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SUBJECT: The Paper Grenade

Publ of ...

Attached herewith is a copy of The Paper Grenade,
a newsletter published by the American Deserters Committee
in Stockholm.

PLEASE TRANSMIT DEPLY VIA LIAISON. MR. S. J. PAPICH

Attachment: a/s
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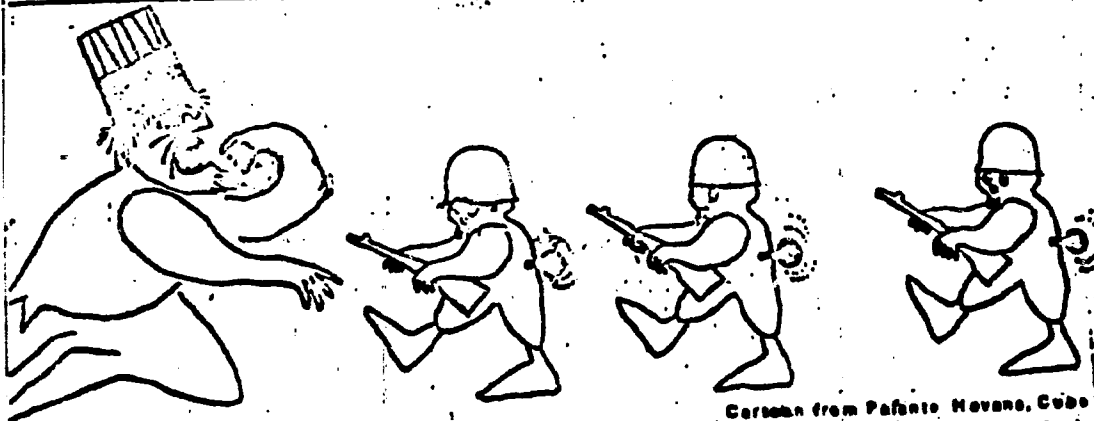
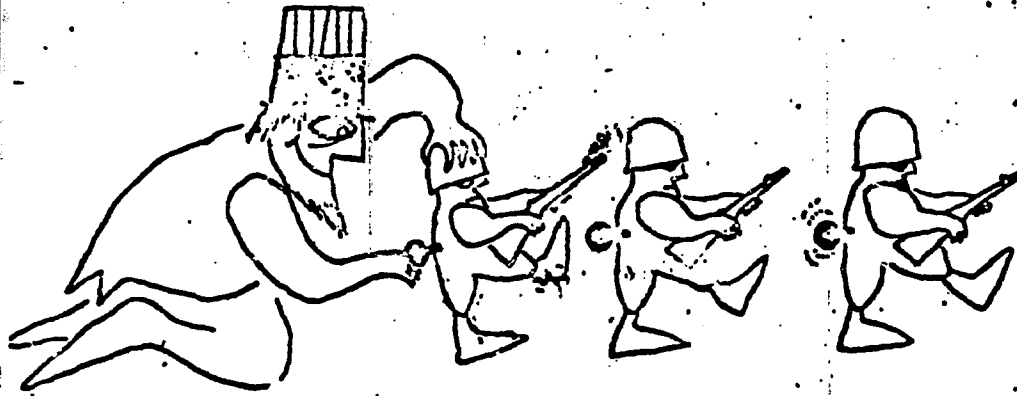
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Date 6 FEB 1986

