

US INVADES LAOS

FOCUS: OAKLAND

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February 10, 1971

"Gentlemen may cry 'Peace, peace,' but there is no peace; the war has actually begun."

— Patrick Henry, 1775

PRG SPEAKS

The following message was received by phone from the PRG in Paris:

The PRG in Paris has today issued an appeal to the student and youth conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan and to peace-loving people throughout the world to initiate firm, broad and immediate actions, including massive street demonstrations to condemn US aggression in Laos and to check new plans to invade Cambodia, Laos, and North Vietnam. The PRG confirms that as of February 4, tens of thousands of Saigon, Thai, and American troops have crossed into Laos with motorized vehicles. More than 20,000 Saigon paratroopers, marines and rangers are involved. At least two regiments of the 3rd infantry division of the puppet Thai army have gone into Laos, in coordination with the puppet army of Laos. The PRG asserts that

US ground troops, and not just American advisors, are involved and that round the clock bombing to support the ground troops is being carried out by the US air force in Laos. This military aggression is the first stage of a still larger aggression being planned. The PRG says that the apparent US plan is to invade all of Indochina, including Laos, Cambodia, and North Vietnam and that 10,000 US troops are now massed on the Laotian border. The PRG urgently calls on the people of the world to condemn this new escalation of the war and to take actions now that could check the plans for even greater escalation about to occur. The PRG states that there is a world-wide news blackout on this military escalation and that the American people must bring this news to their communities through every available channel.

Congress Moves...

The Student Congress has passed two resolutions in support of the movement for a People's Peace and the day of nationwide demonstrations and rallies to stop escalation of the war in Indochina.

The Congress endorses the move to establish an information center, and establishes an Ad Hoc committee to supervise and disperse funds (with a ceiling of two thousand dollars, plus an option to request additional money for speaker fees) to other anti-war groups.

The Congress urges the student body to attend the anti-war conference and seminars on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 1971, despite those classes that might interfere.

In November and December, 1970, a delegation of student body presidents of American Universities, organized by the United States National Student Association, exchanged views by mail and in person with representatives of the South Vietnam Liberation Students Union. An American student trip to Vietnam was organized as a result of a mandate of the 1970 National Student Congress. The purpose was to explore the possibilities of a peace treaty that would put an end to the war on terms that would satisfy the honor and safeguard the interests of the people of the United States and Vietnam.

Fearing that this democratic initiative would lead to formulation of peace

The Student and Youth Conference on a People's Peace Treaty held in Ann Arbor this past weekend, Feb. 5 - 7, in response to an urgent message from Madame Nguyen Thi Binh in Paris called for massive student actions and demonstrations across the country on Wednesday, February 10, 1971 to protest the Feb. 4 invasion of Laos by American, Thai and Saigon troops

The telegram received from Madame Binh, head of the delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam at the Paris conference, read as follows: "Alert your Laos invasion by tens of thou-

RALLY
12:30
GOLD ROOM

JOINT TREATY OF PEACE BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND NORTH VIETNAM

terms that could readily be adopted by the American and Vietnamese people, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem regime denied visas for the American students to enter Saigon. Ironically, some of the students denied visas were veterans of the Vietnam war. An advance representative of the delegation, however, was already in Saigon, and was able to meet with official representatives of the South Vietnamese National Student Union. From this meeting came the Joint Declaration of Peace with the South Vietnamese Students.

Meanwhile the entire delegation of eleven American students traveled to Hanoi and met with official representatives of the North Vietnamese National Student Union and the South

sands US - Saigon - Thai troops. Action intense US Air force. Earnestly call you mobilize peace forces your country. Check US dangerous ventures Indochina."

In a later communication received from Paris by phone at 2:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon the PRG affirmed Madame Binh's telegram and called for the conference to bring the news of the invasion to the people of America since there was a nationwide news blackout on the invasion.

The conference earlier unanimously ratified the Joint People's Peace Treaty negotiated by American students who traveled to South and North Vietnam to meet Vietnamese youth and political groups. The conference also called for a broad range of local organizing and ratification efforts aimed at implementing the peace treaty. This will include a number of

Vietnamese Liberation Students Union, whose representatives had traveled to Hanoi for this meeting. This conference produced a Joint Declaration of Peace signed by representatives of the three groups.

Based on the areas of agreement between the Saigon document and the Hanoi document and after discussion with Vietnamese in Paris, a common declaration of peace has been written and agreed to by the three Vietnamese groups and the Americans. This document will be submitted to a wide range of organizations in the United States and Vietnam. Wherever possible it will be submitted for ratification either by referendum or by the vote of the official governing body in cities, towns, and

national actions beginning in March and a week of intensive direct actions beginning May 1 in Washington D.C. These May demonstrations will not be the usual one-day mass marches but will consist of sustained actions designed to force the U.S. government to accept the terms of the People's Treaty and to prevent the government from business-as-usual functioning.

