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NEW MOBILIZATION GROUP MEETS PRESS IN HANOI

[Article: "You Have Helped Us Achieve A Better Understanding of Many Profound Issues"; Hanoi, Thong Nhat, Vietnamese, 20 November 1970, p 8]

Recently, a delegation of the New Mobilization Committee in the United States for ending the war in Vietnam visited our country. Before departing for home, the American friends happily expressed the following sentiments to a reporter from the newspaper Thong Nhat "Reunification": (phonetic)

Mr. Anthony Ac-gi-von: "Before visiting Vietnam, I had participated in a number of pro-Vietnam activities. I learned about Vietnam through books and through articles written by people who had been to Vietnam. I knew from films that Vietnam is very beautiful. These facts impelled me to want to visit Vietnam in order to obtain a better understanding and, at the same time, to try to find out the truth about the war which the U.S. government is waging here so that, when we return home, we can intensify our struggles in the United States to end the aggressive war in Vietnam.

The realities of your country have helped me to achieve a better understanding of many profound issues. This is especially true in regard to the matter of the struggle against the Americans during the war of destruction in North Vietnam. You demonstrated very strong determination, reflected in combat and production. This proves that the Vietnamese people are fully capable of overcoming all difficulties in order to fight and produce. Even the Vietnamese teenagers and children have made a beautiful impression on me. The teenagers and children of Vietnam are very courageous, joyful, and so forth.

The U.S. government's war in Vietnam has given rise to a resistance war right in the United States. Numerous organizations have been established for various age groups, and each has its own methods of operation appropriate to the character of its struggle. Recently, these organizations have attracted greater participation, particularly among the poor. Some organizations have reorientated their struggle, from the point of initially struggling only

FEB 23 1971

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Approved for Release  
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for their own happiness to the point of gradually recognizing that the immense expenditures for the war in Vietnam are swallowing up all of the funds for their welfare. Consequently, they have begun to struggle against the war. This is likewise true of new activists organizations among American soldiers. The reason that these organizations are struggling with their increasing strength is that they have clearly recognized the relationship between their interests and the war. They are conducting more and more struggles in order to keep from going to Vietnam. In the past, anyone who was drafted but failed to report or tore up his draft card, was thrown in jail by the government. At present, with more than 50 percent of the draftees failing to report and a constantly increasing number of people tearing up their draft cards, the American government has been revealed as ineffective in face of this movement.

The constant intensification of the movement of U.S. youth against military service has created a major obstacle for the American government. The earlier burning of the military recruitment camp in Philadelphia was a major victory for us. The burnt military recruitment lists have prolonged the military recruitment time for supplying the war in Vietnam, and so forth. Our struggles definitely will achieve many more successes in the future and so forth.

My first visit to Vietnam was also my first visit to a socialist country. I have clearly recognized the beautiful system through your equality in your way of life and in your work and social activities. I think that this is the essence of the socialist society.

(Phil Lawson)

Mr. Phin Lao-son: I bring with me two major ideas on my visit to Vietnam: first of all, I think that we are friends. I am visiting Vietnam as a fellow combattant. I also think that the people of North Vietnam have defeated the United States. Therefore, I want to visit Vietnam in order to study your experiences and struggle methods in order to go home to apply them to the struggle in our country, particularly for the struggle of our black people.

I have found considerable food for thought from the realities in Vietnam during the past several days. It is difficult to describe these thoughts but the thing which dominates and captivates my heart and mind more than anything else is your optimism and your confidence in the inevitability of victory. With these ideas, one struggles very aggressively.

In my Kansas City, the anti-war movement is primarily a movement of the black people. Some of the young people are opposed to the military service. The movement exists, but generally speaking, it is only in its initial stage. It is still necessary to further educate the people in order to bring the movement forward and have more successful activities. As far as our black people are concerned, the U.S. imperialists have exported the war from the United States to Vietnam, killing the Vietnamese people. The reason for this is that there is a war right in the United States which is intended to wipe out the black people in the United States. This fact

forces us to struggle and we think that this struggle must be able to change the system and to change the present life.

In visiting the Vietnamese Revolutionary Museum, we realize that it is necessary to struggle, as the Vietnamese people have done, to protect the national culture. As black people brought over from Africa, we too have our own culture. For this reason, after returning home from our visit to Vietnam, we will work together with the American people to further intensify the struggle to end the war in Vietnam, and, at the same time, to struggle to protect the culture of our people. There is one point which has given me considerable food for thought: Your victory has obviously not been determined by weapons but by the spirit of determination and the strength of solidarity of all the people. In my opinion, the reason that our movement has so long been weak is because it has lacked this spirit. In our struggle, we have also given more thought to weapons than to educating, mobilizing, and uniting the people carrying the weapons. This lesson of yours is particularly useful for us.

Martha Westover: We have achieved a better understanding of the problem by coming to Vietnam. People say that Vietnam is very poor. However, the facts indicate to me that this poverty is only external... Under that exterior, you have lived a very rich life, and have enthusiastically produced in order to supply the essential needs of the country. Despite such a fierce war environment, you have your vital necessities and your people are supplied all types of goods. In our country, on the outside it looks like there is very great prosperity, but actually only some people live like that. Most of our people live a life of poverty and misery and a large number of people go hungry. U.S

You are really happy. In the areas that I have passed through, I have seen you preparing materials such as bricks, tiles, cement, and so forth for rebuilding the country. This has given me much food for thought. Another image which I find it difficult to become accustomed to during my visit to your country is the image of Vietnamese women. The Vietnamese women are very simple, very normal, but very beautiful. Women participate in every combat and construction sector and in all social activities. This proves that the capability of Vietnamese women is very enormous and indispensable... A

At present, our American women are organizing the struggle against the U.S. government's war, using every different form. I am participating in an organization which is studying the American war industry. Through the publications of the Defense Department and the White House, this organization is studying how the U.S. government plans to unleash wars and what funds it will use to do this. The results of our research help local organizations to clearly perceive the government's objective in producing weapons of war, which is to serve the interests of military industrial groups, so that the local organizations can establish specific struggle plans in the centers of production of war weapons. Our work has begun to achieve success in a number of areas, particularly among American students.

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