

No Winner In Vietnam Crow's Foot War Lew Diskin Might Speak On Communist Party Role

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is the sixth installment of a series on the war in Vietnam written by Howard Moffett, Collegiate Press Service correspondent in Saigon. The Daily Nebraskan last semester ran another series by Moffett, who was former editor of the Yale Daily News.)

SAIGON, South Vietnam (CPS)—Who's winning the war in the Crow's Foot? I don't know.

The 1st Cavalry Division has searched and destroyed it some five times in the past year. American operations have become almost as big a joke as ARVN occupations.

Operation Thayer II represented a new answer to the problem of pacifying areas hostile to the central government.

Crow's Foot Plan

The plan—as it developed in the Crow's Foot campaign—was to declare the area a war zone and move the whole population out. Deprived of their popular support, the guerrillas would be forced to stand and fight by themselves with no friendly communities to melt into—or disperse and withdraw, giving up the Crow's Foot.

American officers believe

ed that whichever they did, the 1st Cav. could effectively clear and hold the area.

Once the Viet Cong had been cleaned out of the war zone, government Revolutionary Development teams were to move into the area, establish local security in conjunction with nearby ARVN units, and welcome the returning refugees—such as would be considered safe risks and allowed to return to their homes.

Work With People

The RD teams would then work side by side with the people, and life would return to normal, except that government control would have been substituted whole cloth for that of the Viet Cong.

(We shall note in passing that using Revolutionary Development teams to secure an unpopulated area runs counter to the whole theory of Revolutionary Development. But if it works in this case, the textbooks will probably be adapted to make room for it.)

The new theory—whether it meets its limited objectives or not—leaves other questions unanswered.

Foreign Troops

Can a central government which uses foreign troops to clear and hold a hostile area, expect that its own

army—too weak to do the first job—will be able to maintain order when the Americans have gone?

Could a new insurgent battalion, perhaps from the North, reestablish a base in the Crow's Foot after "pacification" has been achieved?

What will keep the 1,500 refugees, resettled in Hoai An, from hating even more the authorities who have moved them off their land in order to hunt down their sons and uncles? What will keep them in Hoai An?

How will it be determined whether a 14- or 18-year-old boy is a safe risk, or whether he should be detained as a confirmed guerrilla?

Move Population?

Should the population be moved out of an area in order to establish military control over it? A number of high-ranking U.S. generals, including the commander of the 1st Cav. Major General John Norton, think so. The current Crow's Foot campaign apparently came from higher up.

Finally, will "pacification schedules" and other political pressures be held off long enough for the RD teams to establish rapport with the people and win a hearing for the govern-

ment? How long will it take for the wounds to heal, how long for the development of popular government programs which might make the guerrillas forget why they fought? Given their history, will these people be allowed to govern themselves in the foreseeable future?

No one I know has ready answers to these.

Though the battle for the Crow's Foot is dramatic and bitter, it is not typical of anything except one section of the Central Highlands. There is no typical battle in Vietnam.

Unlike Korea, this is not a war for territory.

Strictly speaking, it seems to make little difference how much of the population either side controls: the government now administers roughly two-thirds of South Vietnam's 15,000,000 people, the same percentage as a year ago—yet insurgent armed strength has increased markedly. 350,000 American troops have been imported, and the war in every respect is a much bigger one than it was then.

Economic Base

In other wars, the enemy could be crippled by striking at his economic base. Here neither side will try too hard to do this, for each actually depends on the other's supplies.

Nor is the final goal simply to kill large numbers of people, though some American officers think it is.

In fact, it is very difficult to state precisely what the goal is.

In a sense, though the Crow's Foot is one of those things—multiplied a thousand times—that the Vietnam war is all about. It is a local complex of land, people and institutions, inseparable from each other, reinforcing each other.

To Win Area

To win the Crow's Foot, one side or the other will have to: (1) clear the area and hold it; (2) destroy the enemy troops that use or dominate it; and (3) assert its control over each small community of farmers who make up its population.

The last requirement will involve, as a minimum: (a) demonstrating that it can defend and keep order in the area; (b) giving the people a vested interest in itself, through representative institutions capable of and wants; and (c) a number of years.

To win the Vietnam war, one side or the other will have to do this in a thousand areas the size of the Crow's Foot—but with widely different terrain, climate, and food supply, and in communities whose origins, customs and sympathies vary so dramatically that many have despaired of trying to make of them one nation.

Does Lyndon really think he's going to wrap it up in time for the 1968 elections?

Campus Calendar

(All meetings are at the Nebraska Union unless otherwise noted)

ENGLISH Department, 12 p.m.

PLACEMENT Luncheon, 12:30 p.m.

ALPHA—"Jim Putnam", 1:30 p.m.

HILLEL Candle-lighting, 4:45 p.m., Sigma Delta Tau.

KOSMET K LUB Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

UNIVERSITY of Nebraska Soccer Club, 7 p.m.

PALLADIUM Literary Society, 8 p.m.

JR. IFC BALL, 8:30 p.m.

Bill To Preserve JFK's Birthplace

A bill has been introduced in the House to make the Brookline, Mass., birthplace of President John F. Kennedy a national historic site.

Rep. Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. filed the measure Wednesday. The late President was born in the frame house at 83 Beals St. in the Boston suburb, 50 years ago this May 29.

Party of Illinois, according to George Olivari, president of the University SDS.

