

WORKERS WORLD

Vol. 7, No. 23

184

NOVEMBER 24, 1965

10 CENTS

More GI's to Die as LBJ Steps Up War BRING THEM HOME NOW!

Marchers Want Peace NOW, Not "Eventually"! War and Peace in Washington, DC

NOVEMBER 21 — U.S. withdrawal now—or “eventually”? is the question the anti-war movement will be faced with in Washington this Thanksgiving weekend.

This question was sharply put and clearly answered by the organization, *Youth Against War and Fascism* in a large advertisement last week in the weekly *National Guardian*. The ad called for immediate withdrawal and suggested that the Washington marchers make this their principal slogan.

“To talk of negotiations [as does the Sane Nuclear Policy Committee] while U.S. troops continue to occupy Vietnam,” said the ad, “is to demand surrender of the Vietnamese people. It is to demand that North Vietnam relinquish its national sovereignty and that the National Liberation Front abandon the people’s long struggle for independence and social justice. It is because Johnson knows this that he can speak of such negotiations.”

The question of now or “eventually” — was already implicit when it was announced several weeks ago that both the Sane Nuclear Policy Committee and the National Coordinating Committee to End the War in Vietnam were holding simultaneous events in Washington this week.

“Sane,” whose leaders belong to the liberal wing of the ruling Establishment itself, calls for “negotiations” and

“eventual” troop withdrawal. The NCCEWV which is mainly based on the radical wing of the youth and student anti-war movement, tends to favor immediate withdrawal regardless of the political effect that may have on the

(Continued on page 4)

Battles Getting Bloodier as War Gets Dirtier; White House, Pentagon Plan Still More Slaughter

NOVEMBER 22—Last week’s bloody, six-day battle at Ia Drang is being touted by the war-mad officer caste as a “victory.” Whether or not it really is one for them, it certainly is no victory for the poor U.S. soldiers, living and dead, who waded through the carnage

for the benefit of a handful of U.S. bankers and financiers.

The dead were more than defeated; they were betrayed.

They were betrayed by their own officers, who grossly underestimated the devotion and last-ditch patriotism (not to mention the firepower) of the Vietnamese they fought, and led them to their destruction.

They were betrayed by the Secretary of Defense, who said a year and a half ago that U.S. troops would be getting out of Vietnam by the end of 1965.

They were betrayed by the President of the United States, who said so often, “I seek no wider war,” but ordered a wider war to start against North Vietnam to start on February 7 of this year.

They were further betrayed in this case because, according to U.S. reports, it was North Vietnamese troops, recently arrived in the South, who killed them. And obviously, Johnson’s long bombing of the North must have finally provoked them to do this.

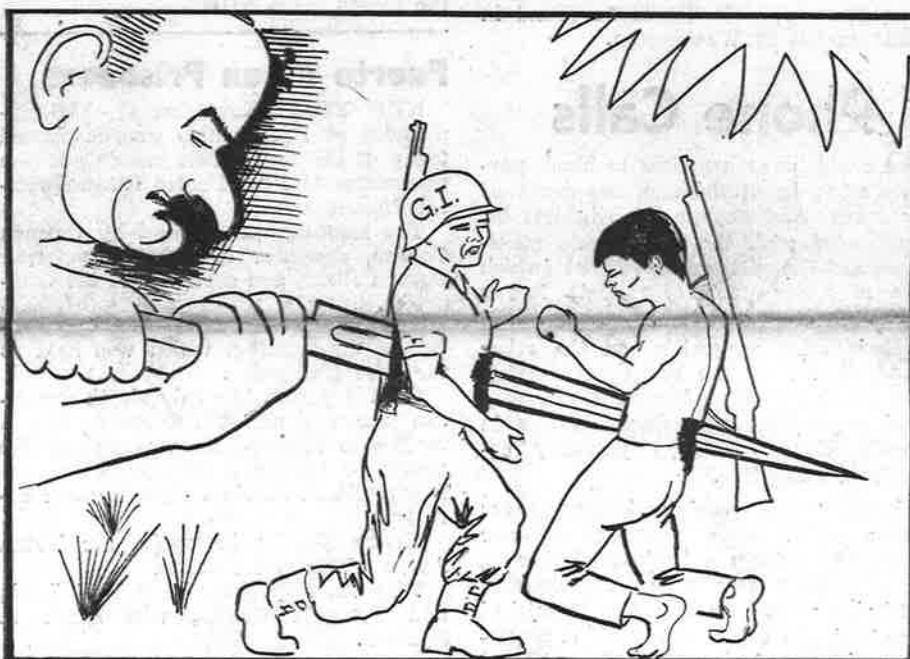
And Johnson still further betrayed the now-dead soldiers by planning his attack on the North at least a year before his February 7 bombing attack. (This was revealed by Joseph Alsop in his column of February 24, 1964.)