The People's Peace Treaty calls for immediate and total withdrawal of American troops on a publicly set date. At that time, there would be an immediate and mutual cease fire as well as discussions to secure the release of all American prisoners and to set up procedures to guarantee the safety of all withdrawing troops.

In addition the treaty calls for an "end to the imposition of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem regime on the people of South Vietnam in order to insure their right to self-determination and so that all political prisoners can be released." A provisional coalition government would be formed to organize democratic elections with all parties agreeing to respect the "results of elections in which South Vietnamese can participate without the presence of any foreign troops." The treaty also pledges that Americans and Vietnamese will honor the independence of Laos and Cambodia and the 1954 and 1964 Geneva Agreements not to interfere in the internal affairs of these two nations.

The preamble to the treaty states: "Be it known that the American and Vietnamese people are not enemies. The war is carried out in the names of the people of the United States and Vietnam but without our consent. It destroys the land and people of Viet-

cont. on page two

cont. on page three



THEN, WHEN WE'VE TAKEN PAY-KING WE'LL SWEEP INTO CANADA, AND GREENLAND AND...

TREATY TEXT CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

states and by religious, business groups, the organized poor and any other group whose integrity or life is threatened by continuation of the war.

TREATY TEXT

Be it known that the American and Vietnamese peoples are not enemies. The war is carried out in the names of the people of the United States and South Vietnam but without our consent. It destroys the land and the people of Vietnam. It drains American of its resources, its youth and its honor.

We hereby agree to end the war on the following terms, so that both peoples can live under the joy of independence and can devote themselves to building a society based on human equality and respect for the earth.

1) The Americans agree to immediate and total withdrawal from Vietnam and

publicly to set the date by which all American forces will be removed.

The Vietnamese pledge that as soon as the U.S. government publicly sets a date for total withdrawal

2) They will enter discussions to secure the release of all American prisoners, including pilots captured while bombing North Vietnam.

3) There will be an immediate cease-fire between U.S. forces and those led by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam.

4) They will enter discussions of the procedures to guarantee the safety of all withdrawing troops.

5) The Americans pledge to end the imposition of Thieu-Ky-Khiem on the people of South Vietnam in order to insure their right to self-determination and so that all political

prisoners can be released.

6) The Vietnamese pledge to form a provisional coalition government to organize democratic elections. All parties agree to respect the results of elections in which all South Vietnamese can participate freely without the presence of any foreign troops.

7) The South Vietnamese pledge to enter discussion of procedures to guarantee the safety and political freedom of those South Vietnamese who have collaborated with U.S. or with the U.S. supported regime.

8) The Americans and Vietnamese agree to respect the independence, peace and neutrality of Laos and Cambodia in accord with the 1954 and 1962 Geneva conventions and not to interfere in the internal affairs of these two countries.

9) Upon these points of agreement, we pledge to end the war and resolve all other questions in the spirit of self-determination and mutual respect for the independence and political freedom of the people of Vietnam and the United States.

By ratifying the agreement, we pledge to take whatever actions are appropriate to implement the terms of this joint Treaty and to insure its acceptance by the government of the United States.

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Vargas Firing Raises Tenure Issue

The Faculty Contract Debate: Part III

Dr. Luis Vargas will be leaving Oakland University at the end of this week. The tenured members of the Department of Modern Languages and Literature have voted against renewing his contract, creating a situation analogous to the Brand — Magney case (Parts I & II).

Upon evaluating the resources and responsibilities of their department, the tenured members discovered, much to their chagrin, that they had 15½ too many people. So a slight purge was in order.

In a letter received by Vargas, an Assistant Professor of Spanish, announcing the non-renewal of his contract, such reasons as irregular office hours, "capricious grading," lack of publication both quantitatively and qualitatively, refusal to advise students, and lack of participation in departmental business were listed as determinants in the decision. Vargas received no negative criticism regarding his classroom teaching methods from the committee of tenured professors responsible for reviewing expiring contracts within their department.

Vargas is teaching only one

class at this time, an advanced Spanish literature course, meeting for a concentrated five-week segment of the semester. His employment will terminate at the end of this course.

"The thing that I object to most is the statement that my publications had no value," Vargas explained. During the past two year contract term, he has published two academic research articles in a Chilean magazine and numerous cultural articles in leading newspapers of his native Chile.

