

Student Chris Fleming accuses Hanson Lab director of genocide against Indochinese.

STATEMENT BY KATARINA DAVIS DEL VALLE, MINISTER OF INFORMATION OF VENCEREMOS

It is easy to oppose Bruce Franklin's firing because it violates the right of "academic freedom." This view makes it too easy to avoid any kind of judgement about what should be taught in the classrooms of Stanford University. In the name of "academic freedom," should Hitler have been allowed to teach at Stanford or on any other campus? Professor Shockley teaches his students that "benevolent genocide" (paying Black women not to have children) is a correct solution the oppression Black people suffer. The Stanford administration knows that he teaches this, yet they see no reason to fire him.

We are told that universities exist to provide people with certain skills so that they may serve society. While Shockley teaches the benefits of genocide, Bruce is stopped from teaching about the real material conditions that the majority of the world's people experience every day of their lives.

Why is someone fired for talking about the real conditions of the people of the world? Isn't that knowledge necessary for students to understand the society and the

world they live in? The problem with this being taught in the classrooms of Stanford University is a simple one. The people who run Stanford run it for a reason. To keep these conditions the same. To make sure most people go on being oppressed by their control of not only this country, but most countries of the Third World (Asia, Africa, and Latin America).

There are still teachers at Stanford who are "self-proclaimed, avowed" Marxists, so clearly (at least for a while) the firing of Bruce was not a part of an overall move to get rid of just anyone with ideas similar to his. Bruce Franklin was fired because he acted according to his ideas. He was fired because he insisted on linking theory with practice, ideas with concrete action. He refused to allow people to get away with defining "education" as a long process of simply stuffing your head with ideas out of books or lectures. Most people in the world already understand this. We understand that to become "educated" about something means you have to have real experience with whatever you're

trying to learn about. The ideas that Bruce expressed could have remained in the classroom. He would never have been fired. But because he participated in and encouraged others to participate in actions to put an end to the oppression that Stanford perpetuates, he was fired.

Bruce has said the university fired him because his ideas were the "truth." If they were only the truth in the abstract, in theory, Stanford would not be threatened. It is because those ideas are the truth in reality, because they are the active practice of more and more people and their movements for liberation all over the world, that there is a threat. It is because these movements are growing as a result of exploitation by imperialist institutions like Stanford University, that there is a threat. It is because Bruce learned his ideas from the theory and practice of Mao, Che, Fidel, Ho Chi Minh, and many other leaders of the people who have successfully waged battles against such oppressors. Stanford fired Bruce because his ideas have won, are winning, and will continue to win!