

# SOLIDARITY WITH VIETNAM:

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN ?

The Vietnamese people are fighting the most important struggle in the world for independence and freedom against U.S. imperialism. A tiny nation, relying chiefly on its own strength - especially the unbreakable will of the people - is routing the most powerful imperialist country the world has ever seen. The Vietnamese people's fight teaches us two lessons :-

- (1) It exposes the ugliness and brutality of imperialism as never before.
- (2) Above all it demonstrates how imperialism can be defeated.

These lessons are of enormous importance to all people oppressed by imperialism, as U.S. imperialism is the leading force of the world reaction on which British and other imperialisms rely to protect their interests in a rebellious world.

Clearly we must support the Vietnamese people. But how?

### “ Peace talks ”

- \*\*\* Not by calling for “peace talks” after the manner of Johnson, Wilson, U Thant, Kosygin, the Pope and the British Council for Peace in Vietnam. These ‘peace talks’ are designed to preserve a foothold for the U.S. in Vietnam.

### “ You bomb them, we bandage them ”

- \*\*\* Not by begging for bandages to “bind up the wounds of war” like the Medical Aid for Vietnam fund unless we first make clear that it is the U.S. aggressors who cause these wounds and that the wounding will only cease when the U.S. get out of Vietnam.

### Solidarity Means Genuine Political Support

Political support is the fundamental need of the Vietnamese people and they get precious little of it from Britain. Political support will not be forthcoming from the Labour, Tory or Liberal Parties as they are totally implicated in the very imperialism that the Vietnamese are fighting. We will not get anywhere by writing to MPs and lobbying Parliament -- trying to “make the Left MPs fight”. When it comes to the crunch, the Left MPs will fight -- for imperialism and not against it. To suggest, as the Ad Hoc Committee does, that the Labour Party policy is against U.S. imperialism is to sow illusions about the Labour Party. Genuine political support for Vietnam can come only from the British people themselves, and particularly from the working class. This means a massive campaign of education about Vietnam in Britain. There is no short cut.

( see overleaf )

## How can we foster Political support for the Vietnamese people ?

First, we must explain what the Vietnamese people are fighting for. The only way to do this is to give maximum publicity to the Vietnamese people's own political stand: The 4-point Statement of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Political Programme of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation. We must also publicize the statements by their leaders such as President Ho Chi Minh's celebrated reply to Johnson.

Second, we must explain what kind of a war the Vietnamese people are fighting. The Vietnamese, as they say again and again, are fighting a people's war, which depends fundamentally on the mobilisation of the entire population to surround and destroy the invaders. The Vietnamese have developed people's war to a new stage. We must use their excellent films, books and magazines which explain how they are able to defeat such a seemingly powerful enemy.

Third, we must refute the imperialist slanders against the Vietnamese people, their political institutions and leaders. These slanders are merely justifications for the American invasion and we must refute them. They are easy to refute, after all, since the Vietnamese people could hardly fight this brilliant people's war if there were a grain of truth in any of them. Their victories cannot be separated from their leaders and their political institutions, the National Front for Liberation and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

If these are our standards for a solidarity organisation, how does the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign measure up? It fails on every count. As its history has made clear, its spokesmen merely pay lip-service to the political stand of the Vietnamese people; they reject the theory and practice of people's war in Vietnam, and they slander the Vietnamese leaders and political institutions. They are for "solidarity" in name only.

### BRITAIN-VIETNAM SOLIDARITY FRONT

The Britain-Vietnam Solidarity Front is the only organisation that calls for genuine solidarity between the people of Britain and the people of Vietnam. We have active branches in various parts of the country and a number of affiliated organisations and colonial peoples' militant movements. Only vigorous local branches and affiliated organisations can do the massive job we see as essential -- that of winning of the British people for genuine solidarity with Vietnam. To find out more about the Britain-Vietnam Solidarity Front and its activities, contact the National Secretary at the address below:-

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58, Lisburne Road, London, N.W. 3.

OR the branches:

BVSE, 90 Croftdown Rd.,  
London, N.W. 5.

BVSE, 6 Pomeroy Close,  
Canley, Coventry

BVSE, 1a The Paragon  
Bath, Somerset