THE PAPER GRENADE

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN DESERTERS COMMITTEE, UPPLANDSÖATAN 18, STOCKHOLM

TEL 344653

ISSUE 5



Cartoon from Pafato Novano, Cuba

DENMARK

Last week in Denmark an event happened that may help change the possibilities for deserters in that country. A deserter, Ted Frice, left his unit in Germany and crossed the Danish border. (He didn't come by way of the underground.) At the border, he was stopped and questioned by the Danish police. He told them he was a deserter and was seeking political asylum. The pigs pretended that they didn't know what he was talking about and took him to police headquarters. The underground which is never too far out of reach, got in contact with Ted at this time. Ted quickly told them how he had been mishandled by the police. However, before anything could be done, the deserter was turned over to the German police and then back to his unit in Germany. Back in his unit, he was not put under heavy security since he could not be charged with desertion. To show the determination of the underground, within the next couple of days Ted found himself at the JDC in Paris. Then the underground informed our support groups and a mass campaign resulted in the Danish press. In this campaign the Danish police were exposed as collaborating with the US military. As evidence the underground offered to bring Ted up from Paris for a court investigation on May 14th. This made the Danish government even more nervous! The Danish government now finds itself in a corner and must soon decide if deserters should receive asylum in Denmark, or at least free passage through Denmark with no risk of being turned back to American authorities.

Every once in awhile, we deserters get a glimpse of people who are working (often unnoticed) by our side in the anti-imperialist struggle of the desertion movement. This is one of those times. Thanks to our comrades in Denmark.

Well Brothers, since the last issue of the PG, the Swedish Government has been handing out more of its "voluntary camp" shit. It has been trying to send guys out to "little Siberia" so they can become acquainted with Sweden.

Today a new deserter went down to the Social Bureau and he was given enough food money till Monday, until the bureaucracy finds out if the labor department is going to invite him to the camp. The bureaucrats said that this camp was what the deserters said they wanted. Well, the camp isn't exactly what we've been asking for. It's more like what we've just left, the MILITARY!!

What we have been asking for is a JOB TRAINING PROGRAM where we can learn Swedish at the same time that we learn a skill, and of course receive political asylum. What we've been getting is piles and piles of Bullshit attempts at pacifying us and breaking up our community.

The JDC has began a campaign against the camp. First, by getting people to sign a petition against the camp, by going to the press and by forming a working group - - The Friends of the JDC.

The Friends of the JDC are Swedish people who assist us with job and housing problems, confrontations with the bureaucracy, and also work with our other Swedish support groups.

No matter where you are, in school, on a job, or on your own, you will not be safe from going to the camp unless we work together, NOW!! Very soon demonstrations and speaking tours will begin, so come around and start working to help yourself and your brothers!

NLN: What's the relationship between black and white GIs? Do you deal with racism when organizing white GIs?

Dave: Yeah, a lot of white GIs got a lot of racial hang-ups and stuff, but when you start rapping with them, you can see what racism is. You can really see it 'cause the same dude is fucking with everybody. A lot of racist shit gets wiped out, by just talking to guys about the role that racism plays in the structure. A lot of guys can dig that because they're together in the army.

Guy: Once you get into that rank thing, they develop that racist thing more openly against black GIs. "Well, I'll put five of you black guys on that detail--if you don't like it you can go see the CO." The CO's supposed to help you but he's a racist also. If you come into the army and you're black minded, or if you're not going to take any of that white hatred, you're going to go to the stockade for being black, nothing more. Phony charges like not getting a haircut, being 15 minutes late for a formation, stuff like that.

Dave: A lot of GIs start being conscious and they think about it. Say you get fucked with and you start thinking about why there is that race hatred and then you see who's injecting it into the thing is the officers.

Guy: Like when they had riot control, they were saying black people this and black people that. This is a lieutenant racist from Alabama and at the end of the statement he says everybody go out and vote for Wallace. Either you just sit there and take it or you get up and walk out.

NLN: What about the GIs attitudes on black urban revolts, the Panthers, SNCC, black caucuses in unions?

Dave: A lot of white guys get the same reaction as back in the States. You know, paranoia and stuff. But we got some of these here "Huey Newton Speaks to the Movement" and had them passed around. Guys really dug reading it. You know, they dug what he was saying about the black liberation movement.

You know, when they had riot control, they always say, well the army's got the good Negroes--and they say Negroes too--and the bad Negroes are out in the streets. "You've got to watch out for them," they say to us. They try to play on that race paranoia thing.

