INTERRUPT 18

newsletter of
computer people for peace

MAY 1972

SPECIFICATIONS

DOING BUSINESS IN VIETNAM

In 1965, a Vice President of Chase Manhattan Bank in charge of South East Asian Affairs stated,

> "In the past, foreign investors have been somewhat wary of the over-all political prospect for the (South East Asia) region. I must say, though, that the U.S. actions in Vietnam this year - which have demonstrated that the U.S. will continue to give effective protection to the free nations of the region - have considerably reassured both Asian and Western investors. In fact, I see some reason for hope that the same sort of economic growth may take place in the free economies of Asia that took place in Europe after the Truman Doctrine and after NATO provided a protective shield. The same thing also took place in Japan after the U.S. intervention in Korea removed investor doubts." (1)

A recent Chase report on long range planning states that Vietnam is

> "the most difficult operation in the world to project. The possibilities range from our being expelled to doing very well. Our assumption is that somehow or other Vietnam will muddle along the next five years and we, therefore, have incorporated a growth rate of 10% per annum."

The significance of these two statements is that U.S. plans for South East Asia have not changed. The only thing different is U.S. strategy.

Intensified bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong, together with large scale fighting in the South, have once again placed Vietnam back in the headlines (as if bombing of the South, Laos, and Cambodia doesn't count for news). The war continues, now in the form of massive bombing and a greater reliance on U.S. technology. It continues, not because of a mistake, but because U.S. corporate interests see South East Asia as "the fastest growing and most dynamic economic region in the world in the 1970's." (2) The escalation in South East Asia again makes clear that the U.S. has no intention of ending the war.

DEJA VU

In getting reactiviated in this year's Spring Offensive, friends are complaining of "deja vu". It has all happened before. The peoples' offensive, the bombing, the demonstrations. Here we are again, another Spring Offensive. News commentators talk about the students being shaken out of their lethargy for another round of protest.

But is it the same old thing all over again? Consider these projections for the (near) future course of the war, and consider whether it's the same old thing and whether the stakes are the same:
  . Bomb Haiphong and Hanoi to total destruction
  . Mine or blockade Haiphong harbor
  . Bomb all ships entering North Vietnamese waters
  . Nuclear weapons
  . Give the military its head
  . Bomb the Red River basin dikes in North Vietnam which would flood an area inhabited by 10 million

Wild predictions? Compiled from suggestions made in Congress and predictions by ex-administration military planners and commentators on public television.

NATIONAL REPORT

The following is a report from Scientific Workers for Social Action, an off-shoot of CPP in Los Angeles:

We of SWSA in Los Angeles are currently focusing our activities around the Ellsberg/Russo trial which will begin in LA early in June. It is not surprising that the government will be going all out to get Ellsberg and Russo. Raising public consciousness about the significance of the Pentagon Papers and the issues coming out of the trial are sufficiently important in themselves to justify our efforts.

By coming down hard on Ellsberg and Russo, the government is attempting to intimidate all scientific/technical workers who have any connection with classified information and who might be moved to similar actions.

For more information, and for a booklet the group has available on the security system, write to:
    Scientific Workers for Social Action
    Box 1263
    Venice, Calif. 90291

In New York:

CPP supported the May 10 ITT action called by the War Resisters League, Peace Parade, Viet Vets and other groups. The action, protesting ITT's war complicity, included a "Simulated Saturation Bombing" of the ITT building area on Park Ave, a die-in, a sweep of the area by Viet Vets, a mock concentration camp, and tape recorded sounds of the air war.

On May 17 CPP, together with the American Committee on Africa and IBM Black Workers' Alliance, held a general meeting on "IBM racism at home and in Southern Africa". This was the first public action of Project IBM.

CAI
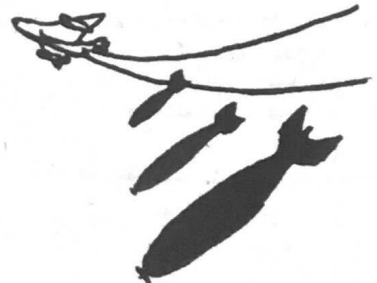
10 MAY 19??   10:30
LOG IN: S9876   SS#:123-45-6789
NAME: EVERYONE,EMILY E
SUBJECT:HISTORY

GOOD MORNING   EMILY E
WE ARE NOW AT LESSON 19
PLEASE LIST THE 3 PRINCIPLE CAUSES
OF THE VIETNAMESE CONFLICT:
1.
       .
       .
       .

CAI- Computer Assisted Instruction - is deemed one of the positive uses of computer technology. There has already been an explosion in the use of computers as adjuncts to 'education'. The use of computers _for_ education is just beginning. Time-sharing and mini-computers are allowing economically feasible student-computer interaction. CAI will work. It scares me.

The goal/benefit spectrum of CAI is impressive:
-To 'free' the teacher from the mundane and allow more scope for 'teaching'.
-To allow students to drill themselves and, thereby, to proceed at their own pace.
-To establish a unified approach to subject material.
-To provide 'individualized' teaching, based on on-going, automated evaluation.

