Jeff Wirz

BRAGG BRIEFS
GI'S UNITED

Against The War In Indochina

BRAGG BRIEFS is published in the spirit of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. It is a free press, published by active duty GI's stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and dedicated to establishing responsible alternatives to the present military and economic systems.

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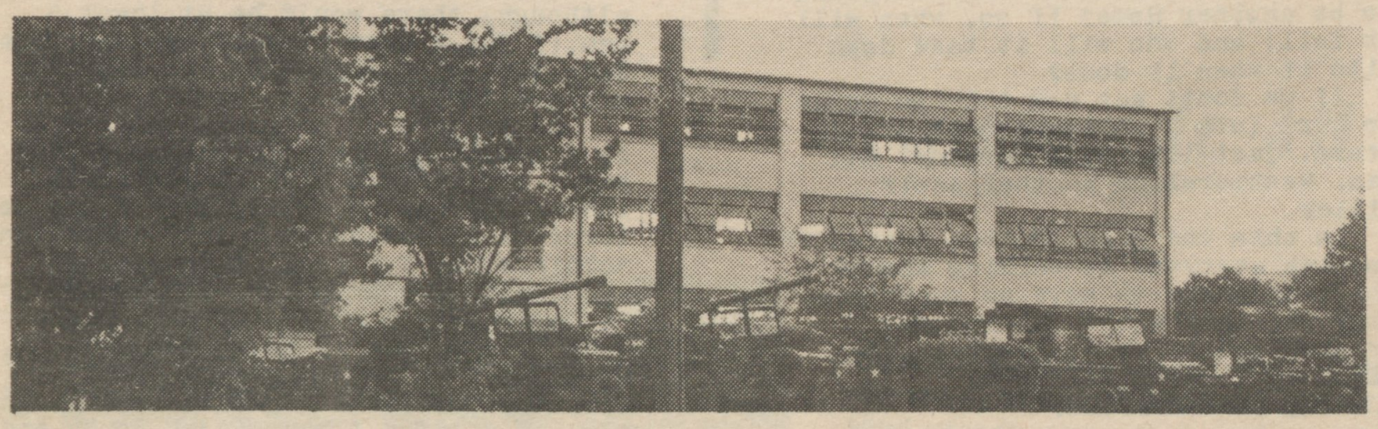
NORTH CAROLINA HOOVER COLLECTION J. C. PEELE, M.D.

Bragg On Alert For Mideast



U.S. Arms Both Sides

The United States is being asked to sell modern F-4 Phantom jets to Israel supposedly to help maintain the military balance in the Middle East.

The "imbalance" is said to result from the introduction of Soviet missles and Soviet planes and pilots in Egypt.

Yet the United States has committed itself to selling 56 modern jets to Arab states in the Middle East in recent years. Thus the United States has contributed in part to creating the "imbalance" in fighter planes it is being asked to correct.

In the Six Day War in 1967 between the Arabs and the Israelis both Jordan and Israel were using U.S. Patton tanks against each other.

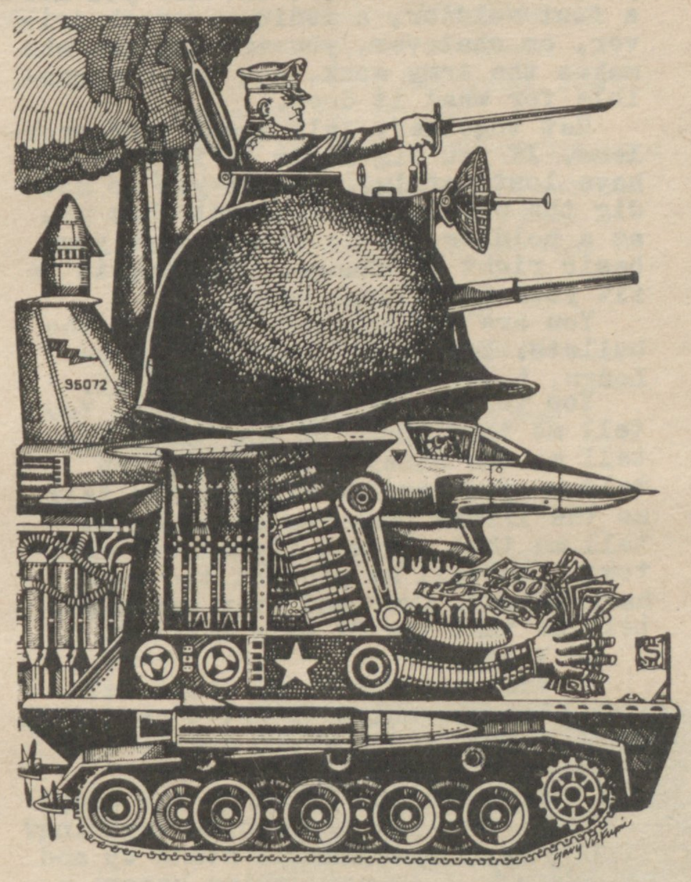
One Defense department Middle East expert points out that U.S. equipment has been used on both sides in the Greek-Cyprus war, Arab-Israeli, India-Pakistan and the Yemenite war.

Says a Foreign Relations Committee report:

"Current policies have resulted in U.S. furnished arms appearing in the hands of both sides in all too many regional disputes around the globe, sapping scarce resources which should be used for economic development, and creating an 'arms merchant' image for this country."

The label is appropriate. The United States today is the world's leading salesman and dispenser of armaments.

In the current fiscal year the United States plans to dispose of more than $5 billion in armaments to more than 60 countries.



Part of the reason the United States sells arms to poor countries is to maintain a favorable balance of trade.

Some critics object to the U.S. aggravating local problems by selling arms in order to solve its internal economic problems.

All right, you radicals want to tear this system down. But what are you going to replace it with?

-- Anonymous

Constitutional Convention

PHILADELPHIA (LNS)- Ten thousand people, mostly black and mostly young jammed the North Philadelphia ghetto community on Labor Day weekend to attend the first large-scale meeting of American radicals designed to put together a concrete vision of a revolutionary America.

It was called the Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention plenary session; the site was Temple University, located in the middle of a crumbling but lively black ghetto. The registration center was staffed and guarded by members of the Black Panther Party, which called and sponsored the convention.

The first plenary session was held in a 5,000-seat gymnasium. The bleachers were filled, and people sat cross-legged on the gym floor, too. We listened to Michael Tabor, one of the New York Panther 21, who talked intensely and passionately for two hours about American history, the old Constitution, and the future of our revolution.

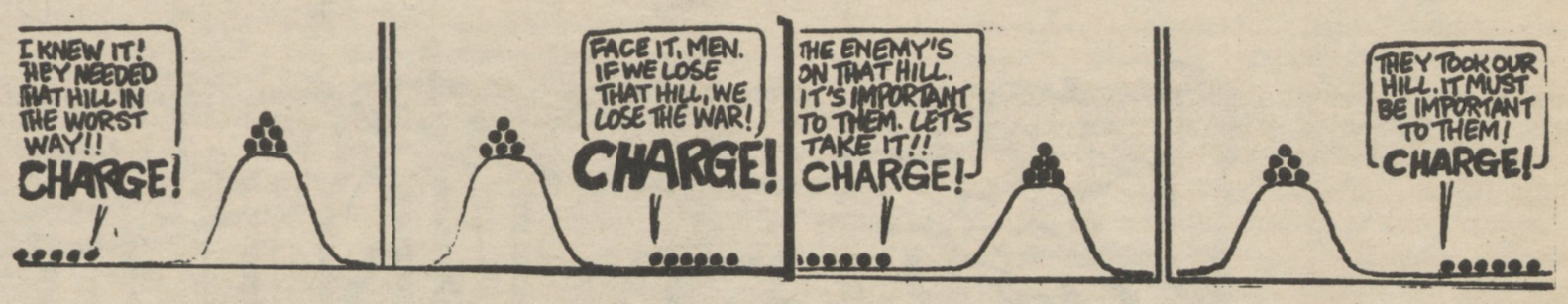
"From the beginning it was a government of the pigs, by the pigs and for the pigs...." Tabor said, and he began to relate the real side of American history, the oppressed people's side of the school-taught myths. It was slaveowners and landowners, he said, who drafted the original Constitution to serve their own needs.