Guy: You go in the ghetto and shoot your brother. That's their philosophy.

NLN: How did the Ft. Hood revolt--the refusal of GIs to come to Chicago this summer--get organized?

Guy: You go into the army thinking you're going to get away from the discrimination at home. In the army you cope with it in a deeper degree; you get stronger and you're willing to fight the system. That's the way our thing came about. We knew that they wanted us to go into the ghetto and fight black people. And there'll be similar things coming this summer, black GIs and white GIs saying we're not going into the cities to fight our own people.

Viet Cong Fighters

NLN: What's the attitude of most of the guys about the "Viet Cong", at least after they've come back?

Dave: As fighters...they're the best. But the political content of the fight--the army tries to hide that. They manipulate the news. When guys go over to the Nam, they expect women to be throwing flowers at you. You know, the great liberator role. But they don't know where it's at and they get over there and a lot of them hate the Vietnamese. They hate the Viet Cong but they respect the Viet Cong because they get their asses kicked by them every day. Guys know they're dedicated soldiers.

But the Viet Cong be... and they're not going to lose either.

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Dave: GIs know what the Viet Cong are fighting for, basically. But the army tells you it's communist aggression.

NLW: What do the GIs think about the role of the U.S. army?

Dave: Lifers got a thing they say every time something fucks up in the world; they say they should have put a soldier in charge.

We don't hear about strikes and the national guard. At the present time, white guys don't associate the army with busting into their neighborhood. A lot of people don't think about the army too much; they think they're getting over with it. The army's got a powerful tool: no matter how bad the block is, the army's worse. While you're in the army you build up this feeling that everything's beautiful back there.

Guys coming back from Nam especially, they know what the war is all about. They might not want to say it, 'cause they're defensive about it; but when they get back home, they get pretty disillusioned about what is going on back there. All the time you're in the army, they're always giving you classes on the benefits of investing, you know. They reach the stock market to you, how capitalism is good and all. Guys, when they get back and find out that it ain't nice like it was on leave, they're going to be pissed off. That's what we'd do. When we would rap with guys and try to get them to associate their struggle with others and thinking that they'll be going back home and spreading the ideas to their friends-- seen on a larger scale, you know, spreading out to the working class as a whole!

NLW: What do you think the role of the guys who've been in the army, particularly guys who've been to Vietnam, will be building a revolutionary movement in America?

Guy: Well, I think the army is turning out a lot of revolutionaries. In a sense, they made me one. Instead of closing people's minds up, they're pushing them to the peak of defiance. 'Cause in the army you can't get away from it, and they can do just about anything they want to you.

Dave: In the army, there are all these here contradictions within the structure brought out in the open. Dudes can see the basic thing: you got rich men and you got poor men. And all the contradictions become polarized, so to speak; they're not glossed over. You can see that the motherfucker's doing better who went to college or got a bar on his shoulder. Guys know where it's at, and some of us have learned how to deal with these problems, and take care of them. We're going back to Texas to work, but after that we're going back to the block and tell them where it's at. And that's what we're trying to do at Ft. Hood--to show dudes that it can be done, that we can solve our problems.

Becoming a revolutionary and overthrowing the structure and setting up a people's government. That's what we see our role as-- getting past the anger and getting into a constructive thing, seeing what can be done. The more guys we reach, the better we're going to be for a revolutionary movement. Guys are coming back mad. The army's cutting its own throat.

(Part two of this interview will appear in the next issue of the PAPER GRENADE.)

We all know that there is a war being waged in Vietnam. We can read about it in the newspapers or hear people make speeches about it. It is a grim reality of our day. What is not so well known is the why and how of the Vietnam war. A capsule look of some of the history of the war will help to clear up some of this lack of knowledge and also perhaps explain a little more about the United States and its foreign policy.

