

No. 33/VP/TD

CIRCULAR

On Antiwar Movements in the US.

((Possibly reproduced by an agency of Hoài Hương District Party Committee, VC Binh Tuy Province, VC Region 6)).

I. The antiwar movements in the US are unpredictable. They have been widely developed from Washington DC and New York to other states. At the beginning, only a small number of people of the middle class, intellectuals, students, writers, artists, and religious people joined these movements, but now they have rallied a large number of people, including members of the Senate and House of Representatives, former ministers and ambassadors, ex-service men, repatriated soldiers, draftees, service men, and a portion of the working class. The majority of US workers were not politically aware because the US labor unions (supporting the government) only motivated them to struggle for their own interests.

The spontaneous antiwar movements in the US have received assistance and guidance from the friendly ((VC/NVN)) delegations at the Paris Peace Talks. Of the US antiwar movements, the two most important ones are: The PCPJ ((the People's Committee for Peace and Justice)) and the NPAC ((National Peace Action Committee)). These two movements have gathered much strength and staged many demonstrations. The PCPJ is the most important. It maintains relations with us. Through its activities, we see that the PCPJ has made progress in its newly-adopted policy lines with the following strategic alteration:

1. To gain success in struggles, it is necessary to: strengthen internal unity, contact other associations, other social classes, and influential personalities and take part in ((US congressional)) elections (instead of boycotting them), to eliminate reactionary candidates and plant progressive people in the Senate and House of Representatives.
2. Closely combine struggles of the people with those of the opposing faction in the ((US)) Congress.
3. Step up the motivation of US soldiers and coordinate with them in the struggles.
4. Motivate ((US)) Labor Unions, especially those concerned with defense and communication and transportation work, to participate in antiwar movements.
5. In conjunction with slogans demanding the end of the war in VN, adopt other slogans demanding improvement of the US society. This is a further step because generally speaking, the US people are proud of their scientific and technical advancements and the prosperity of their country. The people have deep prejudices against the Communists. Most Americans do what they think they will be successful in. They like ((sic)) propaganda and engage in unusual enterprises.



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II. MOVEMENT INITIATED IN SPRING 71:

An ((antiwar)) movement initiated by the NPAC in Apr 71 with the participation of the PCPJ consisted of demonstrations demanding a rapid withdrawal of US troops from Vietnam.

Since early Apr 71, there have been small demonstrations in different localities and branches. Repatriated soldiers have denounced US war crimes in NVN.

On 24 Apr, the movement was at its climax. Over 500,000 people gathered in Washington DC and 30,000 people in San Francisco. Many people that had not participated in previous struggles were present at these demonstrations. This caused great effects ((in the US government)).

((Page 2 of O.T.))

In May 71 the PCPJ staged demonstrations but the NPAC did not participate in them.

The purpose of these demonstrations was the same as the one staged on 24 ((Apr 71)). But new slogans were adopted such as "Nixon must immediately set the deadline for the withdrawal of US troops from South Vietnam;" "If the government does not end the war, the people will 'end' the government;" "The US must immediately end the war in Indochina;" together with slogans demanding the improvement of social welfare in the US.

On 2 Mar 71 the PCPJ used the slogan "Workers must disobey the government's orders." This was a great success for us. It was regrettable that there was a lack of cooperation between the NPAC and the PCPJ in demonstrations in May 71, due to disagreements on the following points:

The NPAC did not want to connect antiwar slogans with those demanding the improvement of social welfare and demand that ((President)) Nixon immediately withdraw US troops from SVN instead of fixing a deadline for it.

The NPAC refused to order demonstrators to block routes leading to the White House and the Pentagon or prevent civil servants from going to their offices. ((President)) Nixon mobilized troops and policemen to disperse demonstrators. Thirteen thousand persons were arrested but afterwards they were set free. Only leaders of demonstrations were prosecuted.

As a result of these demonstrations, the PCPJ learned a number of lessons.

1. The antiwar movements in Apr and May 71 were the people's greatest political struggle movements in the US. Although the people were terrorized, they were not demoralized.

2. The PCPJ realized that the slogan "If the government does not end the war, the people will end the government" was not appropriate because the people would misunderstand this slogan and President Nixon would suppress demonstrations.

The application of the slogan "Workers must disobey the government's orders" was not successful. Instead of encircling the White House and the Pentagon, the demonstrations blocked road intersections thus impeding the people's traffic. This caused the people to be discontent and gave President Nixon reasons to suppress demonstrations.

III. PREPARATIONS FOR THE FALL ((1971)) ANTIWAR MOVEMENT:

The revelation of secret documents of the US Department of Defense ((possibly the Pentagon)) in some US newspapers has enabled the antiwar organizations in the US to motivate the people. The seven-point peace proposal ((of the SVN Provisional Revolutionary Government)) not only solved problems concerning the release of US prisoners but also motivated the people of all walks of life and even relatives of US pilots detained in NVN to participate in the antiwar movement. Previously, the antiwar movement existed only in the US Army, but now it is initiated even in the US Air Force. A number of US Air Force officers have made statements demanding an end to the Indochina War.

Forthcoming plan of the ((antiwar)) movements:

The PCPJ and the NPAC have agreed with one another on the following points:

They will publicly conduct a motivation phase on 6 Aug ((71)) on the occasion of the anniversary of the dropping of the ((first)) atomic bomb on ... ((blank in O.T.)) and will consider 13 Oct ((71)) as a national antiwar day as they did on 15 Oct 69 (Kerateri... ((sic))).

6 Nov 71 will be the climaxing day for the Fall ((1971)) political struggle phase demanding total withdrawal of US troops from SVN (this is the specific slogan of the antiwar movements)..

((Page 3 of O.T.))

The antiwar movements in the US are trying to find means to cooperate with city dwellers in SVN in the ((political)) struggles aimed at protesting against the forthcoming (RVN) rigged Presidential Election and support the opposition forces to overthrow ((the Thieu Government)) and establish ((a government)) for the restoration of peace. They are also trying by all means to support the seven-point peace proposal ((of the PRG)) and oppose the distorted interpretation made by the White House, the Pentagon and CIA.

In 1970, there were only six secret magazines published by the antiwar movements in the US Army; now there are 20. These magazines have disseminated the order issued by the Headquarters of the SVN Liberation armed forces ((possibly meaning the South Vietnam Liberation Army)), not to fire at antiwar US troops.

IV. The Nixon-Thieu clique is very embarrassed because the seven-point peace proposal is supported by the SVN people's ((political struggle)) movement and the antiwar movements in the US. Therefore, all local areas, units, and branches must widely disseminate the seven-point peace proposal, step up the people's ((political struggle)) movements both in cities and rural areas, taking advantage of disturbances and dissensions in the enemy's forthcoming (RVN) Congressional and Presidential Elections. They must coordinate more successfully with the antiwar movements in the US so as to isolate the Nixon-Thieu clique.