



# TODAY VIETNAM

# TOMORROW

# - THE

# WORLD

*THE DAY BEFORE* the bombing Johnson told a group of students "he would like to see them develop as much fanaticism about the US political system as young Nazis did about their system during the war." (N.Y. Times, Feb. 6, 1965)

### A PLM Statement

Lyndon Johnson has started the war on poverty by expanding the war in Vietnam. The bombing attacks on north Vietnam on Sunday, Feb. 7, and Monday, Feb. 8, were clearly aggressive acts. They were not in "retaliation" for anything the north Vietnamese did (as has been advertised) since no U.S. government official says the north Vietnamese did anything. But officials have been quoted as saying that Lyndon Johnson's government wanted to bomb north Vietnam and the Viet Cong sabotage attack Saturday offered a convenient excuse.

Senator Wayne Morse exposed Johnson's lies about north Vietnamese "intervention" when he told the Senate:

"No one in the U.S. government has been able, to this hour, to lay any evidence before the Committee on Foreign Relations that he has been able to find military forces of north Vietnam...or China in south Vietnam...One of our military stooges with the south Vietnamese government alleged a couple of days ago that there were north Vietnamese soldiers in south Vietnam. But that statement is now retracted. When called upon by our officers over there for proof, they could not offer proof."

This expansion of the Vietnamese war is a direct threat to the people of the United States. In the first place, if the war is expanded, the Chinese may be forced to intervene. They said they might. Second, the war will spread all over Southeast Asia, a vast area much larger than Korea. Even John F. Kennedy and Douglas MacArthur said they didn't want to get involved in a war in Southeast Asia with the Chinese Army because the U.S. Army couldn't win such a war. But the important point is that—win or lose—tens of thousands of U.S. soldiers will die in the war Johnson is now provoking. Hundreds of thousands of us will have to fight, tens of thousands of us will die and other tens of thousands of us will be blinded and crippled and maimed. You who are reading this—your son, your husband, your friend, you yourself—you will have to go.

The expanded war in Vietnam is related to the war on poverty because the poor of the United States, Negroes, whites, Puerto Ricans, young people who can't find work, students—all will be sent to fight and kill the poor of Vietnam and Laos and Cambodia and Thailand and wherever the war will expand. We will be sent to kill and be killed. Johnson, who fronts for the men who own and control the big industries and businesses of the United States, is faced with 20 million Negroes who demand Freedom Now, with 9 million unemployed workers (and the number is rising) who demand jobs, with millions of farmers

(Continued on P. 2)





**CHALLENGE-DESAFIO**

Published Weekly by the Progressive Labor Movement  
 132 Nassau Street  
 N.Y. 36. N.Y. WO 4-4699  
 Harlem Office: 336 Lenox Ave. Lower East Side: 227 E. 3 St.  
 FI 8-2254 OR 4-9718  
 West Side: 66 W. 109 St.  
 749-9165

Editor: Fred Jerome  
 Editorial Board: Lisa Armand, Alejandro Figueras, Walter Linder, Elsa Martinez, Mark Shapiro, Selma Sparks, Roger Taus

*CHALLENGE, weekly organ of the Progressive Labor Movement, is dedicated to the working men and women who have built this city and who keep it going. It is dedicated to:*

*\* Fight the slumlords and bosses who sit back and do nothing but collect rents and profits, exploiting the working people.*

*\* Fight and expose those in government—city, state and national—who are bought and paid for by the landlords, big corporations, bankers and racketeers.*

*\* Fight those who hide behind police uniforms to terrorize and murder working people while the big crooks go scot free.*

*\* Fight for equal rights for working people and their families; for quality and equality in education, housing, employment, salaries, and treatment before the law.*

*\* Fight those who divide working people against each other; fight for the understanding that Negro, Puerto Rican and white workers have the same rich enemies, enemies who stay in power by dividing the working people against themselves.*

*\* Fight for jobs for all—a shorter work-day with no loss in pay.*

*\* Above all, this paper is dedicated to fight for a new way of life—where the working men and women own and control their homes, factories, the police, courts, and the entire government on every level.*

**FOR A NEW WAY OF LIFE WITH NO EXPLOITATION OF MAN BY MAN. FOR SOCIALISM.**

## Against the War Activities

Thursday, Feb. 18:  
 Community Church, 40 E. 35 St.  
 8 p.m., Speakers: Kaye Boyle, David Dellinger, A.J. Muste; Pete Seeger singing.