23 FEBRUARY 1945--President Franklin D. Roosevelt said "For two whole years I have been terribly worried about Indochina (Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia)." Vietnam, a leading exporter of rice, natural rubber and coal, had been a profitable French colony for the better part of a century. Now that WW II was almost over, the Roosevelt Administration decided to ease the French out and take Vietnam for themselves.

Gen. Stillwell's command in China was given direct orders from Washington to abandon those French units that were fighting the Japanese in Vietnam. Most of these French soldiers died in the jungles, as their radio pleas for supplies and air cover went unanswered. Instead, Washington hooked up with a veteran communist guerrilla-Ho Chi Minh! In return for radios and guns, the guerrillas supplied intelligence and smuggling downed US airmen out of Vietnam.

2 SEPTEMBER 1945--With the Japanese surrender, the Vietnamese took over their own country for the first time in a century. President Ho Chi Minh read their "Declaration of Independence" to cheering thousands in Hanoi, and his government became the recognized government of all Vietnam.

25 DECEMBER 1945--The US government's plans to take over Vietnam got a rude surprise as the EM "Back Home Movement" broke out in the Philippines. Instead of garrisoning the Pacific for 20 years with millions of GI's, the Truman Administration was forced by GI's to send them back home.

23 NOVEMBER 1946--Even though the French had recognized Ho's government in March, they had been gradually building up troops in Southeast Asia to take Vietnam back. On this date they opened hostilities by shelling Haiphong, killing over 6,000 civilians.

1950--The war was going badly for the French. Although they held Saigon, Hanoi and all the other cities, the communist guerrilla movement (the Viet Minh) held the countryside and most of the people. 180,000 French troops were slowly losing. In desperation, the French government turned to Washington. On August 10th the first US arms shipment to the French arrived, and a MAAG mission was set up.

NOVEMBER 1952--With the war going even worse, the French had been forced to rely even more heavily on US aid. By this month America had supplied the French in Vietnam with 222 aircraft, 235 ships, 2975 vehicles, and 200 shiploads of supplies. The French were

still losing badly.

6 OCTOBER 1953--The new Eisenhower Administration decided to get involved even deeper in Vietnam. On this date Secretary of State John Foster Dulles called his plan to send over GI's the "brightest achievement of the year."

NOVEMBER 1953--The Vietnamese began the siege of Dienbienphu, the crack French stronghold. Thousands of French troops made Dienbienphu into an "aero-terrestrial fort", hoping to lure the Viet Minh into a major open battle, where superior Western firepower would cut them to pieces.

3 APRIL 1954--The trap had backfired. French troops in Dienbienphu were cut off, as the Viet Minh brought enough artillery and rockets out of the jungle to slowly grind the French down. Alarmed, on this date Sec. of State Dulles held a secret meeting with Congressional leaders, asking their support for the use of American troops and nuclear weapons in Vietnam. He was turned down, although a rising young politician named Sen. John F. Kennedy called for GI's to be sent to Vietnam: "If necessary the United States will take the ultimate... It is war."

4 APRIL 1954--The weekly magazine U.S. News & World Report told the public why Vietnam was such an important item to our leaders: "One of the world's richest drags is open to the winner in Indochina. . . tin, rubber, rice, key strategic raw materials are what the war is really about. The US sees it as a place to hold at any cost."

21 APRIL 1954--In an off-the-record speech that got into the front pages, Vice-President Richard Nixon revealed the plans that he, Sec. of State Dulles, and the Joint Chiefs had been pushing: "It is hoped that the United States can avoid direct involvement in Indochina. But if there is no other recourse, the Administration will have to face up to it and send troops."

That blew it! After Korea, the American people had had enough of wars in Asia. A storm of anger and criticism hit the government, and President Eisenhower promised that no troops or nuclear weapons would be sent to Vietnam.

7 MAY 1954--Dienbienphu was overrun, and thousands of elite French Airborne and Foreign Legion troops were killed or captured. Even though the US Government urged them to keep on fighting, the French were ready to throw in the towel.

