

DECEIVING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

A Response to State Department and Saigon Allegations about Political Prisoners in South Vietnam By Don Luce

Numerous documented reports in U.S. newspapers and on television have aroused public opinion about south Vietnam's civilian political prisoners. Many Americans, appalled about how their tax money is being used, have written the Saigon Embassy, the U.S. State Department and Congress.

As a result of the growing public pressure and increasingly insistent Congressional inquiries, the Saigon government has taken a series of minor but well-publicized steps to try to defuse the political prisoner issue. For example, after five years of imprisonment, the runner-up in south Vietnam's 1967 presidential elections, Truong Dinh Dzu, was released (just before Thieu's trip to the United States). In addition, due to growing concern in the international Catholic community (including Pope Paul VI), five Catholic priests in Saigon who were sentenced to imprisonment for opposition to Thieu's policies, have never been jailed.

But the overall situation remains unchanged. Along with these few cosmetic efforts, the lies and half-truths continue to flow from U.S. and south Vietnamese officials. Following are some examples of the false and misleading statements used to cover up both what is happening in Saigon's jails and how American tax money is being used:

"Article 4 of the (Peace) Agreement which says that the United States will not 'intervene in the internal affairs of South Viet-Nam' precludes us from compelling President Thieu to 'guarantee' democratic liberties..."

**Laurin B. Askew, Dept. of State
Washington, D. C., March 13, 1973**

The United States funds 90% of the Saigon government's costs. The U.S. continues to provide the bombs, ammunition and other war materiel that are used by the Saigon army; and American taxpayers still pay for the operation of the prisons and the Saigon police that arrest Vietnamese citizens. Thus, not only do we permit the Saigon government to mistreat their own citizens, we assume the cost for it. Our government is condoning the torture of Vietnamese by its silence, while at the same time it is lying to both the American people and Congress about what is really happening.

Askew's legal reasoning is subtle but misleading. Article 11 of the same Agreement guarantees democratic liberties for the south Vietnamese people. The U.S. pledged itself to the fulfillment of this provision in the original Peace Agreement and reaffirmed its commitment in the June 13th Paris Communique. The virtually total financial dependence of Thieu's government on the United States makes talk of non-intervention hypocritical. Moreover, a double-standard is revealed by U.S. threats to bomb north Vietnam for non-compliance with the Agreement while refusing to take even the small step of controlling the use of its own funds to assure Saigon's compliance.

"At present, U.S. support to the South Vietnamese police force is confined to commodity assistance on a one-for-one replacement basis and support for police training outside Viet Nam."

**Marshall Wright, Acting Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations
Department of State, April 23, 1973
(Letter to Senator Lawton Chiles)**

In fact, millions of dollars have been budgeted for police activities in south Vietnam for F.Y. 1974. "We found," Senator Edward Kennedy said, "that public safety is now called technical support, public administration and public works... They total some \$15,217,000 for public safety purposes in South Vietnam -- and presumably there is more buried elsewhere -- including the American piaster support for Saigon's national budget... On February 21, for example, the U.S. Embassy in Saigon obligated piasters valued at more than \$100,000 for prison support."¹

Matthew J. Harvey, Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs of AID (Agency for International



Mrs. Duong thi Gan and daughter born in Quang Tin provincial prison. Arrested in 1968 by U.S. GIs as "suspected V.C. sympathizer." No trial, fate unknown.

Development), wrote to one U.S. Congressman on June 12, 1973, that \$9.3 million of this is Department of Defense money "for the National Police to replace worn out equipment." That's a lot of replacement -- especially considering the fact that there are another six million dollars spent on public safety from other U.S. sources.

Concealing U.S. involvement in public safety has often been a matter of omission. For example, Robert Nooter, an Assistant Administrator in the Agency for International Development, wrote Susan Sickler of Chevy Chase, Maryland on March 16, 1973, that the Public Safety Directorate of CORDS (Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support) had been dissolved and had no

further role in south Vietnam. What Mr. Nooter did not mention was that many of the activities were just transferred to AID. The Administrator for AID, John Hannah, clarified what actually happened in a letter to a Congressman two months later:

"The CORDS Public Safety office has been disbanded and its residual civilian elements, including the Telecommunications Project, were transferred to the USAID in Saigon."