"All men are created equal..." But women and black people were not considered people, Tabor told the crowd.

He then dissected the current state of the economy: "They say we have an inflation and recession. That means the top of the lid is blowing off and the bottom is falling out,

(CONT'D ON PAGE 7)

Write On!



Brothers--

Not long ago a new act of repression was introduced to the 327th. Sig. Bn. The men there are not allowed to lay on their beds without turning them down. Also a daily inspection interrupts any peace and quiet that used to prevail. A man has a day off, or a half a day, and he doesn't have the privilege of his own bed. What more of an insult can the lifers hand us??

When the inspections began, all footwear had to be highly shined, not buffed it seemed, but spit-shined, or the EM was harrassed.

A new CO took over one of the companies in the Bn. and from then on gave Art. 15's left and right to Black brothers to attempt to get over with the Caucasian lifers in command.

The shit is continuing to get deeper, my brothers. When it ends depends on you. It's time for a change, my brothers, react or it will soon be too late for any reaction.--- Right on!!--Write on!!

The motor pool was clean,too bad the trucks wern't. Congratulations ABCAR!

Brothers -

We are faced with an unconstitutional army. Show me a law or a constitution that says that this government or any government has the right to take fathers from their families or children from their parents to fight in a immoral and unconstitutional war. How many Vietnamese died in our civil war?

In this New Action Army a person is not treated as a person. He is a number or else he is Government Property!

They are always on you about the length of your hair. Since when does the length of your hair interfere your work or the way you fight?

When will it all end? Sonetimes I wonder!!! Is the United States going to be another Rome? If so, when will it fall; and who will it take down with it when it does?

If we don't act now this is going to turn into a Military Controlled State, just like Nazi Germany, and Gen. Westmoreland another Adolf Hitler.

Is this the great United States of America everyone is talking about? The land where we have so much freedom? The land where all men are created equal? Well, just ask the Black man, he'll tell you!

Long Live Amerika!

Kill for Peace,

A Slave

Dear Bragg Briefs,

In your article,K.P.'S Speak Out! you have gone entirely to far, first of all,I want to know who madeyou an authority on K.P.? I don't know where you get your info,but, it's more fraudulent than Santa Clause,I'll have you know,K.P.'s get up at 6:00(civilian time),and drag ass to the mess hall, choose their own job,(where to work). The side sink man,(as you have been so kind as to refer to), has no comittance as to cleaning the chow line,(A COOKS JOB), putting milk into the cooler, or most of all washing the cooking pots, or utensils.

K.P.S in our mess hall, HHC 82nd Abn Div. have at a min. of 30 min., to eat,usually longer,than the cooks themselves, the heat is not exaggerated although, there would be at least 5 men,(5 for a mess of 1000) to work the same job. SIDE SINK. You are actually a slave for 14 hrs. approx.

So you see,or so you should, K.P. is actually HARMLESS IF you work your balls off,and you will,if you could insure the one question, if K.P. is so terrible,so retched,than why do so many soldiers buy K.P.? All the money in the world, could pay for your fraudulent description of a K.P.s day and I don't mind you or the world knowing. My opinion as probably your own is built by practical knowledge. Although I'm not a lifer I have a job to do,and I'll do my best, you see ARMY builds men,(with character).

Please if you dare,print this. I'll be waiting for a reply.

Sp/4 Art Morgan
HHC 82nd Abn Div

A pissed off reader of Bragg Briefs

---Well, we dared to print it, and I'm sure somebody will dare to disagree.

Brothers-

For some time I have been a member of the U.S. Army. In fact I've been in the war machine so long I'm due to get out in October 1970. But that's not your problem, it's one of mine. Here is yours. Now everyone pays taxes to the government. And the government takes these taxes & pays the war machine bills. One bill they pay for is Separate Rations, which is when you are a lifer you get money for your food, and if you wish to eat in the mess hall, you have to pay for it. Then how come in the 612th QM Co(AD) the lifers are getting over. Every morning the men come in and get coffee. But before they get this coffee they have to sign a roster saying they ate a whole meal. But not the lifers. They just get their coffee and are on their way. No money is payed and no signatures are signed. Why don't they sign the roster and pay for what they are payed for? Good waste of money, huh?

Well if you think that's good (for nothing), then dig this. My name is Roy M. Watson. I am the company gardener. My rank is E-1. Every day I've got to go and report to the 612th QM Co (AD). In the morning when I come to work, and in the evening when I get off. If I don't my commanding officer, Maj. Robert Schlasser has threatened to give me a dishonorable discharge before my ETS, which is 8 Oct 70 - Big Deal.

Now Dig-

During my entire day I am followed by SFC Newson who makes E-7 over-21 pay just for watching little old me and nothing else. He tells me what to do, when to take a break, and is my constant daily shadow. Your taxes are really being used wisely, people.

Think About It,
Roy M. Watson

You know what GI stands for: Government Issued. That means you're expendable. You are a piece of equipment necessary to the machine. Without you they are nothing. They have to have you, not the reverse. Whether you are a foot soldier, a medic, a truck driver, or whatever, you are the one who makes the Army work. You are responsible for what it does.

Get together, talk about your problems. If you dig it as it is then you have lost nothing. But if you do not dig the way it is, find out what you as a soldier can do to exercise your basic right of change. Changing it to fit your individual needs.

You are the soldier. You feel the bullets. You pull "their" triggers. Learn, baby. That's where it's at.

You tell me you got troubles. You tell me they work you too hard. You tell me the money is no good. You tell me you have no rights. You tell me the lifers push you around. You tell me that you get ripped off downtown. You tell me you get too much harrassment. Over and over again you tell me that the GI gets shafted.

So I ask:

What are you doing about it?
Are you going to let them decide when, where, and how you are to die?
Do you like being a slave?
Who made the rules in the army?
Do they let you decide anything?

If you do not like it stand up and be counted. I am not saying become a martyr. They have a lot of power. All I am saying is try. See how much the army will allow you to learn. See how much the ruling class in the army allows you to question.

Write On!!

Write On!

Bragg Briefs -

Last nite, Wednesday, 3 pigs came into Rowan Park and busted a dude for possession of Mace, a chemical substance the pigs need to blind people. As the pigs chased this guy, a narc was left behind to guard the two pigs' cars against the heads in the park.

When the pigs returned the narc was congratulated for a job well done and then sent on his merry way. The pigs split, but before the narc was out of the park a group of about 40 people staged a die-in in the narc's honor. Needless to say, the narc got the fuck beat out of him by everybody there.

PFC Edward H. Willis, Jr.
182nd AVN CO.