Thus the mass murderers who slaughter the Vietnamese people also arranged the deaths of the American youths who fell at Ia Drang.

The U.S. soldiers were stabbed in the back. The U.S. government, which they

(Continued on page 2)

"Behind" the Boys in Vietnam



How Do They Do It?

At First They Had Only Sticks, Stones — and Heart!

How do the Vietnamese independence fighters stand up to tanks, machineguns, heavy artillery, bombing planes, poison gas and the most sophisticated barbarities of warfare that the wealthiest civilization in history can produce?

Aside from the great moral and spiritual power generated by the defense of their homeland and the consciousness of the justice of their cause, what weapons do they have to inflict the awful casualties on U.S. troops that they are now doing?

Maybe North Vietnam is now sending south as much heavy weaponry as it feasibly can and maybe it has done so ever since the U.S. started bombing the North last February. But this help would still be limited by the resources of North Vietnam and only relatively light weapons can be taken down hundreds of miles of jungle trails subject to the harassment of U.S. bombers.

The following reports on the state of weapons in the liberation forces as late as 1963 may throw some light on the fierce devotion to liberty that motivates the liberation forces and the vast majority of the South—and North—Vietnamese people.

April 25, 1963. From Malcolm M. Bruce, Chief Associated press correspondent in S. Vietnam for the preceding year and a half:

“Most Viet Cong weapons are

U.S. military weapons captured in ambushes on government units and attacks on outposts. Often a Viet Cong unit is organized initially with no weapons. (Our emphasis.)

“The political organizer tells his men and women they must fight at first with hand-made arms — spears, daggers, swords and crude shotguns. To get better weapons the unit must capture them from the enemy. The system evidently works.”

June 16, 1963. From a Jack Raymond, at that time in Washington for the *New York Times*:

“A collection of Viet Cong weapons gathered by members of the Air Force’s First Commando group includes crude homemade shotguns with barrels made of water pipe. The hand-cut stock is carved out of bamboo. . . .

“The Viet Cong forces are also

using ancient crossbows, normally hunting weapons.”

August 14, 1963. From David Halberstam, *New York Times* correspondent in Vietnam:

“The year has seen a marked improvement in Viet Cong weapons stores. Most of the new strength lies in U.S. captured weapons.”

It was against this people-in-arms that Johnson decided to widen the war. But his attack on North Vietnam has of course brought the Democratic Republic of Vietnam into the conflict in the South as well and galvanized millions more into struggle and increased the fire-power of the liberation forces. The latter are thus able to inflict ever more deadly damage on the U.S. troops.

But the greatest weapon of the Vietnamese independence fighters is still their willingness to die for liberty no matter what the odds.

Johnson's Box Score in Vietnam (Yearly Battle Deaths According to U.S. Official Figures)

1961 and 1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
32	76	136	878	?

How Many More GI's Will US Big Business Kill?

Drew Pearson, the Washington insider, revealed in his column of November 18 that:

“A recommendation by the Joint Chiefs of Staff [suggests] that instead of talking peace, we bomb Hanoi, its port Haiphong, and the many ships—French, British, Soviet, Greek and Panamanian—unloading war supplies there.”

“The President gets irritated if there’s any publicity” about this recommendation, or about the “highly secret” debate over it that has been taking place at the LBJ ranch, adds Pearson.

Assuming that Johnson’s “irritation” is caused by some slight disagreement with the Joint Chiefs’ horrendous proposal—and not by his fear of how the people of the United States would react to it—this revelation still raises a big question indeed.

The Joint Chiefs are the top commanders of all the American youths serving in the Armed Forces. If they are willing to widen the war so far as to risk a conflict with the Soviet Union, and even with their own present allies as well, then how many U.S. lives will they not sacrifice in Vietnam itself?

They have already stepped up the U.S. battle deaths, according to their own figures, from an average of less than three a week in 1964 to almost a hundred a week this month.

What do they plan for 1966?

WORKERS WORLD

Founded March, 1959
Editorial office:

46 W. 21st Street, New York, N. Y.

Telephone: AL 5-0352

Editor: Vincent Copeland
Manager: Dorothy Ballan



Vol. 7, No. 23 — November 24, 1965

Published Twice Monthly

Truth Is the First Casualty — But Not the Last!