Realizing these and other similar goals will unquestionably speed the 'learning' process. The current measurements of student achievement will all register improvement. It scares me.

It scares me because it will strengthen the fundamental weaknesses of our educational system: emphasis on 'right answers'; inherent assumption that echoed response is knowledge; unquestioning acceptance of authority, even automated authority; increased orientation to accepted procedures, to patterned behavior...Training in place of learning.

Drill leads to mimicry, not learning.

It scares me because learning is learning to question. And this is _now_ missing and will become unrecoverable. It scares me because of the methods that will be used to develop 'syllabi'; dominated by the system managers. Uniform course outlines must inevitably lead to minimal controversy; must lead to inattention to local conditions. What is worse, CAI will lead to an even greater encroachment of business into lower level education. CAI will be developed by professional educators(i.e. corporations) and _sold_ to schools. And if course methodology is to be sold, it will be neuter (at best). In the absence of extremes there is de facto brainwashing to the middle.

Finally, it scares me because of the automation of student evaluation; because such evaluation is based on drill and will not reflect capability.

We now know the inertia that results from typing or pigeon-holing students. The adjudged smart get smarter; the 'slow' go slower. The _better_ a computer system is designed, the more quickly it will react to its own evaluations. And thus the more solid the 'typing' becomes. This is the 'self-fulfilling prophecy' syndrome.

CAI is the Network Television of education. Reflect on CAI for just a moment and see if you can give the 'right' answer to Lesson 19 or to the CPP War Quiz.

I had to do the lesson five times! They said it was a loop.

This article is an opinion by Michael Lipp. The Interrupt Collective is divided on this issue and welcomes discussion on this topic.
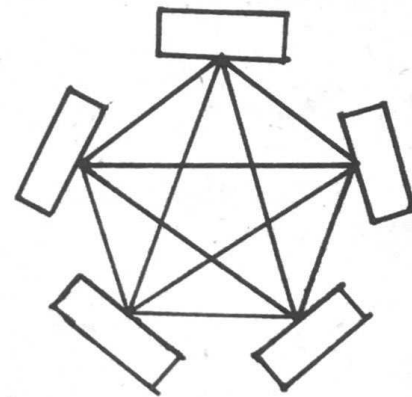
COLLECTIVE

ANALYSIS

The way the Interrupt Collective works can be a starting point for defining what working collectively means. Membership consists of those people who want to work on it, regardless of their skills. Policy is made by all members of the collective. Within the guidelines laid down by the CPP Steering Committee, policy includes political decisions as well as selecting and assigning articles, scheduling and producing. There are no distinctions between those who write and those who do the "shitwork" of typing, proofing, mailing, other than the member's free choice. There are no "editors" other than the collective itself. Members are responsible to the collective as a whole for completing their work, rather than to any one person. The rotating coordinatorship is more a duty than a recognition of status. The key points are the lack of hierarchy and individual authority. The collective process we described is the goal we work toward. It does not always work perfectly and, in some ways, is more difficult than working individually. But we think the merits of working collectively far offset the disadvantages. The merits include both the product and the process of working together. On collective articles, group thinking almost always strengthens the analysis and presentation of the news and politics Interrupt presents. Significant individual opinions also get included as signed articles.

It is in the process of working together that the members of the collective find even more value for themselves. Most of us work in corporations in very alienating environments doing work that we feel to be useless if not harmful to people. The collective process, in contrast, is stimulating and strengthens our ties to each other. Relating in a non-oppressive way to each other is a source of energy. Feeling collective responsibility is liberating for it allows us to do work we want to do without being oppressed by superiors

or feeling that we have to manipulate those under us.

An important part of the collective process is learning; learning to relate in a more human way, learning skills that others can share with us, learning to put a group goal ahead of our individual prejudices.

Some of us have tried to transfer the method and advantages of working collectively to our workplaces, but the effort has largely failed. In a capitalistic society, just as profits dictate the uses to be made of the society's resources (computers in our area of concern), profits and the organization of the corporate state which promotes profit determine the nature of human relationships, on the job as well as off. Competition, authority,

ORGANIZATION CHART

hierarchy, power, these are the human attributes of capitalism. Where ownership is private rather than public, human relationships are based on corporate rather than human values, individual rather than collective interest. Collectivity is virtually synonymous with socialism. To think that human values and collective process can be introduced into corporate capitalism is to ignore the connections between economics and psychology.

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ALTERNATIVES

POSSIBILITIES

Many of us in the computer field have long been aware of the two-fold problem which surrounds our work. We all contribute, directly or indirectly, to the functioning of a system which has as its primary purpose the continued wealth and power of those few who own and control our society's resources. At the same time, the hierarchical structure of the organizations we work in narrowly limits the range of our work and our influence, and lends itself to the authoritarian control of personnel.

The opportunities available to step outside of those job slots which the system provides for us are, to be realistic, extremely limited. However, I believe it is important to discuss the idea of organizing into alternative work collectives. These groups would serve both the purpose of instituting a humanistic technological structure, as well as providing a work environment which is conducive to cooperation on all levels of work.