"Participant training at the International Police academy in Washington, D. C. is expected to continue," Hannah said. Vietnamese claim that this participant training encourages mistreatment in the

jails. On May 5, 1973 a delegation from Women Strike for Peace visited the International Police Academy. While in the library they saw the thesis by Vietnamese National Policeman, Nguyen Huy Thong, in which he wrote that threats and violence against prisoners being interrogated were sometimes a necessity.²

"It is inaccurate to say that U.S. funds have been used to still political dissent in Viet-Nam."

Marshall Wright, Acting Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations Department of State, March 5, April 11, April 23, 1973. (Letters to Congressman William Broomfield, Senator Adlai Stevenson and Senator Lawton Chiles)

Yet in reporting on the effectiveness of American aid to the Saigon police force, John Mossler, Director of USAID in Vietnam wrote on January 1, 1971 in Report to the Ambassador:

"During 1970 the police continued to improve their capability in traditional police functions. Their timely and positive action effectively contained civil disturbances involving war veterans, students and religious groups, thereby preventing the spread of violence."

American funds have paid for a variety of other police projects and materiel. Tear gas, made in Saltsburg, Pennsylvania, is part of American aid, and it is used primarily against non-violent demonstrations by Buddhists, students and workers. The salaries of the police that arrested the runner-up in the 1967 Presidential elections and National Assemblyman Tran Ngoc Chau were paid for by the United States. The ID cards, designed to show whether Vietnamese citizens voted or not, were designed with the help of U.S. advisors and printed with U.S. money. As of June, 1972, 9,068,811 ID cards had been issued as well as 502,000 biodata documents and 3.1 million dossiers.³ All this was paid for by American tax dollars.

The Public Safety Directorate (mentioned in the preceding section) provided conventional and paramilitary police training for Thieu's Field Police. "During 1971, the Field Police conducted 27,788 operations against subversive elements... The force expanded patrols in rural areas, and detained 33,558 persons for non-Viet Cong related offenses."⁴

"The law in South Viet Nam does not permit the arrest of a person merely for his opposition to the policies of the government. The people are freely expressing their opinion in South Vietnam."

Public Communique #06-73
Embassy of Viet-Nam,
Washington, D.C., May 29, 1973

In fact the Saigon government has issued a series of laws and decrees that have resulted in thousands of citizens being arbitrarily arrested. These laws include the following:

Article 2 of Decree Law 93/SL/CIT: Shall be considered as Pro-Communist Neutralist a person who commits acts of propaganda for and incitement of Neutralism.

Article 3 of Decree Law 004/TT/SLU: In the war or martial law situation all forms of labor disputes, even those that have gone through a process of mediation, and even if its only purpose is to provide mutual support to resolve a labor conflict, will be strictly forbidden.

Article 19 of Decree Law 004/66 makes it possible to administratively detain a Vietnamese citizen for up to two years without trial or charge. This sentence is renewable. In a telegram of April 5, 1973 from the Prime Minister's office, provincial authorities were urged to use administrative detention "if you don't have enough evidence to bring the person before a military tribunal."

On September 16, 1972 a new press law went into effect. On that day, according to the Los Angeles Times: 92 south Vietnamese publications

were shut down. Information Minister Truong Buu Diem, when asked if papers could criticize the government, said: "Sure, if they do it right."⁵

On January 22, in preparation for the impending Paris Peace Agreement, Thieu issued strict new edicts, including:

"1. All police and military forces are permitted to shoot to kill all those who urge the people to demonstrate, and those who cause disorders or incite other persons to follow communism..."

6. Arrest and detain those persons who incite the people to create disorder and confusion, or to leave those areas controlled by the government in order to go into the communist controlled zones or vice versa. If they protest, they will be shot.

7. Detain those persons who are neutralist and those persons who publicly side with the communists, and who are active politically. They will be taken before a military court as soon as possible.

8. Implement quickly and thoroughly rules and regulations concerning reporters and political parties in order to stop illegal activities on the part of politicians..."

"There is no widespread or systematic mistreatment of inmates. The simultaneous existence of a very low ratio of guards to inmates, comparatively insecure prisons, and the low escape rate would seem to indicate this. With regard to the crippled prisoners, we have a very detailed report of their history compiled by Dr. Brown who formerly served as medical advisor to the GVN-Corrections Directorate. We will be happy to forward a copy to you if you feel it would be of use to the Committee."