The Stevenson-Sevareid revelation that Hanoi proposed peace talks last fall has already been buried after a week of indignation from editorialists and columnists. It is now being played down because it embarrasses the Johnson Administration, which now admits to having concealed the Hanoi offer from the American people.

The question of whether Hanoi was "sincere" or "insincere" (Dean Rusk's "antenna" told him it was the latter) is not the point. The question of whether Hanoi had conditions "unacceptable" to the White-House-Pentagon clique is not the point.

The point is that this information was withheld from the American people while Johnson and the generals prepared to send hundreds of thousands more U.S. youth to the slaughter.

Doubly branding Johnson as a deceiver is the fact that the offer was made during the Goldwater-Johnson election campaign precisely at the moment Johnson was passing himself off to the voters as an "I-hate-war" candidate.

As millions of people are now beginning to understand, Johnson's real program on the war was no different from Goldwater's. And Goldwater himself has made the matter still clearer by announcing that he would be doing exactly the same as Johnson in Vietnam if he were President.

Who is lying? Who is telling the truth? Who is attacking freedom, who is endangering democracy? The people don't know.

But the real enemy, some are beginning to suspect, is not to be found in Vietnam but in Washington.

Those "Pacifist" Phone Calls

It was suspicious enough when the story came out that the Long Island widow of a U.S. soldier killed in Vietnam was cruelly taunted by an opponent of the war—over the phone.

But last week the foul trick was repeated — this time on the family of John Bell, Jr., a black Marine, in Tampa, Florida. The bereaved family told police they had received three such calls.

To any thinking person, this is strong circumstantial evidence that all such calls are made by the ultra-rightist and fascist elements—or even the CIA (who have lately been exposed for hiring Vietnamese to dress as "Viet Cong" and commit atrocities). The idea, of course, being to discredit the anti-war movement.

It is utterly impossible that there could be three persons in Tampa Florida who oppose the war in Vietnam and

who could be so heartless to black parents as to taunt them on the death of their son. And anyone the slightest bit acquainted with the civil rights movement and the anti-war movement (which are at many points identical) knows that this is so.

It is all too possible, on the other hand, that there are racist super-patriots (such as those in the KKK, who held a pro-Viet War demonstration in Austin Texas recently) perfectly capable of doing this.

What kind of people make anonymous phone calls? Is a militant anti-war fighter who faces a brain-washed mob, or a pacifist who hates all violence, likely to wound or frighten anguished people on the telephone? Or is it a cowardly bully, of the type who with 20 others comes out of a pro-war parade to beat up a single opponent?

The US, the UN and Peoples China

The 47 to 47 vote (with 20 abstaining) that kept Peoples China from taking her rightful seat in the UN was indeed a "humiliating setback" for the prestige of the United States, as the Chinese leaders said.

Every chancellery in the world understands the lengths to which Washington went to get a big vote against China, and views the result as a Pyrrhic victory for Johnson and the big money boys who run the U.S.

The constantly growing strength of the forces for seating Peoples China is not wholly due to growing anti-imperialist sentiment in the UN, however. Some imperialist countries, notably France, voted for China out of maneuverist and secondary considerations.

But the vote does reflect a somewhat waning influence of Washington over the countries of the world—for one reason and another. And the UN itself,

which was designed and founded as an instrument of U.S. policy (subject to an occasional braking effect by the Soviet Union) and still is such an instrument, threatens to be less completely manageable in the future.

This was the first time the U.S. failed to obtain a simple majority on this vital issue. And as Hsinhua, the press agency of Peoples China, correctly said, it was a "heavy blow" to U.S. policy.

Nuclear Blackmail

After the close vote on seating Peoples China at the UN, the New York Times said editorially on November 18:

"It is clear that in a roll call free from diplomatic pressures, a majority of the 117 members would admit Communist China."

—Whose "diplomatic pressures"?

Rob Williams Hits U.S. Hypocrisy On Rhodesian Slave-Owners 'Independence'

HAVANA, Nov. 16 (Hsinhua)—Afro-American leader, Robert Williams said here today that "The only freedom or justice the black majority in Southern Rhodesia can expect is that which is wrested from the oppressor by the force of arms."

(Williams, organizer of the first battle stories of men fighting on, though wounded, and dying nobly are being written to inspire the living to sign up for the dirty war and shame the mothers and sweethearts to give up their sons and lovers to a still greater carnage for the glory of Standard Oil and the First National City Bank.)

In an interview with a Hsinhua correspondent here he said that "The brutal racist oppressors and tyrants are never humane enough to manifest com-

passion for those they brutally oppress and exploit."