In briefly outlining several possibilities in which our efforts may presently be directed, we may first note that the collective need not arise outside of all existing institutions. Progressive private colleges or agencies supported by the public or large single grants may afford computer systems workers with enough policy-making influence to redirect the use of the computer. This can result in systems which give students quicker and easier access to information required in their studies and systems which give the public access to all information relevant to their particular needs, such as employment, housing or day-care centers.

Collectives arising independently of any single-organization support would have at the same time the opportunity to operate as closely as possible to their idea of a model collective, and the concurrent problem of economic survival in a hostile environment. Services of a clerical nature can be provided to movement groups and certain labor unions. Newly emerging areas relating to the arts, such as computer graphics and architectural design could provide for more challenging work.

The group, to sustain itself, would probably perform services for small companies which provide desirable or unobjectionable products and services to the public. However, if the collective finds itself relating directly to the existing economic system to a great extent, and basically serving the needs of that system, it would not be able to accomplish its basic goals. Contracts and deadlines, as well as the communication required with people organized so differently than the collective, are conditions which would preclude the group from functioning as it should, or providing the kind of services that it should provide.

The limited opportunities currently available for socially useful work present additional problems. We must maintain communication with each other if we are to avoid the possibility of competition among ourselves for available work. It can also be argued that working 'in the belly of the beast' at least gives us the opportunity to talk with, or organize with, the people at our workplaces.

Finally, it should be noted that several attempts at organizing into collectives in the computer field have been made, such as Meta Information Applications in New York and Resource One in San Francisco. How groups such as these are operating, in terms of their original goals, should be fully examined before similar attempts are started. Hopefully, CPP and Interrupt can serve as a means of communication among people with information, ideas and interest.

This is not meant so much as an immediate plan of action, but as an incentive for discussion on a direction that much of the movement is taking. The present situation, compounded by the nixonomic recession, would indicate that we must continue to devote our energies to the broad political struggle facing us. As we gain ground in this struggle, we will be more able to change the structure of the computer field and eventually join with groups in other fields in creating a political and economic counter-system responsive to peoples' real needs.

Your telephone bill for April was $125.00. You made only two long distance phone calls and even then you spoke for no more than five or ten minutes. You call up the phone company and they tell you it is a computer error.

For the past four months your electric bill has more than doubled; but you have used less electricity. After all, it is now winter and you are no longer using the air conditioner. You call up the electric company and they tell you it's a computer error.

Your bill from the local department store is too high. And you hear the same 'reason' from them that you heard from Ma Bell and Con Ed.

We have all had similar experiences of screwed up orders, incorrect billing and unceasing corporate harassment. To a 'lay person' it quickly and easily becomes the mysterious computers that are responsible for the continual foul-ups that add to the frustrations of living in the modern industrial world.

The private companies and the 'public utilities' have found a new tool to place between themselves and the public. The point at which most consumers are most likely to become angry with the corporation is in the billing for and delivery of goods and services. They have dissipated this anger with a new middleman. The computer has become the nice new scapegoat for the corporation. Anger which should be directed at the prices, practices and policies of the corporations is skillfully being diverted to the computer and to the keypunch operators, clerks and programmers for the computer.

The new scapegoat removes the public one step more from its effectiveness in dealing with corporations. We must deal with the computer, we are told to think. And it is that much harder to realize that the only way to control corporate practices is to control corporations.

Hannah Frank

SCHOOL DATA FILE SQUASHED, BROOKLYN, NY

In late March the Parents' Association of PS 9 in Brooklyn called a special meeting to decide the fate of a new data bank. The issue arose because teachers were asked to fill in extensive name, income and family data on each student for a new study being conducted by a consulting firm. Ostensibly, the data bank was to lead to more funds for the district schools. Under the guise of "better information for planning and control" the community school board had accepted the computer consultant's data collection study.

However, with little hesitation the parents of the school voted unanimously to bar the collection of the data and to ask the teachers to refuse cooperation with the study. At the time of this writing it was understood that other PAs in the area were taking the same stand.

For the time being at least, this story seems to have a happy ending. All too often the study isn't discovered until the data has already been collected; or more disappointingly the argument is made that the end justifies the means. In order to insure a more reliable mechanism for finding potential problems, the PA has established a data watchdog committee. Its function is to review future requests for student data, as well as take a look at the current accumulation of information in our school system.

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PROGRAMMED ROLES

by Debbie Pessin

Who is SUE? Why she's the world's first girl minicomputer, the Systems User Engineered minicomputer. "We have big plans for SUE. She's going to break the hearts of competitive minicomputer sales types. She's flexible, responsive, adaptable, and nearly ageless... SUE can meet your system's needs exactly. You never pay for more than you want or have to take less than you need."

I saw this ad in the February 23rd issue of Computer World and, needless to say, it upset me. I proceeded to show the ad to some of the women I work with and they all expressed a similar reaction. I then showed the ad to a male manager and stated that I thought computer publications should be more aware of the fact that there are women in this field who might be insulted by advertisements such as this. He told me not to get upset over something so trivial, afterall, there were so many more important things to worry about - budgets, people starving in India, etc.