\*\*\*

Friday, Feb. 19:  
 Sit-in at US Mission to the UN, 12 noon; Picket lines at 4 recruiting stations in Man., Bronx, Queens and Bklyn. For info. call: WA5-9415.

\*\*\*

Saturday, Feb. 20:  
 Picket line at Hotel Hilton, 53 St. and 6th Ave., 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Dinner for Humphrey, U Thant, Earl Warren

\*\*\*

All the above demonstrations are jointly sponsored by: War Resister's League, CNVA, SPU, Catholic Workers Movement.

## Progressive Labor Movement Statement

(Continued from P. 1)

who can't earn a living on the farm and can't find a job in the cities, with more and more small businessmen forced out of business, with students rebelling against a university system trying to force them to become robots for the military-industrial machine. Johnson's solution—capitalism's traditional and only solution—is "kill them off." Turn the phony war into a real war. Let the poor kill the poor that the rich may profit. Johnson isn't going to go. The owners of the corporations and businesses aren't going to go. We who face police brutality in our communities, who are forced to speed-up by the boss, who are thrown out of work, who are miseducated—we will have to go to be Johnson's policemen, torturers, killers.

Johnson says U.S. troops are defending freedom and democracy—but the people of south Vietnam are not free. They have been fighting for twenty-five years to be free—against Japanese, French and now, Johnson's rule.

What Johnson means, is freedom for the big U.S. corporations to control the economy and the lives of the south Vietnamese people. He means the freedom U.S. textile companies now have to make big profits on cheap imports by paying coolie wages to the garment workers of Saigon, and putting the squeeze on garment workers fighting for a living wage in New York. Johnson means freedom the Dupont Company now has to make a fast buck on the taxpayers' dollar by selling napalm and chemical killers to the U.S. Army for use against Vietnamese farmers and workers fighting for independence. He means the freedom the generals now have to make war and the freedom General Motors and General

Dynamics now have to make bombs and missiles and warheads to the tune of \$50 billion a year.

Clearly, the war in Vietnam is being fought for this freedom only: Freedom for the big businesses to exist and make profits—freedom for capitalism. The United States government has set itself up as the defender of capitalism everywhere in the world. But the Vietnamese have chosen socialism. The U.S. government cannot tolerate it. That is why Johnson is making and expanding and losing the war in Vietnam. The bombings are the desperate acts of a loser who can't afford to quit.

Just as clearly, the interests of the working people of the United States, of the black people, of the Puerto Rican people, of students, small businessmen and farmers, are opposed to the interests of the U.S. government, of the big corporations. The corporations and their government benefit by the war; we are its victims. We can only benefit by ending the war, by bringing the U.S. troops home—the sooner the better.

The Vietnamese war can be ended. Johnson's warriors can be stopped. But we who will suffer and die must act now—at this critical moment. If we demonstrate, if the organizations we belong to demonstrate, if we show that we will not support it—if we demand in one voice that the war be ended—then Johnson will not be able to get away with it. We can stop the war. For our own sake we must.

**END THE WAR IN VIETNAM.  
 BRING THE TROOPS HOME.**



**POLICE ASSAULT STUDENT demonstrator du bombing of north Vietnam, last August. Much of the depends on their ability to suppress dissent at hor State war plans, a McCarthyite "Grand Jury" ha people active in protests against government policy in of black people in the U.S.A. One young co-ed is in with the "Grand Jury" in halting opposition to the Vie**



