

ATTN ENNEX UPI SPECIAL FOR GANDY BY BEV DEEPE SAIGON VIETNAM NOVEMBER  
29220 (UPIS) The anti-Vietnam demonstrations in Unistates, including  
the latest march on Washington, has produced more worry among  
Vietnamese citizens than among American troops or officials here.

The Americans are more inclined to dismiss the demonstrators and  
draft card-burners as "adolescents or idiots"--in the words of one major.  
Few see the ~~democratic~~ anti-Vietnam agitation as being Communist  
influenced or inspired.

Vietnamese citizens--especially staunchly anti-Communist Roman  
Catholics--however, are more inclined to believe there is some  
Communist influence in the anti-Vietnam demonstrations (as well as  
in the civil rights demonstrations) because they correspondent with  
the political warfare tactics used by the Communists in Vietnam. Those  
Vietnamese who recall the French Indo-China x War worry that in the  
long-run the demonstators will force the Johnson Administration in the  
future to soften its stance in Vietnam.

"Everyone knows that the French did not lose the war at  
Dien Bien Phu (the isolated, well-defended fortress which the Communists  
overran in 1954, ~~for a long time~~ after which the French government agreed  
to the Geneva Convention ending the war). The French lost the war  
in Paris when the Paris government no longer <sup>supported</sup> supposed the French  
army and ~~the Paris government~~ wouldn't send in more funds and troops.  
The French could easily have won the war after Dien Bien Phu if they had  
maintained the support of their ~~home~~ government and people at home. The  
demonstrators in America may produce the same thing in the coming years."

first add x x x the coming years x x x

In many respects, the Vietnamese are more exposed to news about the anti-Vietnam demonstrations because many consistently listen to Radio Hanoi, which broadcasts long editorial commentaries ~~maintain historical~~ about "the great American people rising up against the Johnson clique." Vietnamese language newspapers in Saigon <sup>were</sup> heavily censored ~~the~~ about the latest march on Washington.

The American GI in combat areas, isolated from current newspapers and too busy to listen to brief radio spot news items about the demonstrations, is much more affected by the floods of letters of support being received from Unistates citizens in "Vietnam Mailcall." (One box of 10,000 letters recently arrived at the Unistates First Division headquarters north of Saigon.).

One anti-Communist official in an allied embassy explained, "We in the diplomatic corps in Saigon are more concerned about American casualties here than we are about the anti-Vietnam ~~in~~ demonstrations in America. If the American casualties continue to rise as they have been lately, the American mothers and fathers who now support the war may reverse their viewpoint--somewhat like happened during the Korea conflict."

second add x x x the Korean conflict x x x

One American official, speaking privately, dismissed the importance in America or in South Vietnam of the anti-Vietnam ~~dem~~ demonstrations, but was worried about ~~the~~ the agitation in that "the demonstrations encourage Hanoi to continue the war. Hanoi sends in more men to stretch out the war, <sup>hoping</sup> ~~think~~ the American public opinion will ~~in~~ turn against the Johnson Administration--especially at the ballotbox. ~~W~~ ~~W~~

One recent traveller from Hanoi expressed the same viewpoint.

"The Hanoi officials think that if they keep pushing the war just a little longer pretty soon the American people will clamor for peace--on their terms, <sup>"He said,</sup> Radio Hanoi continuously blare<sup>s</sup> out about this-- it helps their morale in North Vietnam and ~~it~~ Hanoi hopes that it will gain support for them in South America, Africa and other underdeveloped countries."

third add x x x other underdeveloped countries x x x

On Sunday afternoon, shortly after the ~~demonstrations~~ protest demonstrations in Washington, a half-dozen American GI's of the U. S. Army First Division sat in their hot tent situated in a dusty saltflat north of Saigon.

One, a sergeant from California, explained, "The most typical reaction to all this is--let them demonstrate over here--on some long-range patrols. These patrols are alot tougher than demonstrations."

Another reaction was, "We're not as worried about what's happening in ~~Washington~~ Washington as what's happening in Lai Khe (a nearby town and scene of bloody fighting the day before)."

Another, an officer, ~~explaining~~ explained, "Some of us are disgusted with the draft-card burners but some of us also think they are more helpful than harmful. They have put more focus on the troops in Vietnam and we're getting alot of letters of support. One private called the them 'draft card burning punks' and that pretty well sums up the attitude of most of us."

He pulled out one letter, handwritten ~~to~~ by Linda Taconelli ~~of~~ repeat Taconelli of Newton Square Pennsylvania, which began, "Dear Soldier--I don't know who you are, but that doesn't really matter. Thank you for being who you are and fighting for such a precious thing as peace....Please don't ever loose (sic) faith in people and ~~Especially~~ <sup>ESPECIALLY</sup> in God...."

An American civilian added the comment, "This encourages Hanoi--they think these demonstrators are a majority of the American people."



fifth add x x x Viet Cong Communists) x x x

Another Vietnamese army officer, who recently returned from the Unistates, brought back the idea that the anti-Vietnam demonstrations were financed and sparked by the Chinese communities in America--which had connections with the Red Chinese.

A ~~Vietnamese~~ <sup>Vietnamese</sup> low-ranking/government official explained, "I believe the issue of war <sup>OR</sup> peace should be decided by the Vietnamese themselves and not by the Americans."

A Vietnamese cyclo-driver explained, "I'm not impressed much by the peace marchers, but the Americans who burn themselves really have the guts. Before I thought only the Japanese dare to commit harikari and then the ~~the~~ Vietnamese Buddhists did it <sup>and</sup> I believed the Americans were only materialistic people who would not dare to do it. Anyway, I'm concerned ~~only~~ only about the Vietnamese who are killed every day."

A Vietnamese intellectual noted that the Communists' release of two American sergeants and heavy fighting forty five miles northwest of Saigon were well timed by the Communists to dovetail with the protest march in Washington. enditdeepe