What many people don't seem to realize is that it is exactly this kind of "sex appeal" that fosters attitudes leading to the economic oppression of women in the working world. Would a manager who finds the attributes of this minicomputer to his liking hire a woman in a position of responsibility?

Since the criteria for getting ahead in this society seem to be associated with such qualities as aggressiveness, unemotionalism, self-confidence, and determination, women attempting to advance themselves are constantly under the pressure of retaining their "femininity".

The stereotyped woman executive is domineering and terrifying to all those who work for her. Most women are so afraid of being considered "masculine" if they outperform their male counterparts, that they usually don't even make the attempt. Many women are so frightened of the prospect that they will blatantly say they would never work for a woman themselves.

This attitude is understandable in light of the rationalizations men use when confronted with a competent female. How many times have you heard the statement, "She thinks just like a man." ? How many times have you heard your co-workers say "Women do make good programmers. They have so much patience and are so good at detail. They wouldn't make good managers, however, they're too emotional." ?

What I think both men and women have to be aware of is that most of the "masculine" qualities set up as admirable are not, in my opinion, admirable at all. And associating these particular qualities with the masculine sex puts an unnecessary burden on men and women alike.

What we all have to fight are the pressures put upon us to act out the roles we are assigned. By liberating the oppressed, we will also liberate the oppressors.

THE   BATTLEFIELD

The automated battlefield, a brain child of the Institute for Defense Analysis, is the logical result of the many "secret" systems studies we heard rumors about in the 60's. The goals are clear to any systems analyst, they are to: lower expected cost; reduce domestic dissent thought to be brought about by American deaths; increase the kill ratio by removing GI's who won't fight; and take the war issue out of the political arena.

A simple definition of the automated battlefield is not possible. Equipment ranges from anti-personnel mines, laser-guided bombs, and sensors which record smell (odors emitted by humans and monkeys), sound (footsteps magnified by people stepping on button bombs), body heat, and voices. Information from the sensors is relayed to central computer centers in Cambodia, Laos and Thailand where it is analyzed and appropriate orders (usually calling in ground or air fire) are given.[1] Recently an added advantage has been the use of drone aircraft which require no pilot or crew and therefore can't refuse the mission. We are now at the point where the Mai Lai's can be blamed on "computer error".

IBM is "credited" as the "brain center of the automated battlefield". One operation, tagged the Integrated Surveillance Center, houses an IBM 360 network and resides in Thailand.[2] Honeywell and RCA are trying to catch up with IBM's general purpose computer lead in S. E. Asia. Presently, Honeywell has a clear lead in anti-personnel weapons, while RCA is trying to break into the special purpose military computer market (see Interrupt 17).

Based on a Sept. 1971 figure the operating costs for Thai based computers were $625 million. It is interesting to note that outside of the Combined Intelligence Center In Saigon (IBM oriented), military computing facilities are located outside of Vietnam for security reasons.[3]

AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY ON THE MARCH

" The US has invited the 14 other members of NATO to view a demonstration of the electronic "bugging" of battlefields and military installations. One purpose, they say is to interest the Atlantic allies in what remote sensors can do in the hope that they will decide to manufacture and employ them.
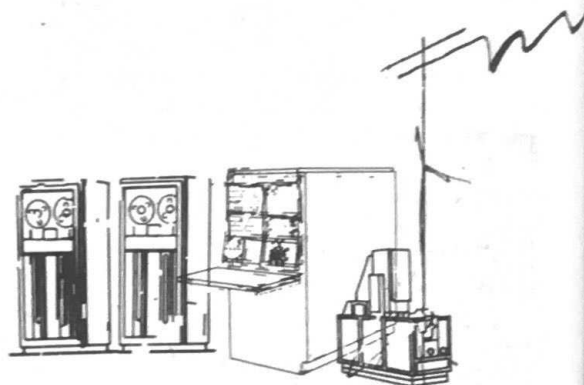
' We're hoping that some of our allies are sufficiently impressed with what these devices can do to decide to get into the business themselves', a senior defense official said. ' We'd be pleased to provide them the technology so they can manufacture what they need and provide the equipment to their own forces'.

The demonstrations will be conducted by the Defense Special Projects Group, a hush-hush agency that Congress has ordered dismantled by June 30." NY TIMES 2/7/72

Meanwhile...
    Everyday thousands of people die in Vietnam , Cambodia and Laos.
    More bombs have been dropped since Nixon took office (3.2 million tons) than were dropped during WW II and Korea combined (3.1 million).
    The US has created the S. Vietnamese air force to be the 6th largest in the world.

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1. Air War, The Third IndoChina War, Pub. by Indochina Resource Center, 1322 18th St. NW, Wash. DC.

2. Washington Monthly, The Electronic Battlefield: Wiring Down the War, May 1971.
3. Technological Warlords, pub. by CPP.

and IBM

In fiscal 1970, IBM ranked 19th among the top US Dept. of Defense Contractors - $316 million.