Ray Meyer, Second Secretary
U.S. Embassy, Saigon, April 3, 1973
(Letter to the Investigation Team of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Refugees)

After requesting the reports twice, the Subcommittee on Refugees received them classified as confidential. This confirms a statement by Garnett Zimmerly, Deputy Assistant Administrator for AID, that reports by American doctors on what they have seen in the prisons have been classified.⁶

To maintain that there is "no widespread or systematic mistreatment of inmates" is contrary to the reports of released prisoners and U.S. news sources. In March 1973, after 104 prisoners were released from Con Son, their condition was described by Time magazine (March 19, 1973):

"It is not really proper to call them men anymore. 'Shapes' is a better word. -- grotesque sculptures of scarred flesh and gnarled limbs."

The London Times (March 4, 1973) wrote:

"Their bodies, bearing the marks of irons and chains, are like skeletons. Their legs are paralyzed. They are political prisoners who were released by Saigon authorities at the end of last month from the infamous 'tiger cages' on the island of Con Son."

One reason for the low guard ratio and low escape rate is that a very substantial number of Vietnamese prisoners are shackled. Also, in addition to official guards, the south Vietnamese prisons use criminal prisoners to control the political prisoners (as Hitler did at Auchwitz and Babi Yar).

Congress does have the sworn testimony of one American doctor who has examined dozens of people immediately after release. Dr. John Champlin testified to the House Foreign Affairs Committee on June 11, 1973 that:

"The prisoners I examined were all partially or completely paralyzed at the knee joint and completely paralyzed below the knees. The patellar reflexes are decreased or absent and Achilles tendon (ankle) reflexes are absent in all cases. Considerable atrophy in muscle contracture was present in the legs of all prisoners, often to the extent that I could encircle the prisoner's leg above the ankle with my thumb and index finger. These facts present an objective medical evidence that the prisoners' paralysis was organic and real.

"Two-thirds of the prisoners I examined had clinical signs of symptoms of tuberculosis. All had symptoms of vitamin deficiency and other serious internal diseases... These prisoners told of being in tiger cages for periods of two and one-half to seven years. During that time they spent months and years without interruption in leg irons while subsisting on a diet of only three handfuls of rice and three swallows of water daily..."

"The prisoners with whom I talked said they had all been examined more than once by American military physicians while in prison but they denied having received so much as an aspirin during their confinement."

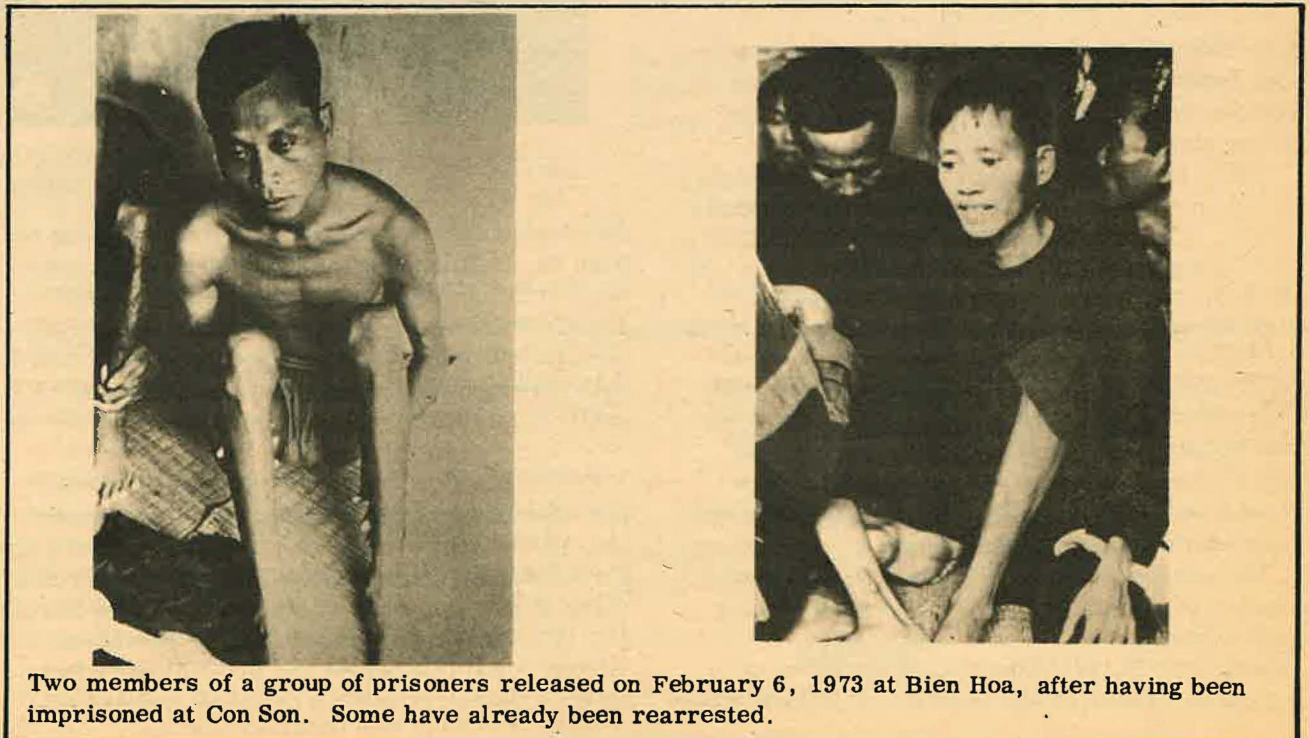
"All the detainees in government prisons are treated humanely at all times in accordance with international practice. The International Red Cross which has visited them many times has confirmed their good living conditions in all places where they are held."