That faculty members will publish becomes little more than a hopeful assumption since most departments do not list specific requirements. Later, when it becomes time to consider contract tenure, evaluations regarding "quality and quantity" are left to the subjective impulses of tenured department members.

Dr. Vargas qualified his initial reluctance to act as an academic advisor at the time of his hiring in 1968 by explaining that he was unacquainted with the traditions and systems in effect at Oakland University. He had come directly from Chile to accept employment at Oakland. The Modern Languages Department did not appreciate his reluctance

to misadvise students or his offer to accept alternative departmental chores, Vargas explained.

What was implied by the ludicrous accusation that Dr. Vargas is a "capricious grader" remains a mystery to all. According to Vargas, his evaluation of student work was based on the accepted University scale. Vargas denied the accusation that he failed to keep regular office hours and explained that he had also encouraged students to visit him at his home.

Regarding his alleged lack of participation in department business, Vargas asserted, "No one cares about what I've done in my classroom, the only thing they want me to do is to be a bureaucratic instrument. Some are professors, some are committee members; I want to be in the classroom."

The American Association of University Professors is interested in Vargas' case because it is hoped that it will be instrumental in defining ambiguous appointment procedures. The procedures utilized at Oakland University are indefinite, confusing and archaic. Those holding power to hire and fire at Oakland University are the tenured members of a de-

partment. Their meetings are closed and a faculty member whose appointment is in jeopardy has no opportunity to appear in order to defend his position.

Although Vargas is undecided regarding future employment, he insists that he would never, if asked, consent to remain at the University because of unavoidable difficulties in working with certain department members. Vargas was highly recognized in *Oakland Undiapered* (100% of students polled rated his subject knowledge to be extensive and 84% expressed a definite willingness

to take further courses from the professor) and by the committee of 39 students that endeavored to maintain his employment at the University.

To remedy future situations, Dr. Vargas offers two suggestions:

1) Insist upon explicit contracts prior to hiring listing rights, responsibilities, and tasks. Negotiate grievances prior to employment.

2) Involve students in all decisions regarding hiring and contract renewal of faculty.

By Lynne Twining

Conference *cont. from page one*

nam. It drains American of its resources, its youth, and its honor. We hereby agree to end the war . . . so that both peoples can live under the joy of independence and can devote themselves to building a society based on human equality and respect for the earth."

At the conference opening session on Friday evening, organizers and representatives from college campuses, G.I. groups, labor unions, women's and third world organizations from all across the country gathered to begin an extensive campaign to bring the Peace Treaty to the American people. In a recorded message, Madame Binh stressed the importance of this new initiative for the American peace movement and called upon the people of America to rededicate themselves to the struggle for peace.

Cynthia Frederick of the Committee of Concerned Asian Scholars and others

recently returned from Vietnam spoke to the plenary session of the convention on the current critical situation in Southeast Asia. They reiterated the potential of the conference to "carry this just and equitable solution to the American people who are desperately searching for an end to the tragic US involvement in Southeast Asia.

The conference also received a message from Bobby Seale and Ericka Huggins of the Black Panther party jailed in New Haven, Conn., calling for demonstrations to protest the rise of political trials. Sister Ericka said "No heroes, no rhetoric, but massive educational rallies and street politicizing . . . And we have to do it with love, you know, the understanding that we need more than just movement people and sympathizers at these rallies. We need whole families of people. Young, old, black, brown, yellow, beige,

whatever. Male, female, gay - everybody. Because everybody is faced with American oppression and all of us are the America that will be, dig it. So we all really have to get to work and focus on the people, not individuals. Love, power, strength." Bobby and Ericka

On Saturday and Sunday, the conference divided into workshops and constituency caucuses . . . The Michigan regional caucus called for a statewide Michigan conference on the escalation of the war and the implementation of the peace treaty to be held in late February or early March. This statewide conference will include representatives of all types of groups: blacks, chicanos, women, students, workers, and religious and professional groups. The conference will attempt to coordinate state and local actions building up to the national May 1 target date.

MOBIL

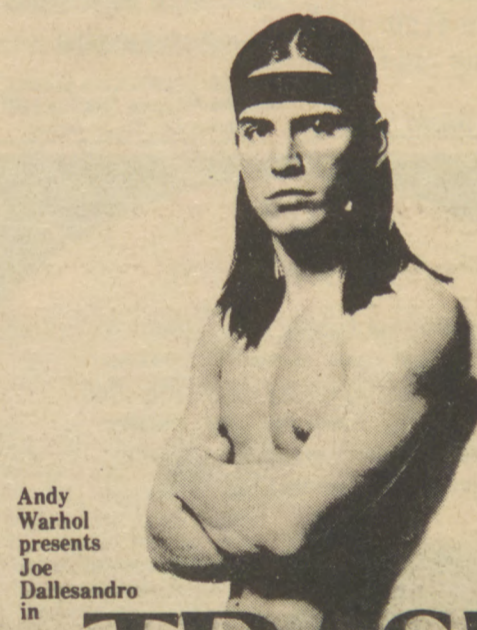
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editorial

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**- Richard M. Nixon
August 14, 1968**

And the War goes on...