IBM has done work on the Titan II and Minuteman II ballistic missile systems as well as the Safeguard ABM.

IBM presently produces these systems: fire control, chemical retrieval, laser, submarine sonar, ballistic missile, and combat services support.

IBM has a member on the Committee on Military Exports of the Defense-Industry Advisory Council. This is the liaison committee between US military contractors and the Defense Dept.'s Office of International Logistics Negotiations, which promotes overseas sales worth about two billion dollars annually.

Early in 1970, Melvin Laird appointed Gardiner L. Tucker, IBM's Director of Research, as Assistant Secretary of Defense.

IBM/Vietnam

Electronic Battlefield - IBM has an on-going contract to produce electronic sensors. These plus thousands of other unattended sensors scattered throughout Indochina relay coded signals to the infiltration surveillance center in Thailand. A pair of 360's form the core of this center, interpreting data, analyzing the best means of retaliation, and relaying strike orders to a squadron of Air Force B-52's. IBM developed and produced bomb navigation systems to take over the release of bombs automatically, defining anything that moves as the enemy.

IBM contracts for Seek Data II, a system designed to preplan Vietnam airstrikes and airlifts (used by 7th Air Force).

IBM plays a prominent role in the computerized support functions of 8 of the 11 American air bases in Vietnam.

IBM/the World

IBM is the 5th largest US corporation, with 590,000 stockholders.

In the last decade, IBM's revenues have grown fourfold, from $1.8 billion to $7.2 billion.

It controls over 70% of the US and international computer market.

At its present rate of growth, IBM is projected to become the single largest economic entity in the world in the next generation.

It is the hardware and software support behind the ID system required to maintain the apartheid procedures in South Africa.

Over half of its profits come from the World Trade operations.

CORP. IRATE

During the week of April 9-15, members of the Mid-Hudson Non-Violence Center, in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., marched, vigiled, got arrested, and pitched a tent to protest IBM's involvement in Vietnam.

The week began with a mass march onto the IBM grounds on Sunday, the 9th. Nine marchers pitched a tent - intending to maintain a round-the-clock fast and vigil in front of IBM - and were arrested at IBM's behest for trespassing. Nevertheless, about 15 people did fast all week, and they were able to conduct a 12-hour-a-day vigil, which confronted every shift of workers with leaflets and placards describing IBM's wartime activity.

On Monday, there were five more arrests, this time for leafletting IBM workers at plant entrances. (Two young men, jailed in juvenile ward, were sexually molested by other inmates.) On Tuesday, IBM took out a court injunction, so that trespassing demonstrators could be dealt with more severely. For the remainder of the week, state, county and township police kept the demonstrators off of IBM grass and prevented any leafletting that "obstructed traffic". (A few CPPers, showing solidarity, joined the vigil on Friday.) The week of actions was concluded, much to IBM's relief, by a mass march off the grounds on Saturday.

Mid-week, the Non-Violence Center offered a free lunch to IBM workers. The lunch had to be held at a high school gym over half-a-mile away from IBM, and it was hard to let many workers know about the meal. Still, twelve workers showed up to eat and talk.

Nearly every night that week, slide shows about electronic battlefields (that IBM makes sensors for) were shown to IBM employees in private homes around Poughkeepsie. The Center's "Free the IBM 360" T-shirts became so popular in the community, there is now a several-week backlog of orders (will be for sale in next Interrupt!).

IBM directly provides the income for one-third of the families in Poughkeepsie, and indirectly for many more. Despite this awesome economic club, and despite the fact that even IBM is laying off workers these days, response from the community and from IBM employees was encouraging. A high-ranking IBM executive confided that he now has serious doubts about IBM's involvement abroad, largely as a result of this action.

10

The following piece was written by an IBM employee this March for Speakup, an IBM in-house newsletter self-described as "A program to provide answers to your complaints, comments, questions". IBM neither printed the piece nor satisfactorily dealt with the questions it poses:

Why is IBM or IBM World Trade Corporation in South Africa?

Recently, I became aware of IBM's existence there. How does a company that claims to be so liberal and fair aid in the perpetuation of an apartheid or slavery?

Can it be that IBM is unaware of the racist and inhuman policies and practices in South Africa or is it that MONEY is IBM's primary concern? I am aware that IBM claims that it "has a single set of business conduct policies applicable both to the IBM Corporation and to the IBM World Trade Corporation".

But, can this be used to excuse its participation in an immoral, inhuman, and genocidal slave regime, such as South Africa? Or is it that IBM, recognizing and using the ignorance and unawareness of the PEOPLE, has only one major concern - PROFIT? In other words, IBM seems to employ liberal (humane) attitudes where these attitudes are acceptable, but where these attitudes are unacceptable IBM displays an opposite or non-attitude (DUPLICITY).

In closing, I would like to know to what extent is IBM's involvement in the South African economy and vice versa. Also, does IBM practice equal opportunity employment in South Africa??!!!