FREEDOM!

viet vets

Bringing It All Back Home

At 10:30 AM on Sept. 6, 1970, a company of armed infantrymen swept into Doylestown, Penn. They seized and occupied the center of the city, setting up road blocks and taking civilian prisoners. The mayor, who was addressing a rally at the courthouse, was captured, interrogated, tortured, and in full view of the stunned townspeople, shot to death. Other innocent civilians including women and children, were taken captive, and , after being mistreated by the GIs, were also killed. At 10:45 AM the company marched south out of the town, leaving behind a trail of bloody bodies and a horrified citizenry standing in their yards and streets mute with shock, their unbelieving eyes fastened on the departing soldiers.

The preceeding actually happened, as part of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War Operation RAW (Rapid American Withdrawal), a simulated search-and-destroy mission carried out on Labor Day Weekend. Over 100 Vietnam vets organized, dressed, and equipped as an Infantry Combat Company, marched from Morristown, N.J. to Vally Forge, Pennsylvania (a distance of over 90 miles) to protest Amerika's continuing war in Indochina.

By previous arrangement with the towns along the way, the VVAW carried out a series of combat raids exactly like those performed daily by US forces in SE Asia. The victims in these incidents were local townspeople (including a mayor and a minister) and members of the Philadelphia Guerrilla Theatre.

While civilians looked on, the captured "gooks" were beaten, humiliated, questioned, tortured, and killed--using the same methods taught, sanctioned, and encouraged by the US Army. It was obvious through their language and manner that these men had been soldiers; that they had seen killing and that they had done killing.

The VVAW handed out leaflets on the way:

"We are the Vietnam vets who have survived the trap in which our buddies have died or been maimed. Many of you know that vietnam is a trap--and have done nothing to prevent our buddies (your sons) from going into it.

Today, about 32 GIs will be killed in Vietnam and about 140 will be seriously wounded, and you did not speak out to prevent thier deaths. You let them walk into the trap.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT YOU?

The last platoon handed out this mess age:

" A US infantry company just passed through your town. If you were Vietnamese,

You might have been killed

Your wife or daughter might have been raped

Your crops and home might have been destroyed

This kind of thing happens every day in Vietnam in your name

What have you done to stop it???"

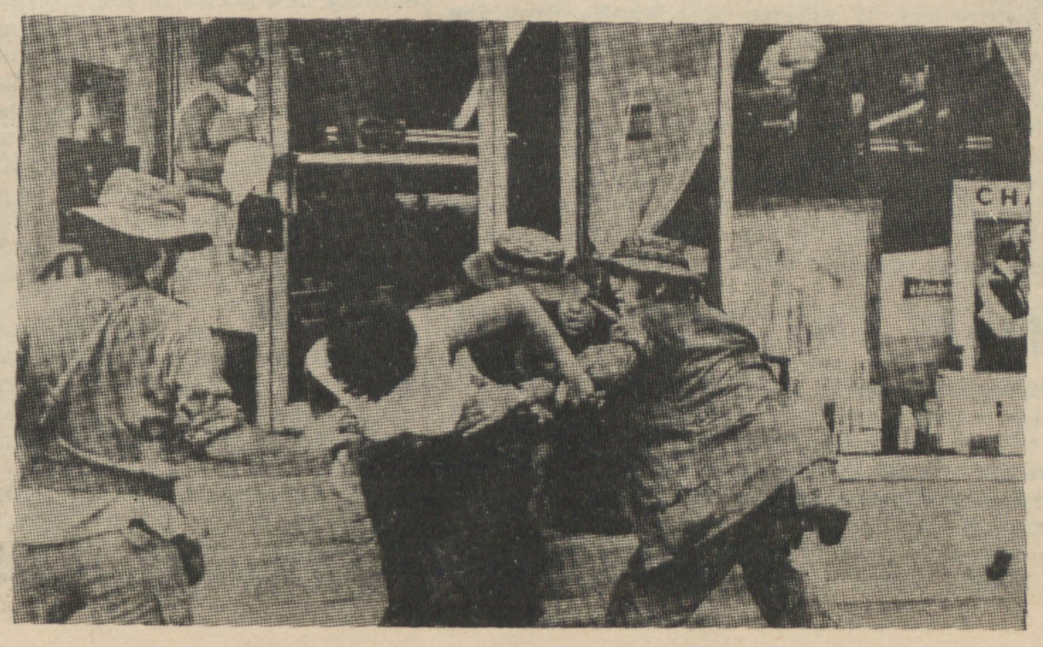
Eleven towns were occupied this way, and in each a special contingent of vets stayed behind. They spoke to townspeople in order to judge their reactions to the operations and to explain the reason for the action and the views of the VVAW about the war.

Civilian response ranged from fear, shock, and concern, through apathy, to outright hostility. One young mother just stood on the sidewalk holding her 2 small boys tightly and crying. There were also some incidents of violence. The Vets were threatened with a loaded shotgun and with being run over by a car. They were assulted and insulted, and attempts were made to stop the march with American flag roadblocks and obscenities shouted by VFW and American Legion members. Apathy was the most common reaction; people tried to ignore the occupation of their town and go on with business as usual. Just now , reactions of shock and disbelief are showing up, and reports are that the towns will not be the same for quite a while.

At the end of the 4--day march, over 300 former soldiers, reservists, and active duty GI's, led by a group of disabled Viet Vets and medics, moved in a slow formation to meet several thousand people in Valley Forge where the whole group held a rally in support of the Vets and what they are doing. "Being a man is not 'my country right or wrong' but 'my country -- let's right the wrong!' "

As the rally ended, the veterans, many with tears in their eyes from the emotional strain, violently smashed the toy M-16's they had carried day night during the long march, and instead raised their hands in the V sign for peace.

(Reprinted from the Old Mole)



J.G. PEELE, M.D.
KINSTON, N.C.

THE REAL LOSERS IN MIDDLE EAST********** PALESTINIAN ARABS

Palestine Problem

Of all the problems bequeathed to the world by European imperialism, Palestine is among the most intractable.

It is a peculiarly emotional issue, not only for those immediately involved. In the West the burden of guilt left by Hitler's crimes against the Jews has created a barrier which the injustices suffered by the Palestinian Arabs cannot penetrate. In many Arab countries hatred of the Jews is whipped up to divert the internal struggle against reactionary regimes into external channels. Western economic interests in the area, and the tendency of both East and West to exploit the situation for ideological or strategic advantage, further complicate the problem. To make matters worse, in both Israel and the Arab countries there is almost total ignorance of the other's history, people and aspirations.

Emotions, however, whether rightly or wrongly based, cannot solve complex political problems. They are much more likely to lead to disaster. At the centre of the emotional miasma surrounding Palestine lie two hard facts — the displaced Arab population who still live in refugee camps round Israel's borders; and a new nation of Israel, with a complete class structure of its own, who by incessant propaganda and, to a certain extent, real achievement, are beginning to carve a place in the world. Neither can be forgotten, ignored, or annihilated. A political solution must sooner or later be found, that is both realistic and just. The alternative is — eventually — war, which will at best only defer, not solve, the political problems.

A realistic solution can only be based on a thorough historical, economic, political and social analysis of the problem.

PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS

In the first half of the 20th Century the population of Palestine was about 700,000, the overwhelming majority being Arabs. There were various minority communities, including some 70,000 Jews. Economically and politically these Jews were an integral part of the indigenous population, differing only in religion. They had nothing to do with colonization or Zionism.

