

Peter - I wanted
this copy, but let
me edit it.
It's not been
printed
S.W.

There is a button going around: "Research LIFE, not DEATH."

We were reminded at today's rally in White Plaza that the U.S. is currently spending \$30 billion annually to support its war effort in Viet Nam.

And again, a quote from page four of our own SRI booklet: "In 1968, \$29.7 million, or 46.7% of SRI's work was out of the DOD. \$6.2 million is seen as directly related to Southeast Asia, and \$404,000 was directly related to chemical and biological warfare."

It is by now abundantly clear to all involved in this movement, and indeed to a growing segment of the greater community, that the U.S. government merchandises death in ways which are totally unacceptable to anyone who believes in man's most basic moral obligations to his fellow man. This is true not only in the context of the government's continued involvement in the theory and practice of sophisticated warfare techniques, especially counterinsurgency both at home and abroad, but also through its relative lack of concern for the very major and pressing problems of environmental pollution and imbalance which are largely the result of technology misused. Consider our little button. "Research LIFE, not DEATH." This simple statement provides the framework for ~~the~~ the real thrust of our battle with SRI, and indeed with all research facilities currently engaged in the refinement and production of agents of death. Our struggle is not merely one of stopping war-related research. We cannot be satisfied that our mission is accomplished once SRI lays down its arms. Rather, we must see to it that funds (say, for instance, \$30 billion) now allocated by the U.S. government for making war be turned instead to the making of peace, life, and prosperity for all the peoples of the world.

By way of example. The land area of Viet Nam (North and South) is 127,250 square miles. Cramped into this relatively small land mass are 37,073,000 people, or an average of 292 inhabitants per square mile. By comparison, we might note, the average population of the United States is only 67 inhabitants per square mile. Now, Viet Nam is not an easy land in which to live. Much of the central portion north to south is mountainous; much of the rest is covered by virtually impenetrable forest and jungle. There exists a serious shortage of potentially arable land. Needless to say, the Vietnamese have never been overfed. But in recent years, due not only to their population problem but also to continued foreign harrassment and imperialist intervention from the West, many Vietnamese have been reduced to the starvation level. What has the U.S. done in light of this tragic situation? According to reliable estimates, it has rendered unusable nearly half the arable land in South Viet Nam, its supposed ally, through largely indiscriminate bombing and defoliation. To this writer's knowledge, no accurate figures are available for North Viet Nam on this point. But we can safely assume that, were such figures available, they would not be particularly favorable. What are these people to do? They are to continue starving, and the situation will get increasingly worse.

Is it enough, then, that we stop a certain kind of research, or even stop the war? Not in this writer's opinion. SRI claims it is pledged "to serve the public through performance of research to improve the standard of living and the peace and prosperity of mankind." Clearly, SRI is living a hideous lie, and our job will not be completed until we have taught it to act in accord with the standards it has set for itself. It will take research, and it will take money (LOTS of it!) to get Viet Nam back on its feet, if in fact this is still possible, even if the war ends today. This money and this research could not be construed as a gift from us to the Vietnamese--they would owe us NOTHING for our help. It is our absolute obligation to perform this task NOW: it is a debt we are grossly delinquent in paying.