Tran Kham, First Secretary, Embassy of Vietnam, Washington, D.C., April 30, 1973.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has repeatedly denied giving its seal of approval to Saigon's jails. Yet the Thieu government keeps using the ICRC to "prove" that they have provided humane treatment. The last public statement by the ICRC denying this was issued March 21, 1973:

"The ICRC repeats its earlier statements that it was precisely because of the restrictions imposed by the South Vietnam government -- particularly the prohibition of private talks with detainees -- that in March 1972, it discontinued visits to interned civilians."

This statement was expanded upon in a letter of



Two members of a group of prisoners released on February 6, 1973 at Bien Hoa, after having been imprisoned at Con Son. Some have already been rearrested.

28 May by the ICRC:

"We regret that some of the dispositions of the protocol concerning the POW's annexed to the Paris agreements have not been implemented, especially regarding the protection granted to civilian detainees.

With regard to the ICRC, the visits to civilian detainees camps have been discontinued more than a year ago, due to the restrictions imposed by the government of South Vietnam, in the development of these visits.

"It has been alleged that there are hundreds of thousands of political prisoners; however, we have seen no evidence to substantiate any such number. According to our latest information, the civilian prison population is about 25,000 to 30,000."

Marshall Wright, Acting Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations
Department of State, March 2, 1973
(Letter to Senator Robert Griffin)

Many other organizations, whose figures are available to the Department of State, disagree drastically with this:

-- 181,000: South Vietnamese Committee to Reform the Prison System, June, 1973.

-- More than 240,000: Anglican News Service (Canadian), December 14, 1972.

-- 200,000: Ngo Cong Duc (who got his figures by adding up the numbers of prisoners in each prison. As a former Vietnamese National Assemblyman, he had access to this type of information); Reported in the New York Times, September 7, 1972.

-- Hundreds of thousands of civilian political prisoners who are not affiliated with a military side: Buddhist Peace Delegation to Paris of the Unified Buddhist Church of Viet Nam, March 30, 1973.

On November 9, 1972, Hoang Duc Nha, Thieu's closest adviser, reportedly told a group of Vietnamese publishers that 40,000 communist agents had been arrested in "the past few weeks."⁷

Thieu's 1973 budget, according to one Vietnamese legislator, provides for 400,000 prisoners.⁸ And by official count, one U.S. program alone in Vietnam, the Phoenix Operation, has detained at least 100,000 people.⁹

Most U.S. government reports only include a small percentage of the prisons when giving the number of prisoners. A recent "fact sheet" on the prison system in Vietnam states: "The present correctional system of South Vietnam consists of four national prisons, one national juvenile correction center and 35 provincial prisons."¹⁰

A letter of May 29, 1973 from John Hannah, Administrator for AID, to a U.S. congressman shows how incomplete the AID Fact Sheet was. He listed the number of prisons as:

National Correction Centers	5
Provincial Correction Centers	35
National Police Detention facilities	44
District Police Detention facilities	250
Facilities at Autonomous Cities	
Police Headquarters	17
Detention Centers in Rural Village	
Police Stations	250
Total	601

Even these figures do not include the military prisons where conscientious objectors, draft evaders, etc. are kept. Many of the Buddhist monks, Cao Dai priests and other religious leaders are kept in the military prisons.