The first step in the modern Jewish colonization of Palestine was taken in 1870 when Baron Edmund de Rothschild of France acquired some land near Jaffa and established an agricultural school (Mikveh Israel — " Catherer of Israel "). This was followed by the building of some twenty villages, inhabited by some 5,000 Jews, mostly from Russia. Up to 1900 the Baron invested about £2m. in Palestine. The Rothschilds were (and still are) among the world's leading financiers, with the French and British branches of the family holding influential positions in the economy of these two countries. Baron Edmund combined his Jewish sentiments with his support for French interests in colonizing Palestine following the Algerian model. He wished to amalgamate the emigration of east European Jews with the colonial interests of French imperialism. He did not entertain the idea of an independent Jewish state in Palestine (he was no Zionist) but used his financial power in the Ottoman treasury in order to prepare a new sphere of influence for French interests, employing Jewish immigrants as settlers. His Palestine activities were thirty years old when Zionism was born.

Zionism Founded

Political Zionism was founded in 1897 at a congress held in Basle, Switzerland. If differed significantly from the Rothschild colonization in that it declared its intention of solving the Jewish problem by creating a national Jewish state. However, the Viennese journalist T. Herzl, the founder and first leader of the Zionist movement, did not consider Palestine as the indispensable location for such a state. On the contrary, he advocated Uganda as the most suitable place for Jewish colonization. But the majority of the Zionists rejected the Uganda scheme and insisted on fulfilling the Jewish religious sentiment towards Palestine.

British Imperialism

British imperialism, which ruled Palestine from 1918 to 1948 used the familiar tactics of " divide and rule ", exploiting to the utmost the possibilities which rivalling nationalistic movements offered. For the masses it employed nationist and religious incitement and provocation, which proved to be effective. It employed Jewish policemen against Arab population and vice versa. For the leaders it employed diplomacy, " white papers ", round-table conferences, giving contradictory promises to both sides and acting as mediators ". It succeeded in diverting what threatened to become an anti-imperialist struggle into the channels of nationalistic strife.

The first important statement of British policy on Palestine wass et out in a private letter from Arthur James Balfour, Foreign Minister in Lloyd George's Cabinet, to Lord Rothschild. This become known as " The Balfour Declaration ".

It reads as follows:

Foreign Office,
2nd November, 1917.

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you on behalf of His Majesty's Government the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet: " His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a National home for the Jewish people and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by the Jews in any other country ". I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Yours sincerely,
Arthur James Balfour.

We will not analyse here in detail the wording of this document (which with extraordinary impudence refers to the Palestine Arabs who outnumbered the Jalestine Jews by about eight to one, as " existing non-Jewish communities ') but comment briefly on its main motives. The British Governemnt was engaged at that time in the war against Germany, whose ally in the Middle East was Turkey. The Balfour Declaration was meant to rally the Jews all over the world (including those in Germany, America, Austria and Palestine) to its side. Moreover, being well aware of the aspirations of Arab Nationalism, it was calculated to supply Zionist hopes with a political foundation to use as a counterweight to Arab Nationalism. Similar promises of national independence were given to the Arabs through Capt. Lawrence and Ronald Storrs.

Even before these promises were handed out to the " natives ", the whole area was divided between British and French imperialism in the Sykes-Picot agreement (1916) which dissected the Ottoman Empire two years before its downfall. In 1922 the British government implemented the Balfour letter by an official white paper and in order to pacify the enraged Arabs for the Sykes-Picot and Balfour " betrayal ", granted " independence " to Trans-Jordan in 1923 and appointed Abdallah as ruler.

The calculated ambiguities and " contradictions " in the British Foreign policy increased the unrest and hostilities between Jews and Arabs, and involved considerable bloodshed. In the late 30's this factor turned from an asset into a liability. The religious, feudal and bourgeois elements in Arab Nationalism welcomed the rise of fascism in Germany and Italy, as fellow enemies of British Imperialism. Contacts between these camps worried the British. The oilfields, pipelines and Suez Canal seemed in danger. Zionist demands for more independence and increased immigration quotas for European Jews fleeing from persecution were other issues which had to be handled, too. But the Foreign Office, confident that the Nazis would never consider the Zionists as potential allies, produced another white paper in 1939, aimed at currying favour with the Arabs. It stated:

" His Majesty's Government now declare unequivocably that it is not part of their policy that Palestine should become a Jewish state. . . . It should be a state in which the two peoples in Palestine, Arabs and Jews, share authority in government in such a way that the essential interests of each are secured. . . . '

This, briefly, was the situation on the eve of World War II

From WWII to Present

During the Second World War, new economic and political factors revolutionised the Palestine situation.

The decisive period in the development of the Palestine problem started with the rise of fascism in Europe. '

The Nazi crimes against the Jews gave Zionists an entirely new status in the international arena. Previously, it had been a minority trend amongst the world's 18,000,000 Jews, with the majority either indifferent or hostile. After the extermination of 6,000,000 European Jews by Nazism, many more were attracted by the idea of an independent Jewish state. Zionism, which had always accepted anti-semitism, became a major political tendency even among Jews who had no intention of personally emigrating to Palestine. The World Powers began to regard Zionism as the representative of the whole Jewish people.

The war left large numbers of Jewish refugees in Europe, many of whom, encouraged by the Zionists, wanted to emigrate to Palestine. The Palestine Arabs had no wish to become a minority in their own country, pressed the British government to stop Jewish emigration. The Zionists thereupon began to organise clandestine emigration on a large scale. The British tried to prevent this not only because of Arab pressure but also because they were worried by the rising tendencies towards independence among the Palestine Jews. World opinion, especially in Europe and the U.S., was still reeling with the shock of discovering the enormity of the Nazi war-crimes and inevitably sympathized with the refugees. The resulting political atmosphere was hostile both to the British government and to Arab nationalism. This atmosphere persists today and is one of the major assets of Zionism.

The emergence of the U.S. as a major world power after World War II and the decline of British imperialism brought about a gradual shift of Zionist orientation from Britain towards the U.S. A strong Zionists lobby was built up in Washington and at the same time the pro-American elements in world Zionism gained supremacy over the pro-British faction.

In this new situation the Zionist demanded political independence in Palestine. The right-wing demanded im-

mediate independence for the whole of Palestine under Jewish minority rule; the centrists favoured the partition of Palestine between Arabs and Jews; the left-wing Zionists (among them parts of the present-day " Napam " party) wanted to postpone independence until the Jews became a majority through increased immigration.

In essence there were three parties directly involved in the Palestine problem. British imperialism; the Jewish minority (about 0.6m.); and the Arab majority (about 1m.). Each of these had its own demands, in conflict with the other two. But — mainly owing to the deformation of Arab society by the process of Jewish colonization — the Palestine Arabs did not in fact constitute a major independent political force in the period 1945 - 1947. The struggle was waged mainly between the Zionists and Britain.

In 1947 Britain referred the Palestine problem to the U.N. expecting disagreement in the U.N. to lead to a renewal of the mandate. This would lend a new lease of life to the precarious British authority in the area. In November, 1947, the General Assembly adopted a resolution recommending the partition of Palestine into two independent, but economically linked, states. This solution was a victory for Zionism and was strongly opposed by the Arabs (who, of course, demanded an undivided independent Arab Palestine), and by British imperialism which struggled to retain its influence and power.

