

KENNETH, MO.
DUNKLIN DEMOCRAT

CPYRGHT

E. 7,486

MAR 21 1966

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WITHDRAW FROM VIET NAM while the enemy, born and rear

To The Daily Democrat:

It was once thought, and not too long ago, that actions speak louder than words. Viet Nam has effectively dispelled that notion. The President's sugary platitudes, echoed dutifully by Humphrey, Rusk, McNamara and Goldberg, have so far muffled the anguished cries of reality from Indochina. The unreality gap grows.

In the never-never land of administration rhetoric, the daily destruction of a tiny, primitive country by American air power is advertised as a fight for "freedom." Indiscriminate slaughter of Vietnamese villagers is the first stage of "pacification." Brutal suppression of a popular civil war goes under the rubric of "halting aggression." Support of the puppet Ky government and its landlord allies goes hand in hand with devotion to "democracy" and "self-determination." The native pro-American factions are known as "South Vietnamese"

ed in the same villages, are "Communists."

"Meeting our commitments" continues to be the favored official euphemism for napalming civilians, burning villages, torturing Viet Cong "suspects" and other atrocities. The Chinese, who have no troops outside East Asia, are "expansionist" and set on world revolution while the United States, with military bases, business investments and CIA counterrevolutionaries around the world, selflessly seek no bases or privileges.

We must not let sugary abstractions create a smoke screen for ugly realities. We must recognize murder as murder, even when committed by men in American uniforms against men, women and children of another race. Perhaps a war of self-defense justifies some atrocities; an aggressive war never does.

The United States should immediately cease all aggressive action in Viet Nam, withdraw all forces, and make reparation for the damage it has done. Our commitment to the pro-American faction in Viet Nam (we never had any other commitment there) could be fulfilled by providing asylum here or elsewhere for those who do not wish to take their chances with a Viet Cong government.

Bob Goodman
118 Trowbridge St.—Apt. 3
Cambridge, Mass.

CPYRGHT