

Nixon "Unaware" Of Vietnam Moratorium

October 15 is unofficially a day of protest against the Vietnamese conflict across the nation. But we feel that it should be more than that at Salem College—it should be a day of Awareness. Whether you are opposed or not to American presence in Vietnam, you should be aware of a situation with such far reaching consequences and such personal involvement. You owe this to yourselves, your government and to those men fighting and dying in Vietnam.

If you do not wish to or cannot for some reason boycott class on October 15, then ask your professors to moderate a discussion on the topic. Your professor isn't completely aware about Vietnam—and neither are you, but together, as a group, perhaps you can aid in increasing everyone's awareness.

For those of us who wish to go beyond awareness and onto protest—Wednesday is the perfect day and the Square an ideal place.

President Nixon recently remarked at a press conference that "under no circumstances will I be affected whatsoever" by anti-Vietnam activity on college and university campuses across the nation. This blatant refusal of the President to be affected by sentiments of a significantly large group causes serious questioning of Nixon's own interpretation of his role as President. The President obviously needs to be reminded that as an elected official, he is responsible to his constituents and supposedly receptive to public opinion.

Let us remind him by answering his challenge. Let us affect him. Let us make him aware of how we feel.

SK

U. S. Tries To Save Face, "Protect" Smaller Countries

Dear Editor,

I will never cease to be amazed at the way people are always asking why the United States is involved in Vietnam. Can't the public realize that the Vietnamese war is not an isolated instance in the history of our foreign entanglements? Our involvement there can be very easily seen as a natural step in our long chain of imperialistic aggressions. Of course the United States is going to stick its nose into Indochinese affairs. We haven't minded our own business in years.

A couple of centuries ago we the people seemed inclined to confiscate British property, to declare ourselves capable of governing ourselves, and to throw off all bonds of vassalage to our "mother country." I cannot persuade myself to believe that the Founding Fathers would have accepted any settlement which declared the Atlantic seaboard to be a protectorate of Great Britain. Also, once the Revolution ended, I seriously doubt if they would have been overly pleased to have Red Coat troops on our soil or to be gifted with Parliamentary "assistance" until we proved ourselves capable of self rule.

But of course this is all in the past. Today the United States has grown to be a Super Power. Don't we quite "naturally" need to make certain that the underprivileged nations of the world realize the complete superiority of

Sheehan Cites Class Struggle As Major Source Of Vietnam War

Neil Sheehan was a reporter in Vietnam from 1962-1964 and again in 1965. In an article in the *New York Times* in 1966, reprinted by the National Committee for SANE Nuclear Policy, Inc., Mr. Sheehan discusses his initial enthusiasm for the U. S. policy of limited intervention in the Vietnam war and his later change in attitude. His article is entitled "Not a Dove, But No Longer a Hawk."

Originally, Mr. Sheehan believed that the U. S. followed a commendable and realistic policy by aiding the non-Communist Vietnamese in their struggle against the communist guerrilla movement which prevented the building of a united independent Vietnamese nation. He believed that the Communist forces could win the war against their enemy and he was proud of the economic and military aid provided by the U. S. When he left Vietnam in 1964, there were 17,000 American servicemen involved in the conflict, and Mr. Sheehan styled himself a hawk.

Since that time, Mr. Sheehan has decided that he was unwise not to foresee the consequences of limited U. S. intervention and naive to believe that the non-Communist forces could defeat the guerrillas and establish an independent, progressive society. Mr. Sheehan reviews the forces of the last twenty years which have shaped the present state of the conflict.

He notes first of all that as the U. S. has gradually replaced France's role in Vietnam in the early 1950's, she inherited the same pattern of relationship with the native Vietnamese leaders. The native mandarin aristocracy who served as the colonial civil service under the French continued under the Americans to act as intermediaries between their countrymen and the foreign influence which upheld their traditional aristocratic power. American proposals of land reform and rent reduction were sabotaged by the powerful mandarin families who were unwilling to give up their land and wealth for the American ideal of social progress. Their power is channeled toward maintaining and regaining the privileges they are accustomed to.

The need for land reform is an acute and desperate one. The Vietnamese peasants are ambitious for social change, for they have endured the oppression of the mandarin aristocracy for generations. A deeply felt nationalism shared by North and South Vietnamese found its only hope for success in the Communist program of revolution and social change. Originating in the era of French rule and continuing today, the nationalistic movement of the late Ho Chi Minh and his North Vietnamese Communist Party has directed the movement for an independent Vietnamese

nation-state. Millions of Vietnamese peasants have proved themselves willing to overlook the brutality and deceit of the Communists and to sacrifice all they have for their goal of independent nationhood. The foreign designs of France and the U. S., on the other hand, hold no appeal for peasants and only drive them closer to the Communist cause.