Both the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. supported the resolution; the U.S. because they considered it a convenient way of gaining a foothold in the Middle East and replacing British imperialism; the U.S.S.R. because it considered it the most practical way to drive British imperialism out of one of its strongholds. The U.S.S.R. probably under-estimated the strong links between Zionism and American imperialism. As for the Foreign Office, it was worried not only because the creation of a Zionist state meant loss of influence to the U.S. but also because the establishing of an independent Arab state in Palestine could have repercussions in the Arab world.

After the U.N. partition resolution, the British tried to provoke the Palestine Arabs against the Jewish population, to prove that a British presence was necessary to keep law and order. This attempt failed. Next, the British organised in Syria an irregular volunteer army (headed by Fawzi el Kaukji) which entered Palestine and attacked Jewish settlements. When this attempt failed too, the British finally decided to employ the regular armies of Trans-Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Iraq in order to wage open war against the Zionist state, which (according to the U.N. resolution), was to come into existence on 15th May, 1948. The political and military plans for this invasion were drawn up by General T. C. Clayton (one of the main British colonial agents in the Middle East) in a meeting of the Arab chiefs of staffs held early in 1948 at Bludan, Syria.

The 1948 war became a military conflict between the Zionists and the Arab armies. These armies were not, however, playing an independent role for achieving Arab independence in Palestine, but rather serving British interests, through the puppet regimes of Farouk, Abdallah and Nuri Sa'id. The war was used by these regimes to divert the internal anti-imperialist struggle (especially in Egypt and Iraq) into an imperialist-sponsored Holy War. The conduct of the war exposed the utter corruption of these regimes and hastened their downfall.

The fate of Palestine was decided not on the battlefield, but also in secret talks between the Zionist leaders and Abdallah. These talks started immediately after the adoption of the partition resolution by the U.N. and went on until 1950. In these talks the two " friendly enemies ", although ostensibly at war with each other, agreed to divide between them the territory which the U.N. resolution had allotted to the Palestinian Arabs, as well as Jerusalem which, according to the resolution, was to become a separate unit under the U.N. administration. The armistice agreement coincided, more or less, with the results of the political negotiations between the Zionist leaders and Abdallah.

A new set-up was thus established in Palestine: 20,000 sq. km. (instead of the 14,000 sq. km. allotted to it in the U.N. resolution) became Israel; and the remaining territory (except the Gaza strip) was annexed by Abdallah, who renamed his kingdom " Jordan " (instead of Trans-Jordan). This new set-up expressed the new balance of influence among the Western Powers. The area of the Zionist state was lost to British imperialism and came under U.S. influence; while the area annexed by Abdallah represented the remnants of British influence. This new division of spheres of influence received formal confirmation in the Tri-partite (U.S., Britain and France) Declaration of May, 1950.

This state of affairs, established as a consequence of the 1948 war, persists today and is referred to as the " status quo " in the Middle East. It is an inherently unstable situation because the war was not terminated by a political solution of the Palestine problem but only by a temporary Armistice Agreement. Since Israel is interested in preserving the " status quo ", it has become more and more dependent on the Western Powers who guarantee its continuance. The same applies, of course, to the Jordanian regime, which because of its military weakness also depends indirectly on Israel. In spite of their seemingly hostile relations, these two regimes share a common interest — to preserve the " status quo ". Thus, the sum total of the relations between Imperialism, the Zionists, and the various Arab parties which was known up to 1948 as " The Palestine Problem " was transformed in 1948 into the " Israeli-Arab conflict ", the latter being a direct continuation (albeit in a new form) of the former.

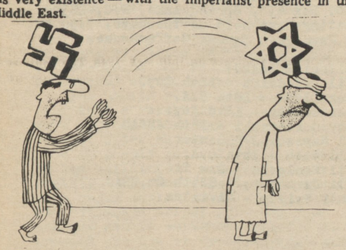
The Losers

The losers and victims of the 1948 war were the Palestine Arabs, who hardly participated in the war. Their right to self-determination, which previously nobody — not even the Zionist leaders — had denied, was violated. Most of them became homeless refugees. The fate of those who remained in the area held by Israel was hardly better. They had lived ever since under military rule and are subject to constant and severe repression. The land remaining in Arab hands is still gradually but systematically expropriated, often by administrative subterfuge, to make way for Zionist development. The Arabs are second-class citizens in their own country.

Arab Opposition to Imperialism

In the early 50's the anti-imperialist struggle intensified throughout the Arab world. In the Arab East this intensification was, in part, a result of the Palestine war. Britain, already too weak to defend its old position, had to accept the fact that the U.S. was becoming dominant in this part of the woarld as in others. The global policy of the U.S. to surround the U.S.S.R. by a chain of bases and military pacts was welded in the Middle East with the traditional British colonial policy into a single anti-Soviet and imperialist policy. Throughout the 50's these two Powers tried to create a military alliance of Middle-Eastern countries, to serve as a link in the chain of anti-Soviet alliances stretching from Scandinavia to Korea and to strengthen Western domination in the Middle East.

This policy encountered great difficulties, because the Arab masses were aware of its imperialist character and opposed it violently. On the government level, the consistent refusal of Egypt and Syria to participate in such pacts undermined the whole of Western policy in the region. The Israeli government on the other hand, was always willing to participate actively in any such scheme, not only because of the traditional links between Zionism and Imperialism, but also (and more specifically) because Israel's adherence to the " status quo " made it a natural ally of imperialism — an ally who identified his own national interests — indeed his very existence — with the Imperialist presence in the Middle East.



The Israeli position was fully understood and utilized by the West. Whenever the governments of Egypt, Syria or Jordan attacked the Anglo-American schemes, Israel was used as a threat against them. These threats often materialised in the form of armed raids by Israeli forces. Jordan, particularly, was raided during the period when the el Nabulsi government there conducted anti-Western policies. Usually, after such a raid, the Arab government concerned would turn to the West and ask for arms. The reply was always: " Join the Baghdad Pact, and you will get arms "

This Western policy was finally defeated when, after the big Israeli raid on Gaza on 28th April, 1955, Nasser refused to submit to Western pressure and turned to Czechoslovakia for arms. This broke the arms monopoly of Imperialism in the area, and considerably weakened its political influence. From this time onwards, the Soviet Union emerged as a protagonist in the Middle East scene. This development, followed by the nationalisation of the Suez Canal, drove Britain and France to desperation. Employing an Israeli invasion of Egypt as a pre-arranged pretext, they launched a direct military attack on Egypt in order to regain possession of the Canal and to overthrow the neutralist and anti-imperialist governments in the Middle East. The fate of this aggression is well known.

For Israel the failure of the Suez invasion meant that she was unable to force the Arab world to accept the " status quo ". From that time the Palestine problem entered a period of stalemate.

The Zionist leaders of Israel are generally satisfied with the present stalemate. It is true that originally Zionism aimed to get hold of all of Palestine, and that for most Zionists this included the whole of the territory west of the River Jordan. An extremist minority had, and still has, aspirations to the eastern bank, but the defeat of the Suez aggression brought home to the Zionist leadership the lesson that even direct military partnership with imperialist powers cannot, in the world of today, achieve a further expansion of Israel. At present they consider expansionism unrealistic.

But they do consider as realistic a policy aimed at consolidating and perpetuating the " status quo ". This is the principle object of Israeli foreign policy. In carrying out this policy, they rely on three factors.

First, that Israel is the most stable and reliable ally of imperialism in the area. In return, imperialism — which has an interest in preserving such an ally — grants them protection. Their hope is that the West will always be able to grant them this protection and will never let them down.

