

3000 MORE AUSTRALIANS FOR VIETNAM . . .

This was the headline that greeted Australians on the morning of March 8th. Who are the Australian soldiers going to fight? Aggressors from the North? ?

THE FICTION — "Little more than six years ago, North Vietnam decided on conquest. From that day to this, soldiers and supplies have been moving from North to South in a swelling stream..." (President Johnson in his State of the Union message, January 12, 1966).

THE TRUTH — "General Westmoreland stated to me that the bulk of the Vietcong fighting in South Vietnam were born and reared in South Vietnam. General Stilwell in Thailand, went further. He stated that 80% of the Vietcong fighting in the Mekong delta area south of Saigon were born and reared in that area. They were not infiltrators or Communists from the North." (Senator Stephen Young, Democrat, Ohio, in a U.S. Senate speech on January 14, 1966.)

This is primarily a CIVIL WAR; and as almost all unbiased observers admit, the National Liberation Front has the support of the majority of the South Vietnamese.

Yet our Government in Canberra continues to perpetuate the MYTH of aggression from the North (from China as well as from North Vietnam, although not a single Chinese soldier has been discovered in South Vietnam). Stated the Department of External Affairs in a publication entitled **Vietnam—Background to the Conflict**: "The Australian Government has long recognised the gravity of the situation in Vietnam created by North Vietnamese aggression."

Australian participation in the Vietnam war is based upon the false premise of aggression from the North—that the Vietnamese are NOT fighting a civil war. Assuming the Government's premise of aggression from North Vietnam were correct (which it is not), it should be remembered that the Vietnamese, North and South, are one people. The only non-Vietnamese troops in Vietnam are: 225,000 U.S.A.; 1500 Australian; 6500 South Korean; 600 New Zealand; and some Taiwanese mercenaries—all on the side of the Saigon Government.

HOW CAN WE END A WAR which we should never have entered in the first place? Obviously, if we are sincere about peace, we must invite the major combatant, the National Liberation Front, to the conference table. Otherwise, as Senator J. W. Fulbright, Chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, points out: "(Our) policy seems to be unconditional surrender of the National Liberation Front."

When the peace terms are "unconditional surrender," and the enemy is winning or at best stalemated, the chances of enticing your opponent to the conference table are NIL. Therefore, President Johnson's recent so-called "peace feelers" can only be regarded as exercises in public relations.

A far more constructive approach to the problem—instead of talking about aggression from the North or sending more Australian troops to Vietnam—has been shown by Senator Robert Kennedy, Dem., N.Y., brother of the late President. Senator Kennedy stresses the point that the U.S. must recognise the "minimum terms" of the enemy and vice versa.

First, the U.S. (and Australia) must concede independent status to the National Liberation Front at the negotiations.

Second, they must be prepared to grant the N.L.F. some part in the provisional coalition government that precedes the general elections and the possible reunification of the two Vietnams.

Although the issues are complex, Senator Kennedy's thinking at best represents a beginning that offers some hope to a cessation of the bloodshed.

Anything less is unrealistic—for the present U.S. position can be equated to the "unconditional surrender" of the N.L.F.

Is Australia capable of thinking more imaginatively than **3000 MORE AUSTRALIANS FOR VIETNAM?** YOUR survival may depend on it.

HELP STOP THE VIETNAM WAR

Sponsored by V.A.C., P.O. Box 160, North Quay.

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Support the Week of Vietnam protest

MONDAY, 21st MARCH —
Marion Henderson Sings for Peace, at the Relaxation Block, University of Queensland, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, 22nd MARCH —
Community-wide protest deputation to U.S. Consul—4.15 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, 25th MARCH —
Debate on Vietnam Issue (place and participants not finalised).

SUNDAY, 27th MARCH —
Protest March leaves Roma St. 2.15 p.m. A meeting addressed by prominent speakers will be held in Centenary Park at the conclusion of the march.

For further information
ring 7-5350, 2-4275.