

# PEACE NEWS LETTER

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FROM CANADA Several weeks ago, the editor received a letter from a young Canadian historian whose field is European History and who has an intense interest in foreign affairs (having been with the Ministry of External Affairs for a short time). He enclosed two newspaper clippings reporting "a recent statement condemning American action in Vietnam made by Walker Gordon, a ranking cabinet minister already well-known for his efforts to curb American investment (leading to economic annexation) in Canada."

The letter continues: Gordon's "remarks have certainly struck a harmonious note among most intellectuals and a small number of liberal-minded Canadians. Some of his cabinet colleagues and the Conservative Party have, of course, been horrified at the idea of a Canadian of such rank telling the Americans they are wrong in public. Goodness knows we need more of them especially when we learn of U Thant's sincere concern about the likelihood of an inevitable confrontation between Washington and Peking. Every day I see more similarities between statements made by American government leaders and those made by the Fascist and Nazi leaders in the 'thirties.' Take, for example, General Wheeler's remark in an article in the May 30 issue of Look: 'We'll be involved out there [in Asia] till the end of the century.' Or in the same issue, Dean Rusk's U. S. version of Lebensraum and Aryan supremacy when he says it will be 'useful for some time to come for American power to be able to control every wave of the Pacific if necessary.' What is becoming of your 'Great American heritage,' Alan?"

Yes, what is becoming of my great American heritage of self-determination and acceptance of inevitable social change?

CHINA AND THE BOMB The Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy reported that Communist China was making "rapid progress" in developing thermonuclear warheads and predicted that it would be capable of launching a missile attack on the United States by the early nineteen-seventies.

The Committee was surprised at the rapid progress made by China, according to John W. Finney (N. Y. Times, Aug. 3, 1967).

IRONY IN ANTI-COMMUNISM William L. Ryan and Sam Summerlin, in "How China Got the Bomb," Look, July 25, 1967, point out that certain elements in the United States unwittingly aided China in perfecting both the nuclear bombs and missiles to carry them.

"The Americans had helped through what many in responsible positions called sheer stupidity. A hysterical fear that 'Reds' lurked under every bed persuaded the United States to hand over key men--two in particular--who would lift Red China quickly from apprenticeship to full Nuclear Club membership by placing an atom bomb on the snout of a missile."

Tsien Hsue-shen and Chao Chungyao, two Alumni of the California Institute of Technology, were victims of the McCarthy era witch-hunting. They were the two architects of Communist China's nuclear and missile programs. But there were 80 additional talented Chinese scientists who left some of America's most prestigious campuses with "huge stores of bitterness and rich funds of information gathered when U. S. leaders considered them allies."

MIDDLE EAST The quick war in the Middle East between Israel and her Arab neighbors and their allies has been followed by an uneasy truce. Nearly all prescriptions for turning the tense truce into enduring peace embrace the following principles (as outlined in Progressive, July, 1967):

1. "The Arab world must accept the fact of Israel as a free, independent, sovereign nation." This must include Israel's right to free access to the Gulf of Aqaba and to the Suez Canal.
2. "The government of Israel, perhaps with the economic assistance of the Great Powers, must take prompt, decisive, and generous steps to indemnify the Arabs who lost their homes and their lands when Israel was created."
3. "This time, unlike 1956, both sides should be obliged to accept a substantial and effective United Nation's presence on their borders or in neutral, demilitarized zones--at least until tempers cool and passions subside."
4. "The Great Powers must agree, for their own self-interest if for no loftier purpose, to end the arms race in the Middle East by refusing to sell or give arms to any country in the the region.

NEED FOR  
EXAMPLE  
FROM U.S.?

It is popular to lecture the Arab nations on the wisdom of acknowledging the existence of Israel. Would such advice from U.S. sources be more acceptable if the U. S. would recognize the existence of regimes in Cuba and Communist China? Would U. S. insistence that the U. N. play a role in the Middle East be strengthened if we permitted the U. N. to play a role in Vietnam? Such questions need to be asked, even though they are admittedly speculative in their import. ABP.

OUR in Vietnam, according to official statements, is going well.  
WAR But persistent reports come back from correspondents on the scene indicating the opposite.

Francois Sully, writing in The New Republic, July 15, 1967, makes no sweeping generalizations. But he does offer some evidence to question optimistic reports about the war's progress. He wrote from Chu Lai, just South of the demilitarized zone and the area where U. S. Marines are ensconced.

"Two years ago, 20 Vietnamese school girls in white welcomed with flower necklaces 2,000 Marines wading ashore on the golden beach of Chu Lai. Today, the bashful school girls are gone. The Marines are still there, fighting a costly battle of attrition to deny Hanoi access to South Vietnam's five northernmost provinces known as Eye Corps.

\* \* \* \*

"There is little fraternization in Eye Corps between Americans and Vietnamese. Young American officers in Eye Corps do not date local girls for a stroll in parks, a movie or lunch at the sports club. The cities of Hue and Danang resent the presence of foreigners. Shopkeepers in Hue have been known to refuse service to English-speaking customers. Since last year's Buddhist rioting and to avoid incidents, cities in Eye Corps are off limits to the US military....

\* \* \* \*

"While two years ago, a fair 65 per cent of Eye Corps population was thought to be loyal to Saigon and only 10 per cent to the Viet Cong, today's statistics are so gloomy that local officials do not dare even to guess."

R. W. Apple, Jr., writing in The New York Times, Aug. 7, 1967, says that "in the opinion of most disinterested observers, the war is not going well. Victory is not close at hand. It may be beyond reach. It is clearly unlikely in the next year or even the next two

years, and some American officers talk somberly about fighting here for decades."

Most American officials in Vietnam, "except the top officials," characterize what is happening as a stalemate. The enemy's tenacity defies the U.S. effort. U. S. frustration leads to the use of heavier weapons, but this "often hurts more than it helps. When a 155-mm. shell, aimed almost at random into the gloom, crashes onto a sleeping hamlet, potential Vietcong are often created in an instant."

"Unless the central fact of the allied war effort--the critical lack of commitment of South Vietnamese society to work for its own survival--is changed, there can be no real victory because there can be no viable democratic Vietnamese society which is what the United States came here to build." In short, the Vietnamese "are none too eager to fight for themselves."

SO WE ESCALATE MORE The President has called for a 10% surcharge on our Federal income taxes. Indeed, he coupled that call with the announcement that an additional 45,000 men would be sent to Vietnam. In a matter of days, it was announced that American planes were bombing closer to the borders of Communist China.

The New York Times, Aug. 6, 1967, editorialized on the situation succinctly: "NOTHING SUCCEEDS LIKE FAILURE IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S CONDUCT OF THE VIETNAM WAR. THE LESS ESCALATION ACCOMPLISHES IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA, THE MORE CONVINCED THE WHITE HOUSE SEEMS TO BECOME THAT THE ANSWER IS TO ESCALATE STILL FURTHER."

At home there is increasing concern among Congressional leaders as to where the war will lead. And the public opinion polls indicate increasing public concern about the war. But again, the Times, on Aug. 13, made the lamentable observation: "Hitherto, President Johnson has given little heed to the advice and criticism of either hawks or doves." And it is obvious that public opinion can be ignored.

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