"There are no political prisoners in South Vietnam. There are only two kinds of prisoners: 21,007 of common law and 5,081 Communist criminals."

Nguyen Van Thieu, President,
Republic of Vietnam, April 9, 1973
(to Pope Paul VI)

photo credit: Jane Barton



Picture taken after the ceasefire of Than Thi Thi in the prisoner ward of Quang Ngai Hospital. The 67 year old woman is paralyzed from torturing. She was arrested while carrying 3 lbs. of rice in an "insecure area".

After his Easter Week 1973 trip to south Vietnam, Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton of Detroit wrote, "I can state unequivocally that there are political prisoners in Saigon's jails and in jails throughout the provinces. They are in jail not for any crime, but simply because they are in political opposition to the present government. The proof is overwhelming. And it is clear that these prisoners are subject to inhumane treatment, including deliberate and prolonged torture."¹¹

The Vietnamese National Assemblyman, Tran Ngoc Chau, who received the most votes in the 1967 National Assembly elections remains in jail. The Vietnamese Buddhists have a list of 626 Buddhist monks who are in jail, including locations and prison numbers.

In order to decrease the number of political prisoners, the Saigon Government has been simply changing their status to common criminals. The United States Embassy in Saigon wrote to Senator Edward Kennedy that:

"Before and since the ceasefire, the GVN (Government of Viet Nam) has been converting detainees to common criminal status by the expedient of convicting them of ID card violations or draft dodging."¹²

The Embassy also acknowledges that Thieu has jailed "non-communist dissidents, such as Madame Ngo Ba Thanh and her group and various student leaders."¹³

George Herman: "Would you allow an American Red Cross examination, or an International Red Cross examination; or a French team, including perhaps, Monsieur Debris and Monsieur Menras to go back and examine freely those prisons and make a report to the world on them?"

President Thieu: "Yes, yes . . ."

George Herman: "You would, then, you say, welcome a team to inspect from, say, France, or from the world Red Cross, or some reputable organization?"

President Thieu: "Anyone, even yourself, if you would like to go through Vietnam right away."
Face the Nation
CBS, April 8, 1973

Yet one week later, Bishop Gumbleton was refused permission to visit three specific prisoners or the prisons where they were kept.¹⁴ Nor has the U.S. Senate fared better. Senator Edward Kennedy explained what happened when the Senate Subcommittee on Refugees requested permission for its staff members to visit specific prisons in March 1973:

"A March 19 letter from Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker to a staff member of the subcommittee (stated that)--and for the usual bureaucratic reasons -- the subcommittee's study mission to South Vietnam was officially denied permission to inspect civilian prison facilities."¹⁵

"U.S. assistance to the South Vietnamese police force in the past has been designed to help the Government of the Republic of Vietnam develop a more humane correctional system. Under the guidance of professional U.S. penologists, significant improvements in the fields of sanitation, health and housing have been realized. Progress also has been achieved in alleviating crowded prison conditions and in separation of inmates by categories. Through this assistance, prisoners are better fed, housed and medically treated."

Gregory Gay, Chief, Public Inquiries Division, Department of State, June 13, 1973 (Letter to Robert Langfelder of Isla Vista, California)

U.S. officials have known about and condoned inhumane conditions in Vietnam for years. The story of the Tiger Cages is typical. On October 1, 1963, Frank Walton, Chief of the U.S. Public Safety Division in Saigon, issued a signed report which described the Tiger Cages:

"In Con Son II, some of the hardcore communists keep preaching the 'party' line, so these 'Reds' are sent to the Tiger Cages in Con Son I where they are isolated from all others for months at a time. This confinement may also include rice without salt and water -- the United States prisons' equivalent of bread and water. It may include immobilization -- the prisoner is bolted to the floor, handcuffed to a bar or rod, or legirons with the chain through an eyebolt, or around a bar or rod."¹⁶

Yet in July, 1970, when the existence of the Tiger Cages was disclosed, Mr. Walton denied any knowledge of them to two U.S. Congressmen, Augustus Hawkins and William Anderson.