"T. Vincent Learson, who became chairman and chief executive officer (of IBM) last June....said 84 non-whites are among IBM's 1,017 employees in South Africa and that they receive equal treatment in all respects. 'We aren't in a hiring mode there,' he continued, 'but if things go well, we hope we can add 14 blacks this year and 20 next year.'"

-The Wall Street Journal, April 25, 1972

WAR QUIZ

In this the ninth year of US escalation in THAT war we feel that it is necessary to take stock of what we have learned. In an effort to contribute to a more learned readership we offer the following quiz. Test yourself and your friends.

Part A - Multiple Choice:

1. The bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong was necessary because:
() The dominos are falling
() To stop the Red pipeline
() To show those bastards we're not a pitiful helpless giant
() To protect Americans in Des Moines

2. The DMZ is:
() An hallucinogenic drug
() A feminine deodorant spray
() The left-wing faction of the CIA
() Subway line to the South Bronx

3. Crossing the DMZ by "enemy" troops is:
() A happening
() An incursion
() An invasion
() Protective reaction

4. Crossing the DMZ by US troops is:
() An invasion
() A reconnaissance flight
() A massive B-52 raid
() Not reported

5. The pineapple is:
() A popular Hawaian fruit
() A Honeywell product
() A deadly anti-personnel bomb
() Never discussed in the New York Times

6. Cholon, Long Binh, Long Thanh, Da Nang, Qui Nhon, Phu Cat, Saigon, are:
() US bases
() North Vietnamese and VC strongholds
() Graveyards
() Chase Manhattan branches (hint)

7. The "enemy" is:
() Anyone under 5'5" tall
() Anyone who steps on a sensor
() Anyone killed by US technology
() Retreating ARVN troops
() Peace marchers

8. The electronic battlefield is:
() A new $19.95 educational toy
() A new $19 billion military toy
() A long-range plan to end the recession
() A way to replace gooks with blips

Part B - True or False
1. The Viet Cong are really Japs in disguise.
2. Protective reaction is when Melvin Laird refuses to testify on US bombings in Senate Hearings.
3. Vietnamization will be declared a success when it is shown that 4 out of 5 ARVN troops use Crest.

Part C - Matching
Match numbered items with lettered descriptions. Make up your own too.
1. area remaining after a B-52 strike
2. bombing of large urban centers
3. Hanoi and Haiphong
4. 100 enemy dead
5. plastic anti-personnel bombs made by Honeywell
6. foreign mercenary troops
7. replacing American troops with American technology

a. "free fire zone"
b. "strategic targets"
c. "Allied forces"
d. "Vietnamization"
e. "North Vietnamese panhandle"
f. "strategic weapons"
g. "friendly village"

Part D - Essay and short answer
1. According to the latest news report who holds Anloc, and what does that mean?
2. When did the Vietnam war begin?
3. Why is the US still in Vietnam? (Hint - only this year's reasons)
4. Why did no Vietnamese fight in our Civil War?
5. How does the corporation you work for profit from the war in Vietnam?

VIETNAM (cont. from pg 1)

Forced Urbanization & Future Investment

South Vietnam was 90% rural in 1961 - it is now 60% urban. Saigon has had its population increased from 400,000 in 1962 to 4 million this last year. Refugees, away from the land, are now under complete domination of the U.S. economy. In fact South Vietnam must now import American rice.

It is reported that 35 billion dollars have been invested by the oil companies in research and exploration off the coast of South Vietnam - locating oil fields whose "potential production is larger than that of Indonesia - possibly comparable with leading production areas in the Middle East". (3)

David Lilienthal, who presented a three volume report on the economy of Vietnam, said at a press conference in 1968 that the Mekong Delta is the most valuable piece of real estate that exists in the world. In his report, he claimed that the physical destruction due to the war is minimal, and that the economic wealth of the country has increased. (4)

The Nixon administration "proposes to make private direct investment by multinational corporations the center of American foreign aid in the 1970's", with the primary U.S. government role being to issue "political risk insurance" for private investment. (5)

Arthur Smithies, Harvard economist and consultant to CIA, IDA, RAND, etc., foresees "military stalemate and withering away of the war, a process that can last for a decade or more." It is, he believes, "feasible" that "military security may be sufficient to permit the economy to operate under market forces and to be oriented toward the world economy with respect both to trade and the use of foreign capital." (6)

Ambassador Bunker, on Feb. 1971, cited the growing possibility of what he called "an economic climate that foreign investors will find attractive." Smithies concurs in a necessary "increase in the exploitation of the Vietnamese people." (7)

In Japan, the Marnichi Daily News on 11/1/71 reported that "The nightmare of conflict in South Vietnam has yielded unexpected dividends in the development of human and material resources that will be of vital importance to future economic growth ... the postwar industrial potential of South Vietnam offers a fertile new field for investment." (8)

A representative of the U.S. Department of Agriculture stated that "Saigon's population swelled phenomenally in response to efforts to attract manpower away from VC areas." (9) (Is it at all possible that the efforts of U.S. B-52's might have played some role?)