Jewish Pressure

Second, Zionism has a powerful ally in Western public opinion. The 5,000,000 American Jews constitute a strong pressure group exerting considerable influence not only on U.S. official policy but also on American public opinion. Even that section of Western public opinion which opposes imperialism, is reluctant to criticise Israel. This is a result of the deep feeling of guilt in the West after the massacre of 6,000,000 Jews by the Nazis. Even socialists in the West often mistakenly identify anti-Zionism with anti-semitism. Zionist propaganda has another great advantage: it aims at consolidating an existing situation and therefore preaches peace. Arab policy wishes to change the situation, and cannot simply preach peace, but has the difficult task of explaining the injustice of the " status quo ". Thus the Zionists appear as peace seekers, the Arabs as aggressors.

Third, the Zionists rely on military force. Knowing that eventually the balance of conventional forces will be against them, they have recently started to develop nuclear weapons. They hope that possession of such weapons will make it impossible for the Arabs to upset the " status quo ". Alternatively, should the Great Powers force them to give up possession of nucuear weapons, the Zionists hope to get in exchange for this an East-West guarantee to maintain the " status quo ".

In the long run, the Zionist policies cannot succeed. Even if they do manage to maintain the " status quo ' for a relatively long period, Israel will remain a small beseiged fortress, economically unviable and dependent on outside economic aid for its very existence (about $400m. per year flow into the country since 1950, to balance a constant deficit in the balance of payments). Its own natural resources are meagre, and its markets extremely limited. It cannot compete with the advanced economies of the European countries, and Arab markets are closed to it. It is only the world-wide fund-raising activities of Zionist organisations such as the Jewish Agency, and the reparations paid by the Germans which keep the standard of living in Israel at an artificially high level. If Israel's carefully cultivated image in the West — of a democratic, refugee sheltering, peace-loving country were seriously dented, the economic consequences could be very serious. The inevitable decline of imperialist influence coupled with the progressive unification of the Arab world, will make Israel's position even more precarious.

The Arab feudal regimes, like Zionism, had always been natural allies of Western imperialism. Both waged a struggle against rising bourgeois nationalism, therefore, these regimes considered Zionism as the lesser of the two evils. Today, as in the past, they share common political interests with Zionism as both depend for their existence on Imperialist influence in the area.

The feudal regimes cannot uphold such a policy publicly in the Arab world where the masses are anti-imperialist and clamour for political independence. To cover up their co-operation with imperialism they put out virulent anti-Zionist and anti-Jewish propaganda. A classic example occurred during King Feisal's visit to Washington in June, 1966. While conferring with President Johnson on containing Nasser and his policies, and thereby running the risk of revealing his pro-imperialist policies to the Arab world, a press question him the opportunity to declare that " all the Jews in the world support Israel, and therefore are enemies of the Arabs ". The mayor of New York city, which has more Jews than Israel itself, promptly cancelled an official dinner with him. Feisal could only congratulate himself on this chance to consolidate his tarnished image in the Arab world.

Publicly, the feudal regimes advocate the annihilation of Israel: privately — they co-operate with it. In some cases (Jordan particularly), they depend on it for their existence. Whenever the Palestinian Arabs in Jordan threaten the regime of King Hussein (grandson of Abdallah), the Israeli army moves to the armistice lines, ready to intervene if Hussein is overthrown. The rebellious masses are immediately " pacified " on the grounds that only Hussein's army can defend them from the aggressive Israelis. Although Hussein's throne has rocked violently more than once, it has stood all attacks up to now, thanks to the intervention of Israel, which would regard the overthrow of Hussein as a violation of the " status quo " — a new regime in Jordan might refuse to recognise the Abdallah-Ben Gurion pact of 1948, and the Tri-partite Declaration of 1950.

Thus, whereas on the surface the feudal regimes appear to be the most extreme enemies of Zionism, they are as concerned as Israel to consolidate and perpetuate imperialist influence and presence in the area. Zionism, and Arab feudalism are, as always, " friendly enemies ".

Consent not Coercion

The bourgeois and petty-bourgeois parties throughout the Arab world approach the Palestine problem through the United Nations resolutions. This policy was first formulated by Nasser at the Bandung Conference (1955) and it was unanimously adopted. This policy meant essentially two things: (1) Israel should repatriate the Arab refugees (according to a 1949 U.N. resolution); (2) Israel should give up the territory annexed by it as a result of the secret pact with Abdallah. This policy would reduce the area of Israel but would not affect its Zionist character.

In fact, this conciliatory programme (which represents a considerable concession to Zionism) would not provide a stable solution of the Palestine problem. It would probably be as dangerous as the " status quo ". A smaller Zionist state would still be dependent on Western imperialism, and as such would continue to threaten Arab progress towards unity and socialism. This programme was raised again by Bourgiba in order to embarrass Nasser, who dropped this formula after Suez, realising that although the slogan of adhering to the U.N. resolutions had an attractive propaganda value, it did not provide for a stable solution. Moreover, since Nasser's approach to the problem of Arab unity is a basically bourgeois one, relegating class contradictions within Arab society to second place, he was led to seek an understanding with the reactionary regime in Jordan. But this regime is as much opposed to the U.N. partition resolution as the Zionists are, because Jordan too annexed part of Palestine territory. Nasser is now not so keen to raise the U.N. formula.

Today, the Nasserites and Ba'athists do not have any political solution. Instead, they talk in military terms and argue endlessly with each other whether to go to war with Israel (" liberate Palestine ") in the near future (Syrian Ba'ath) or to postpone the war until a considerable progress is made towards Arab unity (Nasser). This military approach evades the main question. War can, at the very most, serve as a means to political solution; it can never replace one. Even if a war against Israel were to be won, the question of the political future of Palestine would remain unsolved. A military Arab victory would, at most, destroy the Zionist regime, but 2,000,000 Jews would remain, and probably constitute a problem similar to the Kurdish problem, unless a political solution is implemented. As is well known, the Nasserites and the Ba'athists do not have a political solution even to the Kurdish problem.

It is clear that the existence of an Israeli state (whatever the size of its territory) isolated from the Arab world is contrary to the interests of the Arab masses. It is also contrary to the interests of the Israeli masses. Such a state cannot exist without outside support and will always necessarily be dependent on imperialism. The inherent instability of such a situation will always be a threat over the heads of the Israelis. A stable solution must therefore provide for a non-Zionist form of self-determination for Israel within the framework of an Arab Socialist Union. The Palestine problem is, in fact, closely linked with the class struggle in the Arab world and with the problem of unification. This is the reason why those forces in the Arab world which are unable to solve the problem of Arab unity are also unable to solve the Palestine problem.

Another aspect of the Palestine problem is the self-determination of the Palestinian Arabs. Should they exercise this right and establish a state of their own? Naturally, both the Zionists and Hussein are hysterically opposed to any such suggestion. But progressive elements are also undecided on this issue, believing that the creation of a new small Arab state would have a harmful effect on the process of unification.

Here, too, any solution must be compatible with the interests of unification and socialism throughout the Middle East. If a political form of self-determination of the Palestine Arabs be established (because it is theirs by right) it must come about in a way that will conform with the interests of the masses throughout the Middle East. A unification based on the denial of the right to self-determination is morally, and politically, wrong, and whenever practised in the past has introduced suspicion, mistrust and instability into the union. If these are to be eliminated from the Union of the Middle Eastern states, the fundamental national rights of the constituent members must be fulfilled. They should be given up by consent, not coercion.