He denounced the event in Southern Rhodesia as "a challenge to the justice and freedom loving peoples of the world."

The U.S. government's proclaimed position of opposing the racist white minority government in Southern Rhodesia "is sheer hypocrisy in its vilest form."

"Many U.S. Southern counties, where the Black People are brutally lynched, terrorized, exploited and savagely dehumanized, are ruled violently by white minorities," he added. Moreover, he said, "the U.S. government itself is a white supremacy government and has imperialistic vested interests in the continued rule of white supremacy in Rhodesia."

The U.S. government, he continued, was only opposed to the use of force when used for the liberation of the Black People from white tyranny in Rhodesia and the United States.

"Motivated by this knowledge of the omnipresent nature of U.S. imperialism—mainstay of British and all other imperialisms—we rise to stand in the ranks of our oppressed African brothers. We propose righteous violence of freedom against tyrannical violence of oppression and slavery."

—Bring Them Home!

(Continued from Page 1)

trusted, conspired in their deaths.

And now the inevitable highly-paid battle stories of men fighting on, though wounded, and dying nobly are being written to inspire the living to sign up for the dirty war and shame the mothers and sweethearts to give up their sons and lovers to a still greater carnage for the glory of Standard Oil and the First National City Bank.

Only the ignorant and the moneybag murderers can support this brutal war. The vast majority of the American people have every reason to demand: bring the troops home NOW!

Puerto Rican Prisoners

NEW YORK, November 21—U.S. oppression of Puerto Rico was denounced today at the first public meeting of the Committee to Free Puerto Rican Political Prisoners.

The meeting was chaired by Carmen Collazo, daughter of political prisoner Oscar Collazo, and chairman of the Committee.

Fifty North- and Latin-Americans attended the meeting, which was held at the Free University.

Ruth Reynolds, the only North American who was arrested in the revolution in Puerto Rico in 1950, recounted the events of 1950 and 1954 in which the Puerto Rican freedom fighters were arrested.

Helene Gershowitz spoke for Youth Against War and Fascism.

The other speakers were Levi Laub, and Pelagrin Garcia, who spoke in Spanish.

Puerto Rican Independence Group Headquarters Burned Down in \$30,000 Blaze.

SAN JUAN, P.R., Nov. 15—The national headquarters of the Pro-Independence Movement of Puerto Rico (MPI), located in Rio Piedras, a San Juan district, was burned down last night at 9:00 P.M.

Police investigators have already ruled out the possibility of an accident by admitting that the back door of the headquarters was forced open and that there was evidence the fire was started in five different places in the headquarters. The offices of the Pro-Independence University Federation (FUPI), situated on the same floor level, was also burned down.

When FUPI and MPI students heard of the fire, they rushed quickly from a street demonstration to help put out the fire, but everything of value, estimated at \$30,000, had already been destroyed.

The outraged students immediately organized a rally in front of the ruins of the MPI headquarters where independentist speakers shouted down "this act of repression by Yankee imperialism."

An official statement by the Political Commission of MPI said in part:

"If, for whatever reason, the government of Puerto Rico cannot discover and punish the criminals of the aggression which we have suffered, we will take the responsibility of enforcing that justice which the government is incapable of guaranteeing."

NEW YORK, Nov. 16—The Vito Marcantonio Mission of MPI here has called for a picket line for Tuesday, November 23, at the U.S. Mission to the U.N. at 5:30 P.M.

By Western Union

NOV. 19, 1965

U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL NICHOLAS B. KATZENBACH
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

WE PROTEST THE BURNING OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE MOVEMENT FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE (MPI) LAST SUNDAY AND DEMAND THE PUNISHMENT OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE. THIS WAS A POLITICAL CRIME WITH SUSPICIOUS EARMARKS OF THE NOTORIOUS CLOAK AND DAGGER EXPERTS OF THE CIA. IT WAS CLEARLY AN ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE THE INDEPENDENCE FORCES WHOSE CIVIL LIBERTIES YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO DEFEND. WE DEMAND YOU INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW.
SAM MARCY, CHAIRMAN
WORKERS WORLD PARTY

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

A 6 mo. sub to WORKERS WORLD for only \$1.25 — 1 yr. for \$2.50.

Fill in coupon and mail to:

Workers World, 46 W. 21st St., N.Y. 10, N.Y.

NAME

STREET

CITY..... ZONE..... STATE.....

At Veterans Day Rally in New York's Union Square

World War 2 Paratrooper Hits Viet War

NEW YORK— A World War II veteran told a Union Square rally on Veterans' Day that "The rank and file guys don't want this war."