21 JULY 1954--Peace came temporarily to Vietnam when the Geneva Declaration was signed by France, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (Ho's Government), China, Russia, England, Laos, Cambodia and the French-puppet Bao Dai government in Saigon. The treaty called for splitting Vietnam in half at the 17th parallel, with the Viet Minh getting the North and the French the South. Within two years an election was supposed to be held which would reunify Vietnam into one country with an elected government.

17 NOVEMBER 1954--US GEN Lawton J. Collins laid down the law, informing the ARVN Generals that Uncle Sam would cut them off unless they support Ngo Dinh, the new President of South Vietnam. The French were pulling out, and Dien was America's fair-haired boy. Unable to get public support for sending troops, the Eisenhower

Administration decided to pay, supply and train the ARVN. The hope was that the ARVN would be able to defeat the FNL without US troops. A thousand US military advisers were sent in to shape up Diem's troops.

1955- RVN was now in the hands of the Diem family, a clan of crazy fanatics. One brother was President, another was Archbishop, and the sister was in charge of the black market and selling supplies to the FNL. Between them they started stripping Vietnam bare.

This was the year that the reunification election was supposed to take place. President Diem just ignored it, because in any free choice the FNL would win. As President Eisenhower said: "I have never talked or corresponded with a person knowledgeable in Indo-Chinese affairs who did not agree that...possibly 80% of the population would have voted for the FNL Ho Chi Minh as their leader.

Sen. Richard Russell (D-Ga) Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee said: "I believe that most of South Vietnam would vote for North Vietnam's president Ho Chi Minh, if a plebiscite was held.

1961: The fighting had broken out again. President Diem's army and secret police were taking a beating from the guerrillas (the Viet Minh is now called the National Liberation Front). President John F. Kennedy had learned from Nixon's big-mouth mistake in 1954. JFK decided to get US troops to Nam on the sly, without telling the American people what was going on. In the fall, 15,000 US military advisers were sent, and US military spending in Nam went up to \$1.5 million dollars per day.

30 Jan 1963- CINCPAC Admiral Harry Felt said: "South Vietnamese should achieve victory in three years."

5 March 1963. US GEN Paul Harkins expressed his "firm belief that victory is in sight." This is the Year of the Big Bull."

13 Feb 1963 The US State Department publicly suggested that if President Diem gave his people a little more freedom they might give the war more support. In the official Saigon newspaper, Times of Vietnam, the government replies by charging Secretary of State Rusk with "indirectly aiding the NLF". This was also the month that US troops got the first go-ahead to launch offensive operations against the NLF.

1 Nov 1963 Pacific Stars & Stripes runs a front page headline crying "VIET VICTORY NEAR." On this same day President Diem is overthrown and then murdered by his own ARVN generals. The takeover has the blessings of the US Embassy, since Diem's government had become too hopeless even for Washington to stomach. In rapid succession thirteen different Saigon governments take office and are forced out, as the Vietnamese Generals battle for power. The war continues to go downhill.

4 Nov 1964 Lyndon Johnson wins a fantastic victory at the polls against Sen. Barry Goldwater. President Johnson and the Democrats mocked Goldwater as a kook because he wanted to bomb North Vietnam and step up the war. During the campaign, President Johnson promises that he will not send "American boys 10,000 miles to do a job Asian boys should be doing." This is just another in the long chain of lies. 1965. This is the year that the war completely collapsed. ARVN desertions hit 30% as the NLF were on the edge of taking over the entire country. Looking back, Sen. Russell of the Armed Services Committee commented, "I do not believe the South Vietnamese forces would have lasted another month because they were on the verge of disintegration!" President Johnson orders the number of troops in Vietnam raised to 125,000 and the intensive bombing of North Vietnam began.

3 JAN 1968. MACV publishes a pamphlet explaining that the war is almost won--it is titled: "1967: YEAR OF PROGRESS."

4 JAN 1968. The NLF launch their famous TET Offensive- NLF units fight it out 300 yards away from Pentagon East, as every city in Vietnam is

congress of the Left Socialist Party in Denmark. (The following is a brief history of the Left Socialist Party and an account of the congress and related events.)