In 1971, an employee of the U.S. construction consortium of Raymond, Morrison, Knudson - Brown, Root and Jones made available the letter of agreement between their firm and the U.S. Department of Navy to build new isolation cells to replace the Tiger Cages (the new cells are two square feet smaller than the former Tiger Cages). On February 22, 1971, Robert McCloskey, State Department briefing officer, said that the \$400,000 for the construction of the new cells was Government of Vietnam funds. In March, 1973, however, Mr. Ray Meyer, Second Secretary of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon made available to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Refugees, a report entitled "Enquiry on USAID/CORDS Support of GVN Civilian Prison System". It shows that the money to construct the new isolation cells came from U.S. Assistance-in-Kind funds which were generated by the Food for Peace program. (testimony to Foreign Relations committee by Sen. James Abourezk, 6/27/73) *****

The greatest tragedy of all this deception is what has happened to the Vietnamese in the jails. Hundreds are permanently paralyzed. Some, like Nguyen Ngoc Phuong, have died as a result of the torture in the prisons. Thousands remain in jail -- in a system still maintained by U.S. money.

Many brave south Vietnamese have publicized the plight of political prisoners in their country. Most of them are now in jail. Despite the form letters sent out by the State Department and Saigon

Embassy, there is evidence that concern for individual prisoners does make a difference.

The purpose of the torture and repression in south Vietnam is to quiet Vietnamese protesting their lack of freedom there. The purpose of the deception by U.S. and Saigon officials in America is to quiet Americans objecting to the use of their tax money to perpetuate the mistreatment of the political prisoners.

Footnotes

1. Congressional Record, June 4, 1973
2. "Misuse of Tax Funds for Saigon's Police and Prison Systems," Women Strike for Peace, Press Statement, June 11, 1973
3. Project Budget Submission, FY 1974, Public Safety Sector, AID, Department of State.
4. Summary Public Safety Programs Vietnam OPS/VN 4/24/72
5. Newsday, August 7, 1972
6. Letter to Washington Area Women Strike for Peace, May 11, 1973
7. Washington Post, November 10, 1972
8. Le Monde, March 16, 1973
9. Congressional Record, June 4, 1973
10. U.S. Assistance to the Directorate of Corrections, Fact Sheet AID, April, 1973.
11. National Catholic Reporter, May 11, 1973
12. Congressional Record, June 4, 1973
13. Letter to Jerry Tinker cited by Kennedy, Congressional Record 6/4/73
14. National Catholic Reporter, May 11, 1973
15. Congressional Record, June 4, 1973
16. "The Rehabilitation System of Viet Nam," Public Safety Division, United States Operations Mission to Viet Nam, October, 1963.

(Don Luce is with the Indochina Mobile Education Project. He lived and worked in south Vietnam for nine years and has written and spoken widely since his return. He has testified before Congressional Committees and appeared on network television news programs.)

FOR FURTHER READING . . .

HOSTAGES OF WAR: SAIGON'S POLITICAL PRISONERS by Holmes Brown and Don Luce, 112 pp.

"A detailed documented and illustrated record of savagery and suppression in Thieu's domain." James Wechsler, Editor, New York Post

"The concerns of Brown and Luce are primarily humanitarian, although their revelations inevitably become political, for they not only condemn the Thieu regime but also provide evidence of American indifference to and responsibility for the injustices and brutalities which a great many South Vietnamese are made to suffer. Their descriptions are comprehensive and based on impeccable sources; indeed their position could be called objective, if such a term were at all applicable to a book dealing with crimes against humanity." Joseph Buttinger, The New York Review of Books

"An authoritative study." Tom Wicker, New York Times

AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS: Documents on South Vietnam's Political Prisoners produced by NARMIC (National/Action Research on the Military-Industrial Complex). An important supplement to and updating of Hostages of War. Includes: Letters to Pope Paul VI from Vietnamese Catholic priests, wives, and mothers of the prisoners; letters from prisoners revealing the post-cease fire methods used to prevent their release (reclassification, false affidavits, and forced military conscription); text of an official Saigon military court indictment against four Catholic priests.

Both are available at \$1.50/copy or 90¢ each for orders of 10 or more. Order from AFSC, Indochina Program.

12 Things You Can Do To Help Free Thieu's Political Prisoners

The single most important goal for most people is to make their own community aware of what is happening. Many of the projects suggested can be done individually. They will have a greater impact if done with an ad hoc group of friends or through an established peace or social action organization. The power to free the prisoners lies in action by the Congress, but it will not move without pressure from the public and interest from the media.