On November 11 the forces of reaction usually take to the streets to stir up support for U.S. imperialism. This past November 11 the people stayed away in droves.

But *Youth Against War and Fascism* held a Union Square Veterans' Day Rally to End the war in Vietnam, and attracted a turnout of nearly a thousand. The New York Times reported that the much hoopla-ed pro-war veterans' parade consisted of about a thousand and added that the Union Square anti-war rally brought out 500 at 5:15 P.M., fifteen minutes before it was scheduled to begin.

The speakers, mostly members of *Youth Against War and Fascism*, were applauded for their strong stand in demanding that the GI's come home now. The featured speaker, Mr. Fayette O. Richardson, a combat veteran of World

War II, provided an answer to the jingoistic calls for "patriotism" being made in other parts of the city.

Mr. Richardson, a paratrooper who jumped into Normandy on D-Day, contrasted the feelings of the soldiers toward the two wars. "The rank and file guys don't want this war," he said of Vietnam. In World War II, he and his buddies were willing to fight because they believed that they were fighting Nazism.

When they heard before they were even back from overseas that generals and politicians were pushing through a peace-time draft, the returning soldiers, who thought they had fought against just that sort of thing, shouted with anger and wrote letters home in protest.

"It is a tragedy that U.S. soldiers are dying in Vietnam," said Mr. Richardson. "But it is not a tragedy that the people of Vietnam are fighting back. They are fighting against a colonialism to win their independence, just as the best

men in this country did some 190 years ago. . . . The tragedy is that young American boys are being forced into the Army to be sent over to do this dirty job of trying to crush the Vietnamese people."

Fascists, some of them from the Nazi-like National Renaissance Party, came to oppose the rally. Those who came to break up the rally, were surprised to find a 100-strong defense guard. *Youth Against War and Fascism* had announced the defense guard in its leaflet and

got calls from many people anxious to join it.

Those who actually tried to attack the rally were expelled, but most verbal provocations were ignored (though some hecklers' signs were torn up by guards), since the purpose of the defense guard was to see that the rally was conducted in an orderly fashion, as well as to protect the people defending it.

Mr. Richardson concluded his speech by saying that veterans who fought against Nazism have the right to ask this government:

"Who the hell are you to talk to us about freedom and free elections when you haven't even got the guts to allow a free vote on this dirty war!"



Through the Magnifying Glass

By John Moore

What was it like for young GI's who were killed in recent Vietnam battles? Picture one of them.

He lies on his back all alone in the dark in the high grass. He can see the stars shining in the black sky through the high stalks of grass above him.

He knows he is dying.

When the mortar shell first crashed in and he felt the tearing pain and the terror of knowing he had been hit and hit bad, he screamed and cried for help.

But no help has come yet. There were running feet, and shots, other screams, and then, after a while, silence. The first terrible pain has finally changed to a sort of numbness. And his terror of death gradually has subsided to a numb half acceptance of the fact that he is going to die.

"I'm nineteen" (or twenty, or twenty-one), he thinks to himself, "and this is all there is to it." A sudden wave of fear comes again but it is smaller and it goes away and he lies there, his mouth dry as cotton, looking at a spear-shaped piece of grass above him, and the questions begin to form in his mind: "Why? Why? Why am I here? Why was I sent here? Why am I dying here?"

There have, of course, been the many indoctrination lectures about Communism delivered by officers whose arrogant orders and whip-handed authority have long since taught him the lesson that they were his enemies themselves. So what they said never meant much.

So the question is, "Why?"

He does not know that back home the men who collected the profits from the making of the helicopters he and his buddies ride on (one of which will come to pick up his body) have recently enjoyed seeing their stock values increase at a tremendous rate. In the past 12 months Bell Aircraft stock has risen 47 per cent; Sikorsky Helicopter, 55 per cent; and Vertol (Boeing) 68 per cent. In the first nine months of 1965, while he and thousands of other young GI's were being shipped over to Vietnam, U.S. helicopter manufacturers received 600 million dollars worth of new orders. And all are expanding production and anticipating new profit peaks as they build replacements for helicopters shot down.

It seems to him a lifetime since he was hit. It has changed the world for him, reduced it. His world is now confined to the dull ache, the feeling of rough matted grass under his neck, and the terrible dryness in his throat. His desire for the future consists mainly of one thing: a cold drink of water. But he does not have it and he thinks, "Why?" Why does he have to hurt and die like this?