**VIETNAM, CONGO, HARLEM... it's all one fight.**



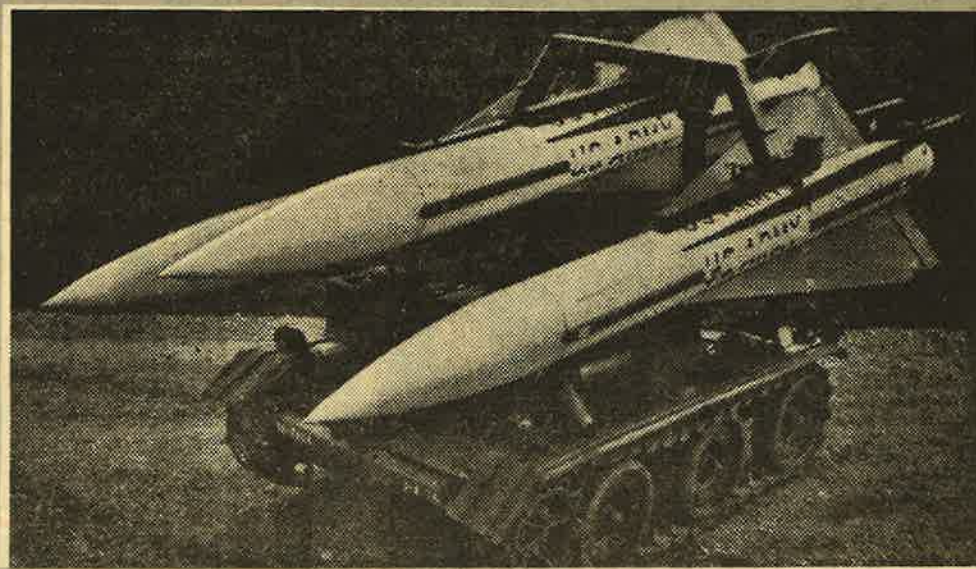
### Brought

South Viet Nam sold on Viet Namese farm information about th ernment troops. After down, the soldier pr over. See f





ing protest against the U.S. government audacity abroad. The Army and arm with United subpoenaed about 25 young Vietnam and the suppression jail for refusing to cooperate in the war.



THESE HAWK MISSILES are only the latest weapons introduced by the United States into Vietnam, in violation of the 1954 Geneva Agreements. The Viet Cong have no air force. The U.S. has over 25,000 troops stationed there.



IF THE US Army enlarges the war it will find opposition everywhere. Cambodia has announced it will call in Chinese troops. More than two-thirds of Laos is controlled by the Communist-led Pathet Lao. In Thailand there are rebel groups controlling a number of provinces. The Vietcong controls 90 percent of south Vietnam. **ASIAN PEOPLE UNITE TO OPPOSE US RULERS!**



to Heel  
uses dagger butt  
r who gave wrong  
Viet Cong to gov-  
locking the farmer  
eded to work him  
right . . .

Farmer is stomped on by soldier.

AN EXAMPLE OF the US Govern-  
ment's fight for freedom.

## Questions on Air Strike

Explanations of Events Behind Action Leave a Number of Points Unresolved

By CHARLES MOHR  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7—The official explanations of the events surrounding the American air strike on North Vietnam have left a number of important questions unanswered.

The United States attacked in retaliation for the costly night raid on American troops and helicopters at Pleiku in central Vietnam by Communist guerrilla forces.

News Analysis

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara expressed today the general opinion of the Johnson Administration when he said of the attack on Pleiku that it was "quite clear this was a test of the will and challenge of purpose" of the United States and South Vietnam.

Government sources privy to the discussions that led to the United States attack say it was felt that North Vietnam had clearly directed and "made possible" the raid on Pleiku.

### The Weapons Factor

One question involves the weapons used by the attacking Vietcong unit. The heaviest were American-made 81-mm. mortars.

American military advisers in Vietnam have long conceded that the majority of Vietcong weapons are American-made ones captured in battle from South Vietnamese forces.

The question is, therefore, that if the Vietcong unit at Pleiku was—as is so often the case—using captured weapons, would this sustain the argument that North Vietnam made possible this particular attack?

Administration sources also contend that the size and intensity of the attack indicated that it was a major blow carefully timed by Hanoi. Yet reports from the field indicate that a company—or less—of Vietcong troops took part in the bloody but brief encounter.

This is not a large Vietcong assault. Many are much larger, involving hundreds of attacking guerrillas.

There were American casualties, but the attack was not especially intense. On a number of occasions whole South Vietnamese infantry units up to company size have been wiped out by the Vietcong in night assaults.

Another factor advanced by Government sources is a belief that attacks launched the same night at Tuy Hoa and a group of villages near Nhatrang indicated, by the number and co-

ordination of assaults in a single night, a pattern of over-all direction, probably from Hanoi.

Since larger numbers of Vietcong attacks have taken place throughout South Vietnam on other nights, it is asked, why would this be?

