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DUBOIS CLUBS POLICY ON VIETNAM  
SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY POLICY ON VIETNAM  
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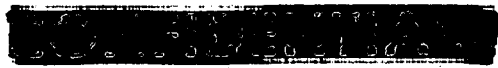


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## INTRODUCTION

United States aircraft attacked selected targets in North Vietnam following torpedo-boat assaults against American destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin in early August, 1964. In the more than two years that have elapsed since that time, there have been in the United States almost daily demonstrations in the form of sit-ins, teach-ins, parades, rallies, marches, or meetings to protest United States intervention in the war in Vietnam. Several of these demonstrations could be said to have reached major proportions.

Even before the Gulf of Tonkin incident, the Communist Party, USA (CPUSA)--which took its cue from the Soviet Union--and other subversive organizations in the United States were engaged in campaigns to influence the United States Government to withdraw its troops from Vietnam or to participate in negotiations to end the war. They hoped, of course, that either action would result ultimately in a communist victory in Vietnam.

At the same time, these subversive organizations wanted to take full advantage of the clamor for peace in Vietnam created by individuals and pacifist organizations that are for peace and against war no matter what the consequences may be. While these pacifists, like other Americans, have every right to protest any action of their Government with which they disagree, the communists and other subversives quickly perceived that the pacifists' protests presented them with many opportunities.

Of paramount importance, there was the opportunity to foster an impression that widespread opposition--especially noncommunist opposition--exists in this country relative to the Government's policies on Vietnam. This would serve to lend encouragement to the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong to continue the fighting despite adversities and might lead to domestic discontent similar to that which contributed to the earlier French military disengagement from events in Indochina. Thus, the CPUSA and other subversive organizations were resorting to a proven tactic--engaging in a united front with noncommunists to accomplish a single objective, but one that would have different meaning for the participants.

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For the noncommunists, it would be an end to hostilities and the potential threat of a wider war. For the communists, it would be another country added to their camp.

Even beyond their immediate goal, the communists viewed the situation in Vietnam as a direct confrontation of the two opposing world systems. The history of communism does not suggest that the absorption of South Vietnam would be an end in itself. It must be reckoned that a successful communist effort in Vietnam would signal further attempts at conquest in Asia and possibly in Africa, Latin America, and even Europe.

The communists and other subversives also viewed large-scale demonstrations for peace as an excellent opportunity to distribute their publications and their antiwar propaganda, especially that slanted to: (1) describe the war in Vietnam as a classical illustration of "imperialist aggression" and (2) claim that the war has racial overtones not only because it involves nonwhites in Asia but also because it consumes funds that might otherwise be expended for the war on poverty at home. The communists also recognized that these demonstrations provide them with a convenient forum for face-to-face conversations designed to locate and indoctrinate potential recruits.

Since other organizations have been demonstrating for an objective which coincides in many respects with that of the communists, it is not surprising to discover that the communists have followed the practice of leaving the formal sponsorship of demonstrations to others while they concentrated on those phases relating to initiation, plans, guidance, promotion, and participation. Since peace is a noble effort for all to strive to achieve honorably, it is also not surprising to find that there have been some demonstrations in the United States against the war in Vietnam which did not involve participation by a member of a communist or other subversive organization. Those demonstrations which have lacked communist participation are, however, definitely in the minority.

Of particular significance is the large number of former members of communist and other subversive groups who have taken part in anti-Vietnam demonstrations. Participation by these individuals lends some credibility to a statement made by CPUSA General Secretary Gus Hall. In October, 1966, he stated that there are 100,000 to 150,000 people in the United States who could be considered communists, but economic and other sanctions against known communists keep the active Party membership down.

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In what way have communist and other subversive organizations contributed to and influenced protest demonstrations against the war in Vietnam? An obvious device used frequently is to direct their members to become participants and to influence others to participate in demonstrations organized by noncommunist organizations.

Several pacifist groups, acting either independently or in association with other pacifist organizations and even with communist front groups, have sponsored many--including most of the major--demonstrations against the war in Vietnam. Prominent among these pacifist organizations are the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy (SANE), the Committee for Non-Violent Action, Women Strike for Peace, American Friends Service Committee, Fellowship of Reconciliation, and the War Resisters League. Common among all of these organizations is an absence of any serious effort to exclude participation by communists in any events they sponsor.

Deserving of special mention in connection with demonstrations against United States intervention in Vietnam are two militant youth groups. One of these, the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), has been a frequent sponsor or co-sponsor of these demonstrations. SDS, which works hand in hand on campuses with the communist-controlled W. E. B. DuBois Clubs of America (DCA), has also received support from the CPUSA in regard to its protest demonstrations against United States military activity in Vietnam. In fact, Gus Hall has characterized the SDS, along with the DCA, as a group which the CPUSA has "going for us."

Officials and members of the other militant youth group, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), a civil rights organization, have been active in anti-Vietnam demonstrations. SNCC has been praised by the CPUSA for moving rapidly to the left and for being among the first to make the tie between civil rights and peace.

Communist and other subversive organizations have also used their front groups--particularly their youth affiliates--to sponsor independently or in cooperation with noncommunist organizations antiwar or peace demonstrations. Included among these organizations is the previously mentioned DCA. Another is the Young Socialist Alliance, the youth section of the Trotskyite Socialist Workers Party. A third is Youth Against War and Fascism, the youth group of the Workers World Party, which was formed in 1959 by a splinter group of the Socialist Workers Party. A fourth was the now-defunct May 2nd Movement, a youth front group which was dominated and controlled by the pro-Peking Progressive Labor Party.

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