1. **FILM/SPEAKERS:** Special meeting can be called or a place can be found on the agenda of scheduled sessions of religious, school, social, labor, civic and fraternal groups. An extraordinary, well documented 30 minute British TV film "South Vietnam: A Question of Torture" is available through the groups indicated elsewhere on this page. They can also provide speakers, many with personal experience in Vietnam.

2. **VIETNAMESE MEAL** or a rice and tea dinner at a church, temple, or school can be an occasion for fund raising, education and socializing (recipes available from Indochina Mobile Education Project--IMEP).

3. **LEAFLETS** have been produced by many groups which provide a basic introduction to this issue and are inexpensive enough to include in mailings or be given out at appropriate locations.

4. **ADOPT A PRISONER** and write letters inquiring about his well-being to Saigon and U.S. authorities. This has helped in several instances. Wear his or her name on a medical i.d. bracelet or a prisoner button until he or she is released.

5. **LETTERS-TO-THE-EDITOR** are the second best read section in the newspaper. Even unprinted letters have some impact on the editors.

6. **LETTERS-TO-CONGRESS** have already succeeded in generating attention from legislators who a few months ago hardly knew the prisoners existed. (send a copy of replies to IMEP.)

7. **VISIT OR CALL** personally the local office of your Senator or Congressperson. Assemble a delegation of friends or community leaders. Even if you see just the Aide, the purpose and makeup of your delegation will be quickly conveyed to Washington (send a follow-up letter there).

8. **THE FOREIGN AID BILL** is the most appropriate legislative vehicle for concern about the prisoners. This could be accomplished via restrictions on the use of U.S. funds, overall reduction of the \$2 billion being asked by the Administration to keep Thieu in power, or specific provisions which make any aid conditional on the release of the prisoners. (Organizations which are working on the legislative approach should make sure they are receiving the update mailings from the Coalition to Stop Funding the War, 110 Maryland Ave., N.E. Washington, D.C. (202) 546-6751)

9. **PLACE FLOWERS** in your place of worship or a public area in remembrance of Vietnamese who have died in prison. (Names from IMEP).

10. **POSTERS AND BUMPER STRIPS** can be sold as fund raisers and placed on bulletin boards and other public locations (produced by AFSC).

11. **DIRECT ACTION** such as a one day fast to point out the starvation of Vietnamese prisoners, the construction of a tiger cage in a down-town area, or a vigil in front of a local Congressional office can gain media and public attention.

12. **RESOURCES** to inform yourself and educate others are available in many forms. The best single item is a 109 page book entitled Hostages of War. Efforts should be made to have it placed in libraries and bookstores, as well as brought to the attention of editors and book reviewers.



Jacquelyn Chagnon preparing Vietnamese food for a dinner in Pasadena.

Many national peace and social action organizations have made freedom for Thieu's political prisoners a priority objective. Currently they include:

- *American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) 112 S. 16th Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102
- Amnesty International, 200 W. 72nd St. N.Y.C. 10017
- *Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC), 235 E. 49th St. New York, New York 10017
- Coalition to Stop Funding the War, 110 Maryland Ave., N.E. Washington, D.C.
- Episcopal Peace Fellowship, 300 Ninth Avenue, New York, New York 10001
- *Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), Box 271, Nyack, New York
- Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) 245 Second S. N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002
- *Indochina Mobile Education Project (IMEP), 1322 18th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036
- *Indochina Peace Campaign, (IPC), 181 Pier Ave., Santa Monica, California 90405
- International Committee to Free South Vietnamese Political Prisoners, 122 W. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55405
- Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10010
- SANE, 318 Massachusetts Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002
- Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW), 827 W. Newport, Chicago, Ill. 60605
- *War Resisters League (WRL), 339 LaFayette St., New York, New York 10012
- *Womens International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), 1213 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107
- Women Strike for Peace, 145 S. 13th Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107

* Distributing "South Vietnam: A Question of Torture"

By getting in touch with their national or local offices, you can obtain assistance and materials. If none are in your area, contact:

Indochina Program
American Friends Service Committee
112 South 16th Street, Philadelphia,
Pa. 19102 Phone: 215-LO 3-9372 Ext. 265



Copies of this paper, buttons, bumper stickers, posters and list of 800 prisoners available from AFSC Indochina Program

August 1973

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