

The late president, Ho Chi Minh, in four words alone, "My cut, nguy nhac" (translated as "The Americans quit, the puppets fall") set the direction for all Vietnamese struggling for the self-determination of their country to follow. In Saigon the wording is naturally reversed to "Nguy nhao, My cut" (meaning "The puppets fall, the Americans quit.").

For the past three months students, Buddhists, workers and veterans have been protesting. Two months ago riot police used tear gas to disperse groups of legless veterans who had organized a peaceful parade behind the national flag, a symbol of their infirmity and wretchedness.

On June 22 the first national congress of students met in Saigon and in their final resolution protested against military training for students and demanding the total withdrawal of American troops. For four years the students in Saigon have not voiced their opposition so boldly, and this is in spite of severe government repression. On June 17 sixteen students, who had been arbitrarily arrested, revealed at a press conference that they had been tortured during their captivity in an attempt to force them to confess that they were part of a "communist conspiracy." In the face of this and in opposition to the Indochina war a number of students in South Vietnam have declared that they would fast to death until Vietnam truly belongs to the Vietnamese. It has not just been the students who have been active. Opposition to the puppet regime is widespread.

On June 18 two Saigon dailies, Tin Sang and Dan Chu Moi, were seized. Why? Only the day before these newspapers had publicly deplored South Vietnam's economic dependence on the United States and questioned the validity of Nixon's fact-finding mission to Vietnam and Cambodia.

On June 23 the Vietnamese Workers Confederation comprising 124 unions and 60,000 workers including the "hard hats" announced the beginning of an unlimited strike in Saigon and the other provinces. Only water, electricity, and hospital workers were given permission not to strike.

The Nixon administration is not alone in prescribing guidelines for peaceful dissent. The Saigon government on June 17 asked the students to end their demonstrations and search for moderate ways to present their aspirations. This appeal was rejected. You cannot expect helpful advice from the boa constrictor on how to persuade him to stop strangling you.

It would be a mistake to deny the suffering of the Vietnamese people. The inflation that threatens the U.S. economy is many times more severe in Vietnam and affects most the people with fixed salaries.

B-52 saturation bombings and the systematic devastation of Vietnamese croplands through the use of defoliants have taken their



toll. However, contrary to popular opinion, Vietnam cannot be destroyed. Eight hundred years before America was discovered, the Vietnamese Marshal Ly Thuong Kiet had it written on the leaves around the countryside for the invading Sung armies from China to see, and the words were:

"The land of Vietnam belongs to the Vietnamese people

This is written in the book of heaven

Whoever tries to destroy Vietnam will be severely defeated."

Indeed the Chinese Sung armies were routed and the Sung invasion proved a fiasco.

The fraudulent Vietnamization program is a clear demonstration of the American failure to achieve military and political victory in Vietnam. Nixon's expansion of the war into Cambodia has been doomed from the start. If you cannot defeat the insurgent forces in the small area of South Vietnam, how can you hope to win anything in a wider land war? It has been said that the Nixon administration in its frustration may resort to the use of tactical nuclear weapons. When the NLF forces surrounded the fortress of Khe Sanh in 1968 the amount of bombs dropped by the U.S. was equivalent to four atomic bombs of the size dropped at Hiroshima. This did not faze the Vietnamese. For five years now the NLF and the DRV leadership have anticipated the American use of nuclear weapons. The Vietnamese people are prepared for this and Vietnam will survive every and any American onslaught. We will continue to fight until all U.S. troops and arms are withdrawn from Vietnam. I am confident that I will live to see the day when my country will again be a sovereign nation, when Vietnam will again be ruled by the Vietnamese, when there is peace in Southeast Asia.

- Le Anh Tu