The Left Socialist Party (Venster Socialistterne) was formed one and a half years ago after a split with the Socialist Popular Party. The Socialist Popular Party, formed during the "Ban the Bomb" era was now recognized as reformist and so obsolete by the Danish Left Wing. The Left Socialist Party is composed of SUF (socialist youth), students, workers, Marxist-Leninists, anarchists and even a small pacifist element. Originally they had 4 members in parliament. However after the Czechoslovakian crisis two of the members left the party because the party condemned the Russians for invading Czechoslovakia. With two members left in the parliament, the party now recognizes that the work is to be done in the streets not by rubbing elbows with the establishment in the parliament. The parliament does help to provide a voice in the Danish society and at the same time provides the party with some funds to function on.

On the 1st of May we attended a political rally at a park in Copenhagen. There were many political billboards and much literature was passed out about party activities. There were also groups of people sitting around on the grass playing instruments and singing. The program began about four o'clock with the singing of the "International". Next the people there were entertained by a couple of rock bands. It was really great to see workers, heads, parents, children and students all dancing to the same music. Then came the more political part of the program. An activist in the party introduced the two Black Panthers who spoke about developing a solidarity between all the oppressed peoples of the world. They further demanded the realisation of Huey Newton, end to the repression of the Black Panther party in the states and urged to join the demonstration in front of the American embassy. After the speeches were over, thousands of people, almost everyone in the park, began to march on the Embassy.

The demonstration was taking place simultaneously with ones in San Francisco and around the states. The pigs tried to hold the demonstrators across the street from the embassy, but the demonstrators to the front of the embassy. Several more speeches were given by Panthers and Danish activists, which brought cries from the crowd such as "free Huey Newton, Denmark out of NATO and us out of Denmark".

What followed next was a long discussion about the structure of the Central Committee. Then an election was held for the members of the Central Committee. It had been decided that the committee would have 25 members and have at least one from each of the ten regions of Denmark. Any minority group that felt it wasn't being properly represented could claim ten percent of the seats (2 seats) before the voting began, but would not be able to vote in the election. No minority group did this. Everyone was satisfied with the election and all factions were represented. More than half of those elected were very active in practical work in their local groups. It was the goal of the congress to have a large number of activists on the Central Committee!

On Sunday, the final day of the congress, such things as membership fees and the distribution of funds were discussed, as well as the party's international policy. The congress expressed its solidarity with the leftist movements all over the world. They also decided that all of the meetings of the Central Committee would be open to every member.

After the congress we went to see someone who helps deserters get from Germany to Sweden. We discussed problems and the possibility of having a new deserter coming from Germany asking for political asylum in Denmark.

The trip was informative and serves as more groundwork in opening another country for deserters. -Rod Huth and John McLoughlin

ON THE GO

Last Thursday I returned from a tour of Europe, checking out the possibilities for deserters and establishing contact and solidarity with other anti-imperialist groups around Europe. Using my Swedish aliens passport for all but two countries, I experienced such things as: Border crossings, work and residence permits, housing, jobs, education, political activity, contacts and most of all safety from the long arm of the US military and its NATO puppets.

Since the trip took two months of intensive traveling and research it would be almost impossible to cover my experiences accurately in just one issue of the PG. I will therefore be writing an article in each issue of the PG covering my trip in detail so that it will serve (I hope) not only as good reading, but also as a guide for those of planning a vacation this summer or for those of you thinking of permanent residence elsewhere. I even have maps, timetables and prices from place to place. (If your wondering, I was a travel agent before entering the Army.) If you find it necessary to split right away or for any detail not covered in my articles, you can contact me at the J.D.C. office.

REMEMBER: You are no longer an American in Nixon's America,
You are a Man in Your World
Enjoy It

Walter Marshall