Taken from the Israeli Socialist Organization's Pamphlet-- The Palestine Problem.

PATTON The ANTI!! War Movie

Anti-war critics often accuse the generals of loving war, of actually preferring war to peace. The military (so goes the argument) abhors peace the way nature abhors a vacuum. Thus you have the warmongering brass of "Dr. Strangelove," General Custer's mad pursuit of the Sioux, and the jingoistic British, French and German officer corps who set off World War I.

The professional soldier, of course, is quick to protest his innocence. Voice full of sincerity, he seems hurt that anyone could take him to be a violent man."The public," he says," has a total ignorance of our problem. We go to war because it's our duty, not because we like killing or the thrill of battle. My God, if there's one group of people who have a vested interest in peace, it's us."

Ah, how far that is from the truth as GI's know it, troop! Any draftee who has seen the gleam in a DI's eyes as he recounts his war stories, or heard the General praise the noble qualities of the soldier or a pet weapons system, knows this to be a myth.

The tragedy is that the Silent American and his missus- whose taxes fund the Warrior, whose flags inspire his martial boasts- suspect nothing of his baser motives. They trust his judgment on the inevitability of the next war...and when their son follows the Reluctant Warrior into combat and dies, they accept the flag from his casket with silent resignation. When will they ever learn??

Well, a telling blow against the myth of the "Warrior-as-Reluctant-Guardian-of-peace-in-our-time" is being struck by the movie PATTON (based on Ladislav Farago's book), now packing in crowds nationwide (and, pray God, a lot of Silent Americans and their missus!).

Sorry to knock your thing, lifers, but PATTON does not portray "Old Blood and Guts" as a reluctant citizen-soldier torn from a peaceful home to fight an unwelcome war.

On the contrary, Patton spent his entire life, in his words, hardening his body and preparing his mind for one purpose-- to lead his beloved tanks in epic battle. Patton plainly loved war, exulted in it!

George C. Scott's portrayal is a sensitive one, and we even find ourselves sympathizing with Patton's warlust, as when his friend Omar Bradley is faulting him for glory-hunting in the push to beat Montgomery to Palermo. "George," he says reproachfully, " there's one difference between you and me. I'm in this war because it's my job, an unpleasant duty. You're here because you love it!"

Bradley's accusation haunts Patton During the Battle of the Bulge, Patton views the carnage of a freshly fought tank battle and is overcome with emotion. "God help me," but I do love it. I do love it so," he half sighs, half moans in self-reproach.

But Patton was one in a million, the generals will say. Was he? His son, Brig. Gen. George Patton III, seems to have inherited the old man's warlust, to be, if anything, more of a war-lover than his dad. The son (according to a report in the N.Y. Times Magazine) carries the polished skull of a VC as a good-luck charm.

He once told a reporter: " I sure do like to see the arms and legs fly." A chip off the old block...and we know the Army is full of such chips!

How much longer until we learn that the career Warrior has a "vested interest," not in peace, but in WAR! Isn't it time to call his avowed "reluctance" for what it is-- a hollow myth and lie!!

Auto Workers

Over 300,000 workers in GM locals throughout the country went on strike last month. Their strike is one of many over the past two years - caused by the rising prices and taxes which are effecting working men and women.

The strikes are coming now because of the inflation and recession which are a product of the war in Indochina, and Nixon's economic policy of supporting big profits for business and taxing the workers to support the war.

The figures speak for themselves. Since the war was escalated in 1965, the take home wages of the average worker (after you figure for inflation) has gone down. Workers today can't buy as much for their week's pay as they could in 1965.

Meanwhile, profits of big business have increased over 200%. The big defense contractors have made even more money off taxes paid by workers struggling to make ends meet.

Now Nixon's "new" policies are adding to unemployment. It's O.K. with Tricky Dicky if one out of every twenty people who are looking for jobs can't get them. It's O.K. with him if medical care gets so expensive that only the very rich can afford it.

But it's not O.K with the workers. And so mass resistance in the form of strikes has developed. The workers know that when the government talks about guns and butter, the butter is for the big businesses and the guns are for them to carry.

Nixon's in trouble and he knows it. His puppets - Thieu, Ky, Lon Nol, etc. - are faltering, even with massive American aid. At home, students, other young people, and blacks are rebelling. And the workers, who are the backbone of this country, are waking up to the effects of the war.

And as they do, will the Nixons and Agnews and all their friends hesitate to use GI's against the struggles of working people? Look at the history of this country and the answer is obvious. Just a few months ago troops were used as scabs against the postal workers.

The question is, what will happen when the GI's get together and stop doing the bosses bidding?

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constitutional Conv.

(CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

and that's a depression...." He warned that fascism can come without the telltale signs of sieg-heils and goose-steps; and he called the U.S. the number one threat to the continued existence of the human race.

Huey P. Newton, out of jail for only a few weeks, drew thousands more than the 10,000 daytime participants. When he spoke on Saturday night, the gym was packed beyond capacity, and thousands more were crushed together outside the modernistic building, unable to get in.

> "We need a new constitution to express the spirit of the people's movement"
>
> HUEY P. NEWTON

Huey again laid out the premises behind the need for a new constitution. He talked about the right of oppressed people to rebel and to build their own new world.

The evening session depicted, in unpolished but well-thought-out form, an America where political power is brought down to the level of communities, autonomous local forms that would replace states and cities; an America where oppressed national minorities are guaranteed "the right to integrate, segregate, do whatever they want to do;" where women are guaranteed total equality, equal participation, full education; where sexism in all its forms is fought and eliminated. Full 24-hour day-care centers for children would be universally available.

The Constitution's New America will provide for a people's militia, destruction of the standing army, dismantling of genocidal weapons, no more than 10% of the national budget spent on the military, and a prohibition against American military forces fighting outside national boundaries. Half of the militia will be women.

Police will be controlled by each community, policeforces being composed of people from each community who would rotate their police responsibilities at set intervals. There would be no national police, no secret police, and no plainclothes police.

Education will be universal, controlled by the community; schools should stress social ideas and practice, students would have full control of school governments and newspapers, there would be no enforced state curriculums, and pre-schools would be set up.

The most thunderous applause of the session was for the street people's workshop endorsement of grass, acid and mescaline as "instrumental in developing the revolutionary consciousness of the people."(!!)

The health workshop took the position that a revolutionary attitude toward psychedelic drugs can only be developed after we see how drugs are used by people actively participating in the building of a revolutionary society. Dope under capitalism and dope under socialism are bound to be two different trips! Both the drug and the health workshops roundly denounced the use of speed, heroin and other hard drugs which are used to keep people oppressed.

The Constitution will state that children are not to be property-- of parents, the state, or of the collective groupings in which they may live. They have a right to a broad education that will expose them to all human models of behavior, that will eliminate racism, male chauvinism and heterosexual chauvinism.

Land and natural resources will belong to all the people. The delegates did not forget that America has been raping and stealing land and wealth throughout the world for decades.

The "means of production" workshop pointed out that America's standard of living in a post-revolutionary period would have to decrease at first in order to help other peoples catch up. The right to freedom from hunger will be central; so will the right to a decent home.

Agriculture will be decentralized, and thus overproduction (and subsequent destruction of excess food) will be eliminated; and the use of chemical fertilizers and insecticides minimized. "The only solution to air pollution is revolution," one spokesman said, amid cheers.