Secretary McNamara was asked at his news conference whether the perimeter defense of the installations at Pleiku had been deficient in view of the enemy success.

He said he did not believe "it would ever be possible to protect our forces against a sneak attack of that kind" and added that the mortars had been fired from a considerable distance and that clumps of foliage on the generally open plateau had offered cover.

Reports from Pleiku, however, later established that the Vietcong attackers had been able to crawl right onto the United States helicopter base to place explosive charges against barracks' walls and on the airstrip.

A question raised was whether South Vietnamese security troops were ignoring long-standing American advice to increase night patrolling.

Still another question puzzling to some in Washington is why all three attack carriers of the United States Seventh Fleet were in the South China Sea near the Vietnamese coast at the same time.

The usual pattern is one of dispersal, with each carrier forming the nucleus of an attack force operating off different parts of East Asia.

### Effect Is Queried

A further question was whether the air attacks on North Vietnam would weaken the Vietcong guerrillas tactically or strategically and prevent further Vietcong successes against American installations.

The Administration contention clearly is that North Vietnam made possible the attack on Pleiku. But the questions about the incident grow out of the apparent fact that a small Vietcong unit, armed with captured weapons and protected by a lack of field intelligence on the part of the South Vietnamese Army, succeeded in creeping onto the American base and dealing a bloody blow.

Thus the final question is how much of the responsibility for Pleiku can be held not just to Hanoi but to a failure to prosecute the anti-guerrilla war in South Vietnam itself in a more vigorous and successful way.



EDICION  
ESPECIAL

# DESAFIO

El Semanario Revolucionario

PROTESTA  
CONTRA  
LA GUERRA  
DE JOHNSON

# HOY VIETNAM MANANA - EL MUNDO

## DECLARACION DEL PLM

Lyndon Johnson ha comenzado la guerra contra la pobreza expandiendo la guerra en Vietnam. Los ataques de bombardeo contra Vietnam del norte el domingo 7 de febrero y el lunes 8 de febrero fueron claramente ataques agresivos. Estos no fueron en represalia por algo que los vietnameses del norte hayan hecho (como se ha venido anunciando) puesto que ningún oficial del gobierno de los EEUU ha admitido que los vietnameses del norte han hecho nada. Pero algunos oficiales han sido citados diciendo que el gobierno de L.B.J. querían atacar a Vietnam del norte y el ataque del sábado por el Viet Cong ofreció una excusa conveniente.

El senador Wayne Morse expuso las mentiras de Johnson sobre la "intervención" en Vietnam del norte cuando dijo dirigiéndose al senador:

"Nadie en el gobierno de EEUU podido, hasta este momento, presentar ninguna evidencia ante el Comité de Relaciones Extranjeras, de que han podido encontrar fuerzas militares de Vietnam del norte...ni de China en Vietnam del sur...uno de nuestros alcahuetes militares en el gobierno en Vietnam del sur alegó hace varios días que habían soldados de Vietnam del norte en Vietnam del sur. Pero esta alegación ha sido retractada. Cuando fué llamado a capitular por nuestros oficiales para ofrecer pruebas, no pudieron hacerlo."

La extensión de la guerra en Vietnam es una amenaza directa contra el pueblo de los EEUU. En primer lugar, si la guerra se extiende, el ejército chino sea forzado a intervenir. Han advertido que lo harán. En segundo lugar, guerra se extenderá a toda Asia del Sur, un área mucho más grande que Korea. Tanto Kennedy como MacArthur dijeron que no querían estar envueltos en una guerra en Asia del Sur con el ejército chino puesto que el ejército de EEUU no podría ganar tal guerra. Pero el punto importante es que—ganando o perdiendo—miles de soldados norteamericanos morirán en la guerra que Johnson está tratando de provocar. Cientos de miles tendrán que pelear, morir o quedar ciegos, paráliticos y mutilados. Usted que está leyendo esto—su hijo, esposo, amigo o usted mismo—tendrá que ir a pelear.