Since the "search and destroy" mission started he has not seen a newspaper. So he does not know that the U.S. government, the government that sent him here to die, though it said almost daily that it was for "peaceful negotiations," has just been caught in another lie.

It claimed to be "ready to negotiate" at any time and claimed that the North Vietnamese government refused to negotiate. Now as he lies here the truth is being headlined across the world that North Vietnam offered to negotiate long before.

And the government that sent him here to die concealed this offer and lied that there had been no offer.

The terrible dryness in his throat blots out everything and he tries again (even though every movement hurts) to find his canteen where it should be on his belt. But instead, his hand only touches a wet sticky mass that he knows is part of his body. The movement makes the pain unbearable and he stops with a groan and lies still. Though his throat still aches with dryness, the other pain lessens to a dull throbbing. He feels weaker and it seems to be getting darker. He wonders how long it will go on like this . . . and, "Why?"

Another news item he has missed is the statement by one of the sons of the Rockefeller clan who bemoaned the anti-war demonstrations but expressed belief that most of America's youth had the "manhood" to support this war. But the young soldier would probably not have thought it significant anyway.

He would not have known that the Rockefeller scion who made the statement (from one of the Rockefeller mansions on the vast Rockefeller Tarrytown estate) was expressing Rockefeller policy of supporting the war because of the fact that Rockefeller-controlled oil companies consider the Far East "the richest potential area for future expansion." That they consider it a must for American military machines to crush any movement which threatens to oppose plans of the Rockefellers and their business associates.

And he will never find out.

The young soldier's last movement has brought a fresh flow of blood from the severed arteries of his mangled body and, with the rush of blood, the life that kept his brain questioning fades and dies.

His thoughts, hopes, and questions die. His nineteen-year-old life is over. His parents will get a telegram telling them of their son's death. It will not mention the questions.

Long Arm of U.S. Oil Co.'s and U.S. Union

Canadian Strike Now in 3rd Month



Police violence in Canadian oil strike at Burnaby, BC.

In an important, hard fought, two month old strike in British Columbia, Canada, oil refinery workers in the Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers International Union have been fighting scabs, police force, government legal gimmickry, while hampered by the pussyfooting of union brass.

In one incident pickets attempting to stop a scab truck leaving the British-American Oil Company's Burnaby plant were assaulted by police and two pickets were knocked to the ground. Others angrily assailed police as "scab herders," "Yankee Lovers," and "finks."

In the middle of October a large East Coast tanker arrived with oil products from South America. It had a non-union crew and docked with non-union tugs. With the help of these supplies, the plant is now operating with the supervisory staff acting as scabs.

Following is a commentary on the strike from one on the scene.

VANCOUVER, Nov. 10 (delayed)—It is important to bear in mind the character of District 9, Canadian Section of the Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers' International Union. The Canadian Director of the Union is appointed by the International President in Denver, Colorado, U.S.A.

All Canadian locals are asked to endorse and join a mandatory program, which gives all power to the Director.

The Director calls whichever unit or units he wishes, out on strike. He has a rubber stamp called the "National Advisory Committee" composed of four members across Canada. One unit, Shellburn, has consistently refused to endorse the mandatory program, favoring a Province-wide or regional strike action.

British Columbia has the strongest trade union movement of any province in the oil business. Five of the six oil refineries are members of the Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers Union. The sixth, a British-American refinery, is an independent union. The only section of Imperial Oil (Standard Oil), the largest oil company in Canada, which is organized, is the B.C. section. The oil workers are organized well enough to prevent the building trades from crossing their picket lines, as happened in the East.

The Canadian Director, Duncan, called British-American Oil out on strike across the country, including Royalite, a subsidiary of British-American. The strike started in a small marketing unit of nine men in Winnipeg, Manitoba on Sept. 11; the O.C. & A.W. Union section, of British-American marketing struck here in Burnaby on Sept. 14. They struck when the refinery was shut down for overhaul.

(Continued on page 4)

U.S. Losses Escalate in Vietnam

GI's Sent to Die Against a People in Arms

Exclusive (in USA) to Workers World From China Features, Peking

Hundreds of American boys sent by the Pentagon to South Vietnam are dying in the jungles of the Western Highlands, which became known as the "graveyard" of the French Expeditionary Force.

The inhabitants of the highlands, the home of numerous ethnic minorities, are now fighting against the Americans as gallantly as they did in their resistance to the colonial troops of France.

Located 700-800 metres (over 2,000 feet) above sea-level, the highlands, or "Hauts Plateaux" as the French dubbed it, is strategically situated near the borders of Cambodia and Laos. "Anyone who controls it controls the whole of Indo-China," said the French. They tried their best but failed to capture it in years of costly warfare.