The Convention's final session is set for Nov. 4 (tentatively in Wash.,D.C.) which will produce a written constitution.

Riot Control and Your Mind

The Army has come out with some brand new riot control films positively designed to capture your mind. Naturally, the men in the 82nd Airborne Division are the troops most likely to be called out for riot control in Washington, D.C., and elsewhere. In these films troops are shown confronting belligerent and insulting crowds of protestors. According to the placards which the demonstrators carried, the issue being protested was something to do with the PTA. If GI's are deployed for riot control, it won't be anything to do with the PTA. It's going to be about the war or the military or civil rights or something along these lines. But the film makers very ingeniously did not make any of these subjects the issue in the films because, if they did, some of us dumb GI's might have put 2 and 2 together and saw the light.

The narrator of the films explains that it takes a special kind of man, someone with almost superhuman qualities, to perform his duties as ordered under these circumstances. The films do a fine job of leaving the soldier with the impression that anytime he is placed in a riot type situation, no matter what it's about, and he does his duty, then he'll be performing an act worthy of the greatest praise. He'll be respected and admired by people everywhere.

Five months ago a bunch of national guardsmen who joined the guard to keep their asses out of Vietnam gunned down a group of college students who were demonstrating against the very thing that these guardsmen had managed to avoid - the war. It's true the guardsmen were called names and pelted with rocks but that's because they were defending something very wrong. They were defending the madness which has killed and mutillated your friends and my friends and which has shipped them home without limbs, without the use of their bodies, and with twisted minds.

If you're deployed for riot duty and ordered to defend something which you don't believe in defending or to contain people whom you don't think should be contained, then do whatever you believe and not what you are told.

U.S. Imperialism Sells Shit

The Saigon government has just done the Vietnamese farmers a great favor. One that brings tears to their eyes. Until recently, the farmers were allowed to buy fertilizer from Taiwan and South Korea at the special rate of 50 dollars a ton. This was already considered exorbitant by the Vietnamese farmers. Now, in order to make up for the loss caused by the Allies' policy of "free defoliation" the government has given them special and excusive authorization to buy only US fertilizers. Tears in the farmers' eyes? US fertilizers cost 129 dollars a ton.

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OCT. 8 - "Bullet Bargaining in Ludlow" - 1913 miners strike (UMW) against Rockerfeller owned mines.
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Live Entertainment on Weekends

OCT. 3 - FOLKSINGER - Byrd Talbee
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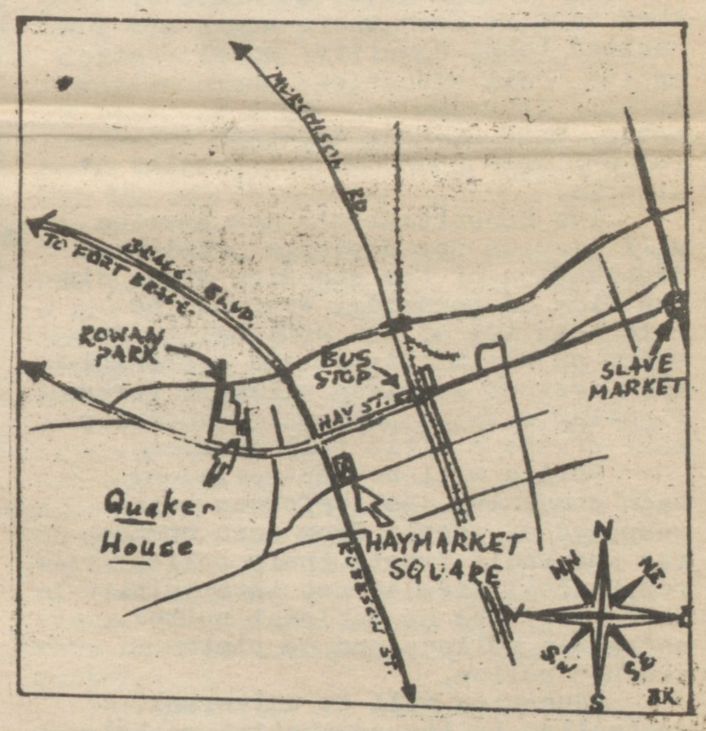


Quaker House Reopens

The Quaker belief is basically that there is good and evil in all men and women in varying degrees. But that we should not give up on someone who has more evil than good but rather try to win him over in a spirit of reconciliation.

This is a rather radical belief to have in a military town because the military is based on the premise that there are good guys and bad guys. Good guys have to kill bad guys "without mercy" because they are the enemy and there is no hope for them.

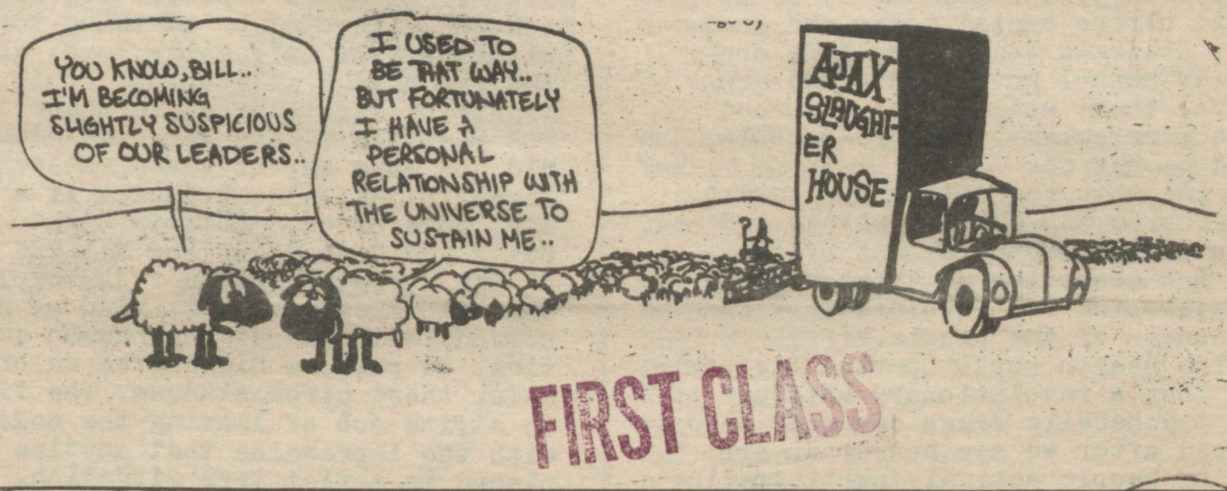
As a result of their beliefs, the North Carolina Friends (Quakers) decided in the summer of 1969 to open a house in Fayetteville to show their concern for peace and reconciliation.

Everything went well until the May 16th rally that GI's United held in the Rowan Street Park. Someone in Fayetteville felt that this concern for peace had gone too far. That when 1,000 GI's showed that they were for peace, the focal point for that concern had to go. Two days after the rally, the Quaker House was burned. Fortunately, no one was hurt. The Friends felt that there was a need to continue the work of Quaker House in Fayetteville.

After three months of searching a new house has been found and offically opened on Sept 13. The house is located on 223 Hillside Avenue, two blocks up Haymont hill from Hay street. The house has two staff members and gives draft and military counseling. There is also a women's center where Women's Emancipation meets.

The House is open to all GI's and civilians, 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. daily except Mondays for counseling, rapping, or just reading.

There is also a silent worship meeting on Sunday mornings at 11:00.



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