Mr. Sheehan notes that tragically, the war which started as a united independence movement against the French developed into a civil struggle between different elements of Vietnamese society, regardless of which side of the provisional 17th parallel line they live on. War cannot be said to exist in North and South Vietnam for each cause draws its support between those who support Communist nationalism and those who reject it. The U. S., by supporting the non-Communist South Vietnamese government, prolonged the civil conflict.

The bravery and loyalty of the Viet Cong "Charlies" is a much larger advantage the almost mercenary attitude of the South Vietnamese. The "Charlies" are fighting a purely Vietnamese battle and do not have foreign soldiers in their own group. Other aspects of the lack of understanding between the U. S. and South Vietnam is in the cultural realm where the propriety system differs so greatly from the social, educational and political feeling.

The size of the war has certainly grown since Sheehan's last stay in Vietnam and still the end seems distant. Hanoi hopes that the Americans would tire of hearing of the casualties and conflict has been realized, as Americans openly proclaim their opposition to American military intervention in Vietnam.

- Chronology -

(Continued from Page 1)

- Johnson fears collapse of Saigon government.
- 1966 U. S. forces "Americanize" the war in Vietnam by assuming the major burden of fighting. By end of year, 350,000 U.S. troops in South and 45,000 North Vietnamese regulars. South Vietnamese play secondary role of pacification while U.S. engages "main force" Viet Cong and North Vietnamese.
- 1967 North Vietnam subjected to American naval gunfire and the air attacks now concentrate on destroying the economic structure of the nation rather than merely disrupting the transit of military supplies to the South.
- Elections under new constitution (1966) result in minority victory for military ticket of Thieu and Ky. Runner-up Dzu imprisoned.
- 1968 Tet Offensive by Communists results in stunning psychological victory which causes major reevaluation in American public opinion. Anti-war sentiments increase over the level of 1965-1967.
- Pres. Johnson announces that he will not seek reelection and orders halt to bombing of North Vietnam. Refuses Gen. Westmoreland's request for an additional 200,000 troops.
- Paris Peace talks begin.
- 1969 Nixon Administration begins delicate task of simultaneously negotiating at Paris and slowly withdrawing American troops with the objective of "Vietnamizing" the war once again.

our culture and mode of government? Does not the simple fact that our success prove that the "American way of life" is best?

Our ego would have been gravely damaged if we had ever thought it remotely possible that any nation on earth would not desire to follow this same magnificent ideal.

Yes, the United States simply had to involve itself in Vietnam. It was our "humanitarian" duty to help those poor and simple-minded Asians solve their problems and choose a truly "good" way of life. There was no reason to wait until they asked us for help. Hasn't the United States always been more than willing to help and protect nations, especially those threatened by the big red enemy? Of course, the American ideal is to allow national self-determination to freely exert itself in all countries but, after all, what nation would dream of voluntarily deciding to follow policies alien to the United States?

Therefore, since our way of living is sought after by everyone, we simply had to intervene in the Vietnam conflict when it became evident that without our aid, the striving little nation would be "forced" to follow another style of existence.

Ho Chi Minh? Soviet Russia? Red China? Heaven forbid if their venom be allowed to penetrate into the Vietnamese culture. Their ideas could only hinder progress. The United States, the benevolent overseer of the underprivileged nations of the whole world was duty bound to show the backward people of Vietnam what they really, really wanted!

So the next time anyone asks why we are fighting in Southeast Asia just tell them the truth. We have our pride to protect. We can't get behind. Prestige is the epitome of the "American way of life" and by hook or by crook we're going to keep up that damn prestige.

Anonymously,
A senior

U. S. Troops Abroad

These figures are a recording of July, 1969

Vietnam	538,500
Western Pacific (including South China Sea)	97,000
Thailand	47,000
Okinawa	45,000
Korea	55,000
Japan	40,000
Philippines	30,000
Eastern Pacific	43,000
West Germany	228,000
Mediterranean	28,000
Britain	22,000
Atlantic	20,000
Latin America	16,000
Canada, Greenland, Iceland	10,000
Spain	10,000
Turkey	10,000
Middle East and Africa	10,000
Taiwan	10,000



"The Academic Principle"



The Salemite



MEMBER

- News Editor: Ginger Zemp
- Feature Editor: Jane Cross
- Sports Editor: Debbie Loiz
- Copy Editor: Cyndee Grant
- Advertising Manager: Chylene Ferguson
- Photography Editor: Tricia Allen
- Chief Photog.: Willie Everhart
- Headline Staff: Jeanne Patterson
- Managing Staff: Cyndee Grant, Sandy Emerson
- Layout: Corina Pasquier, Linyer Ward, Sandy Emerson
- Circulation Manager: Libby Seibert
- Advisor: Mrs. Laura Nicholson

- Published every Friday of the College year by the Student Body of Salem College
- OFFICES: Basement of Student Center
- Printed by the Sun Printing Company
- Subscription Price \$4.50 a year
- Editor-in-Chief: Sandy Kelley
- Business Manager: Joy Bishop
- Assistant Editor: Pat Sanders
- Managing Editor: Sara Engram