Washington is repeating the French effort, and it, too, is failing.

A great part of the highlands, covering 57,000 square kilometres, is in the hands of the South Vietnam Liberation Army and guerilla units, who have driven the puppet troops and their American masters into a few big towns.

One of the largest battles between the U.S. Army and the liberation forces in the Western Highlands took place at the mountain village of Thuan Ninh in Binh Dinh Province. At dawn on September 18, 2,000 U.S. troops, mostly from the 101st Airborne Division, mounted a combined airborne and ground attack on the village, which stands 30 kilometres (20 miles) north-east of the American base of An Khe.

The U.S. command believed a big



U.S. dead at Thuan Ninh after September battle.

build-up of liberation forces was taking place there. They sent 60 U.S. helicopters in relay, full of paratroopers, while another American force headed for the village under cover of artillery fire.

The place the Americans picked for landing the paratroopers was a small clearing 500 by 200 metres (yards), hemmed in by hills. As the U.S. troops landed, they met with withering mortar and machine-gun fire from concealed fortifications and trenches. They were soon cut into several pockets and their ranks were thinned out as many of them were mowed down.

Reporting on the battle, United Press International said, "The fire was so heavy that the helicopters could neither land reinforcements nor carry out the wounded."

U.S. aircraft then came to rescue the doomed paratroopers, but they could neither bomb nor strafe the Vietnamese troops who had already charged into the midst of the paratroopers. Four of the aircraft were shot down and the others flew off after jettisoning their bombs, many of which fell on their own soldiers.

The place was strewn with American dead when the fighting ended the following morning. One entire American airborne company, totalling more than 200 men, was put out of action, and 10 U.S. aircraft and helicopters were shot down.

On the same day the paratroopers were routed, the guerrillas also shot down a U.S. Army transport plane in another part of Binh Dinh Province.

All the 80 men on board lost their lives reported the South Vietnam Liberation Press Agency.

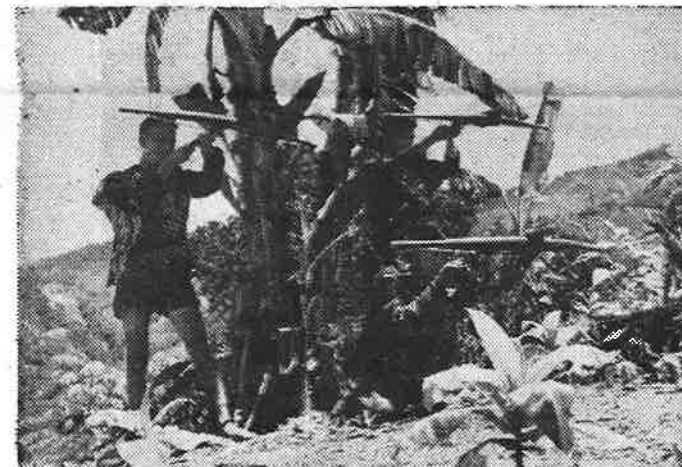
Another 270 American troops were killed and 15 U.S. helicopters were shot down in the same province during an American mopping-up operation against two villages in mid October.

The heaviest losses so far suffered by the U.S. Army were in the battle for the seaside village of Van Tuong in Quang Ngai Province. Here the liberation forces killed or wounded more than 900 marines in the two days of fighting ending August 19, according to the Liberation Press Agency.

American Army losses are growing as Washington escalates the war. In 1961 there were only 30 U.S. casualties, when American soldiers numbered 3,500 in south Vietnam. The figure went up to over 2,100 in 1964, when there were 30,000 GIs fighting there. The U.S. Army strength shot up to 140,000 by October, 1965, and there were close to 5,000 casualties in the seven months ending September 1965, according to figures released by the Liberation Press Agency.

The rulers in Washington first tried to subdue south Vietnam by creating a puppet army armed with American guns and officers by U.S. "advisers." This turned out a complete failure. Plagued by desertions and low morale, the puppet army began to collapse. This compelled President Johnson to dispatch American boys to fight in the jungles of Indo-China.

But what is taking place in south Vietnam is showing the world that neither preponderance of modern weapons and aircraft, nor the use of poison gas and the sending of GIs by the thousand can conquer a people who have mastered the art of people's war and are fighting to free their land from alien enslavement.



Vietnam Montagnards fighting with crossbows. Women laying sharpened sticks in stream. As war gets bigger,

Bows and Arrows Against an Air Base!

