Menominee Tribe expects a victory soon. It is now just a matter of time for the government and business interests to figure out the quickest way out of the situation they're in without the embarrassment of another Wounded Knee. With the continued support of people around the country, the Menominee people will soon have their health center.

## INDIANS FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

### "GANIENKEH"

In the Adirondack Mountains, between the town of Eagle Bay, New York and a large tract of state-owned land being "developed" by the International Paper Company, there presently exists the independent Native American state of Ganienkeh. The Mohawks and other Native Americans from over fifty Indian nations spread across the U.S., Canada and South America have held the land since May of last year. While no outsiders really know how many people are inside Ganienkeh, it is obvious that the newspapers' estimates of 30-90 people are a gross underestimate.

#### Threats, Bullets, Warrants

In the nine months which have passed since they moved in, the Native Americans of Ganienkeh have been harassed by snipers, police threats, warrants and the commercial press.

Beginning in July, there was a series of eleven incidents in which residents of Ganienkeh were fired upon by passersby. On one occasion, a passing jeep fired rounds at a woman, at which time the jeep's license number was reported to the State Police. The police responded with, "Nothing we can do. It's hunting season." Such attacks intensified on the 26th of October which caused the Native Americans to return fire when fired upon on Oct. 28th. Two people were wounded by the Indians. One of these was a child, and the State Police allegedly found no weapons in the car the child was in; even though the Indians maintain they were fired upon from that car.

The incident was jumped on by the local press, paper company and the

state. What followed was more police harassment, search warrants and threats from police. On one occasion when the Indians cited the provisions of the 1794 treaty, they were told to "Remember Attica." The Syracuse chapter of VVAW/WSO, which has been building mass support and providing food, clothing and other supplies for Ganienkeh, was present as observers when a warrant was to have been served "peacefully" by the state of New York, with trooper cars and police helicopters! When the Indians objected to the intense surveillance, the Herkimer County DA recinded the warrant and asked the federal government to intervene.

The land, presently under control of the Indians, was stolen by means of an illegal land deal in 1797, when this country was in its early stages of expansion and exploitation. Now that the U.S. is one of the world's imperialist superpowers, it is still the rich man's laws which again threaten the Native Americans' lives, land and culture.

The people of Ganienkeh are attempting to live on their stolen ancestral land. There has been little publicity on Ganienkeh since the Oct. 28th shootings and there probably won't be any until the government prepares a siege. Now is the time to spread the word of the peoples' struggle near Eagle Bay. The struggle at Ganienkeh will not be won by the Native Americans alone; they must have the support of all people. Only by uniting will any of us ever be free of the rich man's law.

DEFEND GANIENKEH!

At our recent National Steering Committee Meeting, VVAW/WSO took a stand in support of the Palestinian people and their just struggle. Why do we join with the people of the world and stand with the Palestinian struggle? Because they were robbed of their homeland, and their fight is against our own enemy here -- U.S. imperialism.

Since the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) came to the United Nations, massive propaganda campaigns have been waged through the media to whip up hysteria against the "Palestinian terrorists." The campaign has even gone so far as to distort reality by comparing the Palestinians to the Nazis. All this is going on at the same time that Israel is bombing refugee camps with U.S.-supplied jets and bombs. All this while Israel sends commando teams into Arab countries, killing many civilians.

The purpose of this propaganda is to stir up support for Zionist expansion and aggression, fully backed by the U.S. government. While trying to hide its real intentions from the people of the world, the U.S. has consistently backed and supplied the armed adventures of the Israelis in their attacks on the Palestinians.

The vast majority of the countries of the world invited the PLO to the UN to discuss the Palestinian question, over the frantic objections of the Israeli and U.S. delegates. And the people of the world further showed where they stood when the head of the PLO and the Israeli delegate got up to speak before the UN General Assembly. The Palestinian, Yassar Arafat, was greeted with tremendous applause, while almost all the seats in the assembly hall were empty when the Israeli delegate spoke. Most of the countries were hosting a welcoming banquet for the Palestinians and boycotted the Israeli speech.

#### Brief History

During the late 1800's, a movement developed among a few rich Jewish businessmen to create a nation-state for Jews. This movement is known as Zionism, and those who back it are known as Zionists. Instead of organizing Jews to struggle against the persecution and prejudice coming down on them where they lived, the Zionists held out the idea of forging a Jewish "nation" with themselves at the top. At the same time, this idea had little support from the overwhelmingly poor and working Jewish people, so the Zionists concentrated on getting European and the U.S. governments to politically and materially support their plan.

The British declared in 1917 that it would support such a state in the Middle East, specifically in the area called Palestine. This land was already in the hands of Palestinian Arabs, Jews and Christians who had been living there together peacefully for thousands of years. With the rise of WWII, many Jews began organizing to resist Hitler by taking up arms and fighting the Nazis. The Zionists, on the other hand, worked

# MIDDLE EAST



Palestinian women training for liberation army

against the resistance movement, using religious leaders. These mis-leaders told the Jewish people that "God was against violence" and that Jews must "wait for a miracle from God."

With the real sympathy that arose for the Jewish people after the fascist atrocities took place, the Zionists pushed for the takeover of Palestine. Helped by the British to form Jewish military units and excluding the Palestinians already there from government, the Zionists got the help of the U.S. government, which was only too willing to have a state that would support U.S. policy in the Middle East. With ever-increasing swiftness, the Jewish colonizers pushed the Palestinian Arabs from their land.