Columbia economist Emile Benoit, in a confidential report to the Asian Development Bank, notes that the Vietnamese labor force is more highly skilled than the prewar agricultural labor force, and can probably be directed to the production of components of assembled goods that will be marketed by multinational corporations.(10)

The significance of these reports is that

1. The massive U.S. bombing in South East Asia has restructured a traditional agrarian people in a ghettoized society totally dependent on U.S. aid.
2. This has set up the conditions for a semiskilled (thanks to the army) urban work force, ready to be exploited by U.S. and Japanese multinational corporations. Industrialization can take place, competition for jobs will be high, wages will be incredibly low.
3. A non-unionized, competing workforce, plus the rich natural resources make South East Asia too important for an expanding economy to give up. The war will continue as long as there's profit to be made.

The New Technology

In order to continue the war, the U.S. is becoming more dependent on technology, (high U.S. casualties proved to be Johnson's undoing). In fact computer technology has come a long way from the command and control systems of the early war years. Sophisticated uses ranging from 1) social scientific modeling of the Vietcong infrastructure (such as that used for Project Phoenix to assassinate villagers suspected of Viet Cong sympathies), to 2) special on-board computers to aid U.S. bombers, to

3) the automated battlefield. (Check out The Technological Warlords, published by CPP.)

In each case, reliance on more sophisticated weaponry and removal of U.S. personnel from the conflict area (with the possible exception of the local IBM field engineer) go hand in hand with the continued indiscriminate killing of every living thing in the region. That is U.S. policy with regard to technology. As computer workers, we have a special responsibility to make the public aware of how computer technology is becoming a major factor in the war. As people concerned with the use of that technology, we must react in an organized way to demand that ALL U.S. TECHNOLOGY BE REMOVED FROM SOUTH EAST ASIA.
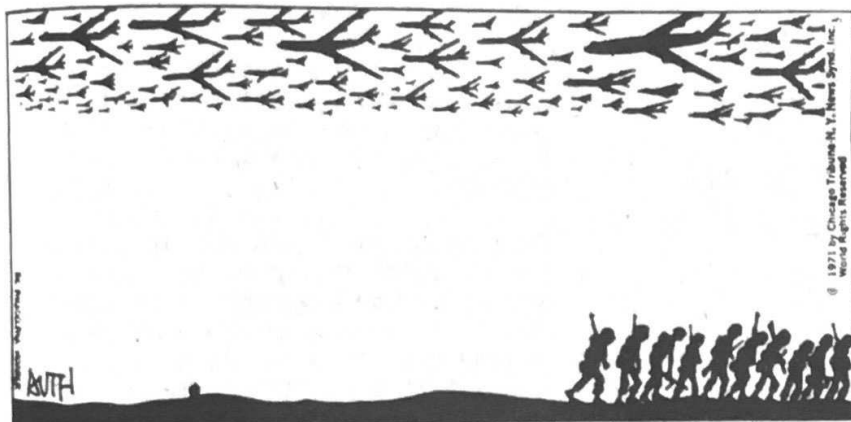
CPP's Position

It has been over ten years since President Kennedy put "advisors" in Vietnam. Since then the government (both democrats and republicans) has tried to sell the American people invasion from the north, anti-communism, Tonkin gulf, pacification, dominoes, U.S. incursions (as opposed to North Vietnam invasions), protective reactions, strategic bombing, body counts, Vietnamization, and prisoners of war.

Others of more liberal persuasions have tried to sell us on the notion that the U.S. "involvement" is a mistake... that it is wrong to want to be world policemen... that if we could only chop off some funds from those crazy generals in the Pentagon ... all would be well.

We in CPP have to make our position clear, that

1. The war in South East Asia is not a mistake (although many have been mistaken) but a logical conclusion to an economic system of imperialism.
2. We must therefore take a clear anti-imperialist position - a position which sees the corporation as the major enemy of the people of the world. (Multinational conglomerates such as ITT have more recourse to power than most countries.)
3. And as a consequence CPP must strengthen and support actions taken against the corporate structure.

The late 1960's were years of organized protest against the war. The early 70's will be years of organized protest against the cause of that war, monopoly capital, and the corporations that make up its structure. This has begun already with actions at ITT, IBM, Sikorsky Aircraft, GE, Honeywell, Standard Oil, happening around the country. For its own part, CPP has launched Project IBM - the company that owns modern technology. We need your continued support and a renewed and strengthened activism to carry the struggle further.

Footnotes

(1) Magdoff, Age of Imperialism, 1969. p 176
(2) Asian Survey, 1971. Summary by Chairman of the Council on Foreign Relations
(3) An American oil geologist, Far Eastern Economic Review, 2/5/72
(4) Hayden, Opposition Air War, 4/12/72
(5) Nussbaum, Far Eastern Economic Review, 7/3/71
(6) Chomsky, Ramparts, 5/72
(7) Hayden, Opposition Air War, 4/12/72
(8) In a supplement supplied by a Saigon News Service
(9) Chomsky, Ramparts, 5/72
(10) Chomsky, Ramparts, 5/72

13

The attempt to work collectively within the corporation has to be covert. Management is hostile to collective organization. Individualism and bureaucracy are the psychological and organizational principles which have been found to be most conducive to producing profits. It is difficult to develop collective identity and responsibility when management defines hierarchical responsibility and authority. Since few workers really identify their goals with those of the corporation, it is easy to say "Why bother? I'll only be here for eight hours. When I get home a martini or a joint will remove my alienation." It isn't worth the risk.