QUINHON, S. Vietnam, Nov. 19—A UPI reporter said today that so-called "Viet Cong" guerrillas are using bows and arrows in night-time attacks against guards at the air base here.

The reason in this case, he claims, is not lack of guns, but desire for secrecy.

The guerrillas have adopted the cross-bow of the Montagnards (shown in picture at left). Arrows are made from large palm fronds. They are usually from 18 inches to two feet long and can inflict a fairly serious wound.

The reporter did not explain how guerrillas are able to get within arrow-shooting distance of a base the U.S. has fortified for many months.



Women laying sharpened sticks in stream. A war gets bigger, GI's must face modern firepower and mass destruction, too.

— Canadian Strike

(Continued from Page 3)

The Union brass policy was to have no militancy on the picket line, despite the fact that the company was crossing the picket lines with scab trucks and drivers. The Union brass actually entertained the idea that the other oil companies would grab the British-American accounts and in a few weeks British-American would be forced to its knees and would have to submit to the demands of the union because of this rival company throat-cutting.

How naive can union leaders get? They fail to understand that the Oil Barons will unite in a fight against striking workers. And unite they did!

Because of a Provincial labor law requiring a 90-day strike deadline, the International Union has now set a Provincial strike deadline for Nov. 15. At this time workers at Shell, Standard, Texaco, Home and Pacific Petroleum are scheduled to walk out.

The Provincial Minister of Labor Peterson threatens to intervene to stop this from happening.

The rank and file trade unionists say they will fight like hell to "shut her down" no matter what the government says. However, the International Union has great respect for the bourgeois courts and may try to prevent the strike from coming off.

The Canadian Director, on his own and without approval from the rank and file, reduced the Union demands. The Union was asking for 40 cents for one year; he changed this to 50 cents for two years. The demand for an increase for tradesmen, improvement in annual holidays and job security were all reduced by this so-called leader of the working men, The Director.

Right from the beginning, the companies have shown the initiative and have called the shots. The oil workers had better do some serious thinking, their own thinking for a change.

When two men were first fired at Imperial Oil for refusing to load British-American trucks, why the hell didn't that refinery strike in protest, and when 36 of the workers were fired for the same reason, why the hell didn't all the refineries strike in protest? No, the Union brass wanted to play chess with the rank and file workers and see if they could be as successful as their employers, who are masters at the game.

A trade unionist can diddle around with strike tactics in the name of science but the basic principle for a successful strike is still solidarity on the rank and file level with a working class orientation—no compromise except to strengthen one's resolutions! Those ingredients were what trade unionism was built on.

Helen Baylor

— War and Peace in Washington

(Continued from Page 1)

policies of the U.S. ruling class.

Addressing itself to the National Coordinating Committee's convention, the Youth Against War and Fascism ad proposed that the NCC—

"Immediately take up the question of organizing a demonstration for the 27th that will raise as its central demand: **WITHDRAW U.S. TROOPS FROM VIETNAM NOW.**"

The necessity for such an approach was underlined today when Sanford Gottlieb, national coordinator of Sane, was quoted in The New York Times as saying flatly:

"This is to be a demonstration in support of a negotiated settlement and not for a (U.S.) troop pullout."

But the vast majority of people who are going to Washington on the 27th are for demanding an immediate end to the war and the withdrawal of U.S. troops. Indeed, a very large number, probably also a majority, are actually unaware that they are expected to "be affirmative and creative" as Mr. Gottlieb puts it and that the march is "not a protest march"—(as he also said).

Actually, Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) which also issued a call for November 27—as did the NCC—demands immediate troop withdrawal. And it will be recalled that 25,000 people came to Washington on April 17 in

support of the SDS call at a time when the anti-war movement was smaller than today.

The people who are coming on November 27 will be at least as militant as those who came on April 17 and demanded "the total rejection of U.S. foreign policy" (in the words of the SDS statement at that time) and welcomed the banners that said "Bring the Troops Home."

As the Youth Against War and Fascism ad declared:

"The Sane program as expressed in its call for this march, differs sharply from that of the new and active anti-war movement."

And it explained further:

"In the Call, Sane asks of the U.S. government that it call for a 'cease-fire' and that it support the 'eventual withdrawal of all foreign military forces.' (YAWF's emphasis.) It further goes on to urge the Johnson Administration to declare its 'acceptance of negotiations with all concerned parties, including the Viet Cong. . . ."

"Sane's program begs the question of how to end the war. Its demands, although couched in terms of sympathy for the Vietnamese people, differ only slightly from the pronouncements of Johnson himself—the man who has personally ordered the continued escalation of this barbaric war."