

The long, disastrous War in Vietnam has exposed as never before the workings of the US government and the economic interests behind it. Our government has been opposing the national liberation movement of the Vietnamese people since World War 2--first giving extensive military aid to the French, then establishing various puppet regimes, and finally sending 500,000 troops from the US and our SEATO allies. Counter-insurgency techniques, like the "strategic hamlet" concentration-camp program developed right here at Stanford, have been aiding this military attack for years.

Many students and working people have come to realize that US involvement in Vietnam, far from being the result of some misunderstanding or miscalculation, is consistent with US attempts to protect the right of American corporations to invest and reap profits in countries all over the world. If the ruling group of a nation is willing to make a deal at the expense of its people with the US (as some in the Middle East have done), then economic exploitation may be carried on in peace; but if the people should fight back against US domination and attempt to regain control of their own economic resources, then the US has "no choice" but to send in troops. This has been the story of US intervention in Korea, in Cuba, in the Dominican Republic, and in Vietnam.

Douglas Dillon, former Secretary of the Treasury, summed up the perspective of the corporate class who determine our foreign policy: "I am an investment banker by trade and I speak as an investment banker when I say that today's less developed nations are tomorrow's richest economic and political assets." Specifically, in regard to Vietnam, the Saigon office of Investors' Overseas Service predicted in 1966 that "after the war there is going to be a big future for American businessmen here." This is not surprising, since the maximum wage in Saigon is \$1.40 per day!

The US government has been fighting in Vietnam not because direct investment there now is so high, but because the potential for investment and profit-making in South Vietnam and the rest of S.E. Asia is tremendous, and vital to the continued existence of American corporations. This system of economic expansion to foreign markets on a massive scale--imperialism--is in the interests only of the small group of men who control the large corporations. The American worker--black or white--gains nothing from US domination of Vietnam or any other country. In fact it is the same bosses he is fighting here at home who are sending his sons to die in Vietnam.

When David Rockefeller and his cronies held their International Industrialists' Conference in San Francisco recently, two of the problems on their minds were how to defend private investments in "underdeveloped" countries and how to break strikes more effectively here and abroad. The industrialists clearly see that their attacks on national liberation movements and their attempts to defeat workers' struggles in the US (such as the PDM strike) are both parts of their overall strategy to derive maximum profits. The American worker and the Vietnamese workers and peasants have the same basic class interests and are fighting against the same enemy.

Students must ally themselves with working people (the only group with enough power to make fundamental changes in our society) to fight against the corporation bosses (who also double as trustees of American colleges and universities. Defeat for US imperialism in Vietnam is a victory for the vast majority of people all over the world!