Working collectively would require the cooperation of at least project leaders, and the pressures put on them often destroy the effort. The pressure of deadlines makes it more tempting to do the work yourself or revert to some kind of authority. At first, working collectively is slower and less sure. Retraining and reconditioning is required to break the patterns of response to authority and fear. To break these patterns also requires some liberated space to grow in because management hostility is initially stronger than the collective strength.

Imagine a project leader going to a manager and saying that a project will be delayed because the workers want to work collectively. He or she would be out of a job. A project leader is paid to supervise, not turn that authority over to a group. A programmer is paid to code, not debate policy.

In summary, workers in a corporation are too little concerned with the product of their labor and too oppressed by explicit and implicit power relationships to be able to form a collective, and managers are too closely identified with corporate philosophy and goals and too imbued with the use of power to want to work collectively.

The alternatives are few. Not working is an individual alternative for some, but is out of reach for most workers. Another possibility is setting up alternate collectives to do good work in a human way. A few attempts have been made and a couple are ongoing, collectives doing research and service work for movement and public service groups. But most have failed. Computers are controlled by the corporations and the military. The technological and capital resources do not exist in sufficient strength to support counter collectives economically. And once doing good work is sacrificed to making money in order to survive, idealistic values fail rapidly.

The psychological problems in themselves are substantial, and apply to the example of the Interrupt Collective as well as the workplace. We come to collective meetings with all the alienation and hostility picked up at our jobs and with all the individualistic and bureaucratic conditioning which we have had. In most of us there is a tendency to act like "editors", to censure political viewpoints or the quality of articles, to fall back to authoritative modes of relating under the pressure of getting an issue out, to distinguish between the old experienced hands and the newcomers. It is easier to do something than to share a skill with someone new. It is hard to let someone learn painfully or to greet effort and caring with support instead of criticizing the result. We fight these tendencies, recognize them as vestiges of the way we were trained to relate to others, but it is sometimes hard to be as "collective" as we want to be. Our successes are greater than our failings, but they are hard won and we require continual self-criticism.

WORK COLLECTIVELY!

14

Map

CHINA

NORTH VIETNAM

BURMA

HA NOI•
Haiphong•

LUANG PRABANG
Plain of Jars

GULF of TONKIN

LAOS

HAINAN

•VIENTIANE

Udorn •

MEKONG RIVER

Demarcation Line

THAILAND

•Hue
•DaNang

Sarayane

Ubon•

•Pakse

Khorat •

Attopeu

•BANGKOK

•Angkor

MEKONG RIVER

Tonle Sap

CAMBODIA

SOUTH VIETNAM

Kompong Cham

GULF of SIAM

PHNOM PENH

•SVayRieng

Takeo•

•SAIGON

Kompong Som
(Sihanoukville)

RCA
--MINISID sensors (cost $1,700 and last only 90 days)
--IOD multiple sensor package for Army helicopters
--Storage drum for TACFIRE

GE
--Electronic countermeasures for bombers
--Low light level TV's for Puff the Magic Dragon Gunships
--Mortar locating radar

HONEYWELL
--MAGID sensors
--Computers for the worldwide military command and control system
--Air explosives, BLU-26 anti-personnel & anti-material bombs, BLU-54 anti-personnel mines

ITT
--Airborne Loran receiver for F-4 fighter bombers.
--Electronic countermeasures for B-52s.
--Mortar locator for the Army.
--Infared electronic binoculars.
--Anti-personnel weapons.

"'We had a good year, even though we were faced with a declining space and defense budget.' That's the way R.C. Pittman, president, Federal Electric Corporation of Paramus, sizes up 1971. Federal Electric is the worldwide service associate of International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation.

One of the highlights of the year was FEC's major breakthrough into Southeast Asia, said Pittman. He referred to the integrated communications system in Thailand and South Vietnam which Federal Electric now operates and maintains for the Strategic Communications Command (STRATCOM) under a contract worth approximately $17 million a year. Additional STRATCOM contracts are held by Federal Electric in West Germany and Okinawa."

The Bergen Record, January 14, 1972

...The People's Republic of China, now purchasing large quantities of electronic and scientific equipment from Western countries, could become a substantial new computer market for the US". Comp. World 2/23/72

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"The third booklet, "Health: Big Business for Computers," documents how large corporations have entered the medical field to take advantage of a developing $63 billion health industry. They quite naturally carry forth the priority of profit-making. Computer usage for direct patient care is rare and when used is only available to those who can afford very expensive medical assistance.

"The major themes raised by Computer People for Peace are that computers are here to stay and so we must understand how they affect our lives."   The Guardian

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