La extendida guerra en Vietnam está relacionada con la guerra contra la pobreza porque los pobres de los Estados Unidos, negros, blancos, puertorriqueños, estudiantes, jóvenes, desempleados—todos serán enviados a pelear a matar a los pobres en Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia y Thailand, dondequiera que la guerra sea extendida. Todos seremos enviados a matar o a ser matados. Johnson, quien representa a los hombres que son dueños y controlan las grandes industrias y corporaciones de los EEUU, se enfrenta con veinte millones de negros que demandan Libertad Ahora, con nueve millones de trabajadores desempleados (y el número sigue aumentando) que demandan trabajos, con millones de agricultores que no pueden matenarse en las fincas y no encuentran trabajo en las ciudades, con más y más pequeños comerciantes perdiendo sus negocios, con estudiantes rebelándose contra un sistema universitario que trata de forzarlos a convertirse en máquinas para el mecanismo industrial-militar. La solución de Johnson—la única y tradicional solución del capitalismo—es "a matarlos a todos." Vamos a convertir la guerra falsa en una verdadera guerra. Dejar que los pobres se maten uno a uno de manera que los ricos puedan vivir. Johnson no va a ir a la guerra. Los dueños

de corporaciones y negocios no van a ir tampoco. Nosotros los que nos confrontamos con la brutalidad policiaca en nuestras comunidades, que somos forzados a trabajar rápido por los jefes, que somos despedidos de los trabajos, que no tenemos suficiente educación—tendremos que ir a servir como policías, torturadores, y asesinos de Johnson.

Johnson dice que las tropas de EEUU están defendiendo la libertad y la democracia—pero el pueblo de Vietnam del sur no es libre. Han estado peleando por 25 años para conseguir su libertad—contra los japoneses, franceses y ahora, la dominación de Johnson.

Lo que Johnson quiere decir es libertad para las grandes corporaciones norteamericanas para controlar la economía y la vida del pueblo de Vietnam del sur. El quiere decir la libertad que las compañías de tejidos tienen ahora para hacer grandes ganancias en importaciones baratas pagando salarios de miseria a los trabajadores de ropa de Saigón, maltratando a la misma clase de trabajadores que están peleando por un salario decente en Nueva York. Johnson quiere decir la libertad que la compañía DuPont tiene ahora para hacerse rica rápidamente a cuenta del dinero de los pagadores de impuestos vendiendo bombas de "napalm" y artefactos químicos al ejército de los EEUU para usarlos en contra de los agricultores vietnameses y los trabajadores que están peleando por su independencia. El quiere decir la libertad de que hoy gozan los generales para hacer la guerra y la libertad que tienen las compañías "General Motors" y "General Dynamics" para la construcción de bombas, proyectiles y artefactos de guerra por la cantidad de \$50 billones al año.

Claramente, la guerra en Vietnam se está peleando para esta libertad solamente: libertad para que los grandes negocios puedan existir y hacer ganancias—libertad para el capitalismo. El gobierno de los EEUU se ha nombrado a sí mismo como el defensor del capitalismo en todas partes del mundo. Pero los vietnameses han escogido el socialismo. El gobierno de los EEUU no puede tolerar esto. Es por esto que Johnson está manteniendo, expandiendo y perdiendo la guerra en Vietnam. Los bombardeos son los actos desesperados de uno que está perdiendo y que no se atreve a retirarse.

De la misma manera, los intereses del pueblo trabajador de los EEUU, del pueblo negro y puertorriqueño, de los estudiantes, los pequeños comerciantes y agricultores, están opuestos a los intereses del gobierno norteamericano, de las grandes corporaciones. Las corporaciones y su gobierno se benefician de la guerra; nosotros somos sus víctimas. Nosotros podemos beneficiarnos solamente terminando la guerra, trayendo las tropas norteamericanas a casa—lo más pronto posible.

La guerra en Vietnam del sur puede ser terminada. Los agresores de Johnson pueden ser detenidos. Pero nosotros, los que sufriremos y moriremos tenemos que actuar ahora, en este momento crítico. Si participamos en demostraciones, si las organizaciones a las cuales pertenecemos conducen demostraciones, si demostramos que no apoyamos esta guerra—si demandamos en una sola voz que la guerra tiene que terminar—entonces Johnson no puede salirse con la suya. Podemos poner fin a esta guerra. Por nuestro propio provecho tenemos que hacerlo.

**DEMANDAMOS PONER FIN A LA GUERRA  
EN VIETNAM.  
TRAER LAS TROPAS A CASA.**



ESTA ES LA "LIBERTAD" que el gobierno de EEUU quiere traer a Vietnam.