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To the Editors:

I feel like responding to the letter of Mr. Zollschan and to a reply by the editors. Mr. Zollschan's letter expressed such strong emotion that it was scary. It disturbed me enough that I cannot respond to it. But I feel like criticizing a couple of sentences in the editors' reply:

1) "As the article by 'Francois Duvalier' 'criticized' every group involved in the Christmas decorations incident, we are satisfied that it was successful." I'm not so satisfied. I recall noticing the uncomfortable

juxtaposition of the article and the J.S.A. theft news, also. My impression after having read the article was that the "non-decoration" people were made to look more foolish than the "decoration" people. And I, as a "non-decoration" person, dislike being made to look foolish.

2) "The only sin we can be accused of with any legitimacy is innocence, of underestimating the subtle prejudices existing on this campus." This is a well-worded description of what seems to have been the case. But I feel that the editors don't think this "sin" so terrible. It isn't ordinarily, but, considering the Christmastime mood and measuring with a mental estimate the number of people "hurt" by reading this article, I would feel that a significant "sin" has been committed. I hope that the Christmas incident has made us all less innocent of religious prejudices on this campus.

Lorraine B. (O.U. employee)

P.S. I think that the letters section is the most valuable part of *Focus: Oakland*. Could you not make such narrow columns, though? If you think this a worthwhile letter, you may print it.

To the Editor:

Most people don't take *Focus: Oakland* seriously. Everybody more or less knows this (including, we suspect, the staff). People tend to blame this on irrelevant factors like personality, poor writing or lack of journalistic skill. These criticisms miss the point. A

LETTERS = LETTERS

newspaper is more than a set of unrelated, disconnected, "objectively" written articles. Rather it is fundamentally an attempt to formulate an interpretive, critical analysis or perspective through articles, editorials and other features. For example, one's opinion of the *Detroit News* or *Fifth Estate* is not really based so much on writing style or article content, as on the extent of one's support for the (necessarily subjective) interpretive perspective represented by the sum total of articles. Indeed it is this perspective which creates and defines the character of a newspaper, and also one's opinion of it. The total lack of any such critical perspective is responsible for the general disinterest felt toward *Focus: Oakland*. The *Focus: Oakland* of Feb. 3 provides several good examples.

One article consists of a proposed Cuban law against loafing and malingering, which we happen to disagree with. Many people (ourselves included) understand and approve of loafing and avoiding work in a capitalist society where work is almost always inherently alienating and very rarely directly benefits the worker. Americans work for money, not because they believe in the work that they are doing. In Cuba, the situation is quite different. Since the beginning of the revolution in 1959, the Cuban people have obtained control of their country and are striving to develop a society in which one works for the benefit of his sisters and brothers in the community, rather than for personal profit. They are trying to create a society based on love rather than greed. Most Americans feeling as they do about work, are understandably skeptical

about such claims. It is only with the return from Cuba of over 2,000 American Vercermos Brigade volunteers who witnessed and were moved by this revolutionary social process, that we are beginning to understand its implications for a humane socialist society. Also, Cuba has made great strides in meeting the needs of its people in spite of both an underdeveloped economy and U.S. trade embargo. This situation imposes an obvious need to mobilize all available labor power and yet is neglected by *Focus: Oakland*. Because of its lack of any political perspective, *Focus: Oakland* views and permits its readers to view a Cuban revolutionary phenomena within an American capitalist context and hence distorts it.

The same issue of *Focus: Oakland* also tries to deal with the subject of bigotry. A previous issue of *Focus: Oakland* contained a reprint of an obviously anti-semitic article which first appeared over 50 years ago. The article is preceded by a barely necessary explanation and disclaimer. The fact that American attitudes about Jews have changed over the past half century made the article a harmless, though interesting, study in bigotry. The article nevertheless elicits a hysterical and paranoid reaction from a Mr. Zollschan who submitted a letter which contains open threats of violence to those he deems anti-semitic. He excitedly describes the fate of Jews under Nazis and egotistically proclaims his personal mission to protect us from a similar fate: "I shall see to it personally that the murderous performance is not repeated here." He then goes on to describe how he intends to repeat the "mur-

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