Since its creation by the UN in 1948, Israel has never stopped its drive for more territory. In 1956, Israel, Great Britain and France attacked Egypt to try to seize control of the Suez canal, a very vital link in that oil-rich area. In 1967, Israel launched a major attack on almost all its Arab neighbors and seized great chunks of land from them.

#### Today

Now, the U.S. government sends Henry Kissinger scurrying around the Middle East in order to try to force a political settlement on the Arabs and Palestinians which would keep the U.S. in a favorable position. Key to their idea of "favorable" is the continued existence of the state of Israel, forcing the Arabs to recognize Israel's right to exist and forcing the Palestinians to give up their struggle to regain their homeland. All this is done with the aim in mind of gaining U.S. control of the oil and the Middle East.

The Soviet Union, the other big superpower with its hands in the Middle East, shares the same idea as the U.S. for a favorable settlement, but favorable to the Soviet Union -- that is, control of the oil and the Middle East for the USSR. So, to compete with the U.S. which openly backs Israel, the USSR poses as the friend of the Arabs. But the Soviet Union is not a real friend of the Arab and Palestinian peoples. Instead, just like the U.S., it operates in its own narrow interests. For instance, during the recent Arab oil boycott, the USSR forced Iraq to sell a quantity of oil to them as partial payment for arms shipments. Then they turned around and sold this same oil to West Germany for 3 times the price they paid for it.

So, just like the U.S., the USSR wants a part of the action in any political settlement in the Middle East area so it can keep its thumb in the pie. There is the real danger in this contention between the two superpowers of a new World War breaking out, as the U.S. and the USSR compete for control of the Middle East.

Thousands of poor and working people died in Vietnam to protect the interests of U.S. imperialism, but the struggle of the Vietnamese people, the resistance of GIs and a vast amount of the American people is putting an end to U.S. involvement there. The lessons learned from that struggle will not be forgotten, and it is up to the American people to resist every attempt to draw us into another war -- this time in the Middle East.

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### UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY

## **COLUMBUS, OHIO**

# **DEMOCRATIATION BLASTS KENT STATE WHITEWASH**



Over 450 militant demonstrators from Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky took the Columbus, Ohio streets in sub-freezing weather to protest the Kent State whitewash and demonstrate against the inauguration of Governor-elect James ("The Killer") Rhodes on Jan. 13th. Demonstrators drowned out Rhodes' inaugural address with the chant, "Rhodes, you filthy liar -- the people find you guilty!"

The demonstration was planned and carried out by the May 4th Coalition, made up of VVAW/WSO, Revolutionary Union, Revolutionary Student Brigade, National Lawyers Guild, Columbus Tenant's Union staff, and various community groups. The demands of the demonstration directed at Rhodes -- the governor responsible for the shooting of the 4 Kent State students on May 4th, 1970 -- were: Protest the Kent State whitewash

Indict the real criminals! Universal and Unconditional Amnesty for all War Resisters! End all Aid to Thieu and Lon Nol -- Implement the Agreements! and End all Attacks on Working Class and other Oppressed People!

The rally began with a VVAW/WSO speaker, who talked about the demand of Universal and Unconditional Amnesty, followed by speakers from the Revolutionary Union and Revolutionary Student Brigade, who linked the demands with the rising anti-imperialist movement in this country today.

After the rally, the march began by utilizing the sidewalk permit to march to the Statehouse but it soon became clear that the militant demonstrators would not be contained on the sidewalks; with the chant, "The People United will Never be Defeated," the demonstrators took to the streets. When the demonstrators arrived at the Statehouse, Rhodes was about one quarter of the way finished with his address. Seeing the crowd of demonstrators, which had grown as people along the streets joined in, Rhodes was visibly shaken. The demonstrators, equaling the number of spectators at the address, then marched directly to the platform and drowned out the remainder of Rhodes' speech.

Following the speech, the demonstrators took over the North steps of the Statehouse. From inside, 100 State troopers charged out; several demonstrators were maced and several police

men hospitalized in the scuffle. At best, the police were only able to clear a narrow corridor through the demonstrators who would not move. The action continued as demonstrators marched to a statue on the Statehouse grounds where a rally there heard from the mother of one of the Attica Brothers; Mike Branch, an anti-imperialist ex-POW; and a speaker from the Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee. All of these speakers spoke about the role of U.S. imperialism, both at home and abroad.

When the rally ended, the demonstrators marched back to the federal courthouse where an effigy of Rhodes was burned. Clearly the people of Ohio remember Kent State and as long as Rhodes remains in office, the people won't let him forget his role as the murderer of the four students.

The demonstration was sparked by the recent continuation of the Kent State whitewash, specifically the acquittal of the 8 National Guardsmen, which many felt was a smokescreen for the real criminals -- Governor Rhodes, the then-Commander of the Ohio National Guard, S. Del Corso, and the system they represent. While the individual guardsmen should have been held responsible for their actions at Kent, the people responsible for the entire event, Rhodes and Del Corso, along with the Nixon and Ford administrations, perpetuated and encouraged the cover-up. The incident was publicized as a tragic error; in reality, it was to serve as an example for the student movement when the government considered it was time to start shooting. As a result of the murders at Kent, the student movement did not die but grew. As one of the banners of the march in Columbus read: "Remember Kent State; It's Right to Rebel."