Diskin, who wrote asking if he could come and speak, would finance his own visit. No subsidation of his trip would come from SDS, Olivari said.

'New Plan'

The party member's speech would allow the student and the people of Nebraska to see what the American Communist Party stands for, Olivari explained. Should Diskin come, Olivari thought he would speak on what he termed the party's "new plan."

It would be up to Diskin where and when he would speak, Olivari said. He said the SDS group would allow him to speak on campus under its name.

Action is also underway by University SDS to hold a draft teach-in at the University, probably the last weekend in April, according to Olivari.

Replies

Positive replies of participation have been received from the Nebraska Selective Service, the Student Peace Union (a New York city organization of conscientious objectors, and peace promoters, Olivari said); invitations have also been sent to the W.E.B. DuBois Club, the John Birch Society and the Blacks

Against Needless Dying (BAND), (a group of militant Negroes against the draft, Olivari said).

Regional, SDS groups in the Midwest have expressed interest in attending the proposed teach-in, Olivari said. The possibility of a regional conference is being considered.

Carl Davidson, former University student and national vice-president of SDS, is being contacted to speak. Olivari said he hoped to bring the regional SDS organizer to the teach-in, but said he had been indicted in Topeka for refusing to be inducted.

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March 6, 16, 23 . . .

NFU Co-Sponsors Program On Man's Role In World

By Cheryl Tritt Senior Staff Writer

Nebraska Free University and the YWCA-YMCA will co-sponsor a series of programs entitled "Man in Tomorrow's World" beginning March 9 at 8:30

p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

Three programs, based on a series of tape recordings narrated by American economist, Robert Theobald, have been scheduled, according to Gene Pokorny,

member of the Coordinating Committee for a Free University.

Man And Environment

The first tape is a discussion of man's increasing power over his environment, Pokorny said, and explains the new policies which will be needed to preserve human values when technology replaces a natural environment.

Guest speakers "will dialogue with the tape," he said, and explain the ideas presented in the tapes.

Dr. Campbell McConnell, University economic professor; Dr. Alan Bates, head of the University psychology department; and Dr. Robert Sittig, political science professor, will be guest speakers for the first program. A free discussion period will follow the tapes.

Computers

"What Can Computers Do?" is the topic for the second program series March 16. Robert Davis head of the learning service at Michigan State University narrates the tape with Theobald.

The tape will discuss the areas where the computer is taking over jobs from man, Pokorny said, and study the computer's potential for the future.

Man's Knowledge

The third program March 23 concerns "Man's Knowledge of Himself."

Pokorny said this tape explores the limits which should be placed on activities to "improve man," in terms of psychology and biology.

The tape series "Man in Tomorrow's World," was first aired on the nationalized Canadian FM radio network, he said, "and was widely acclaimed." The original series contained 13 thirty-minute recordings.

Out Of The Past . . .

Cannon Balls, Crockery Sparked Demonstrations

(ACP) — If college administrators think they have it rough dealing with today's demonstration-happy students, a look at some "demonstrations" in the early 1880's might convince them that they don't have it so bad after all, comments the University of Maryland Diamondback.

In those days students were fined, suspended or expelled for such offenses as billiards, associating with "idle or dissolute persons," traveling more than two miles from campus or attending the theater.

Reacting to such harsh discipline, students at Hobart College heated cannon balls till they were red-hot and rolled them down a dormitory corridor, seriously injuring a faculty member.

In 1807 Princeton expelled more than 80 per cent (125 of an enrollment of 200) of its student body for rioting. Seven years later some pyrotechnically inclined Princeton Tigers constructed a giant firecracker out of a hollow log packed with two pounds of gunpowder and nearly blew up a campus building.

Not to be outdone by Princeton, students in 1827 set off powder charges under several tutors' chairs. Three students were expelled and 20 more were disciplined.

Smashing things was in vogue at several colleges. At Harvard it was crockery. In 1817 freshmen and sophomores demolished every piece of china the college owned.

At Princeton, students, for some reason, felt the windows had to go. Princeton students did it with rocks but North Carolina students got in some target practice by shooting out every window in sight.

But today's faculty and administrators will perhaps be most thankful that they don't feel student anger as directly as many of their predecessors in the 1800's did.

For example, University of Virginia students, upset over what they considered excessive classroom work, horsewhipped several faculty with wine bottles and firewood. And just before graduation in 1824, Dartmouth students stoned a professor.

Critic Of Johnson Administration Speaks On Latin America Monday

A noted critic of the Johnson Administration's policies will speak at the small auditorium of the Nebraska Union Monday at 3:30 p.m.

Sidney Lens, author and lecturer, will speak on the question "Are there New Vietnams in Latin America?" His speech is sponsored by the History Club.

Lens is the author of nine books including, "Left, Right and Center," "The Counterfeit Revolution," "A World in Revolution," "The Crisis of American Labor," "Working Men," "Africa-Awakening Giant" and the "Futile Crusade: Anti-Communism as American Credo."

He also wrote "Revolution and Cold War," one of the American Friends Service Committee's "Beyond Deterrence" series which has attracted national interest. He has travelled extensively, visiting 17 countries on a round-the-world trip in 1964. In the summer of 1966 he revisited Latin America. Thomas Meesner, presi-

dent of the History Club, termed Lens "a very outspoken critic of the administration and a very controversial figure."

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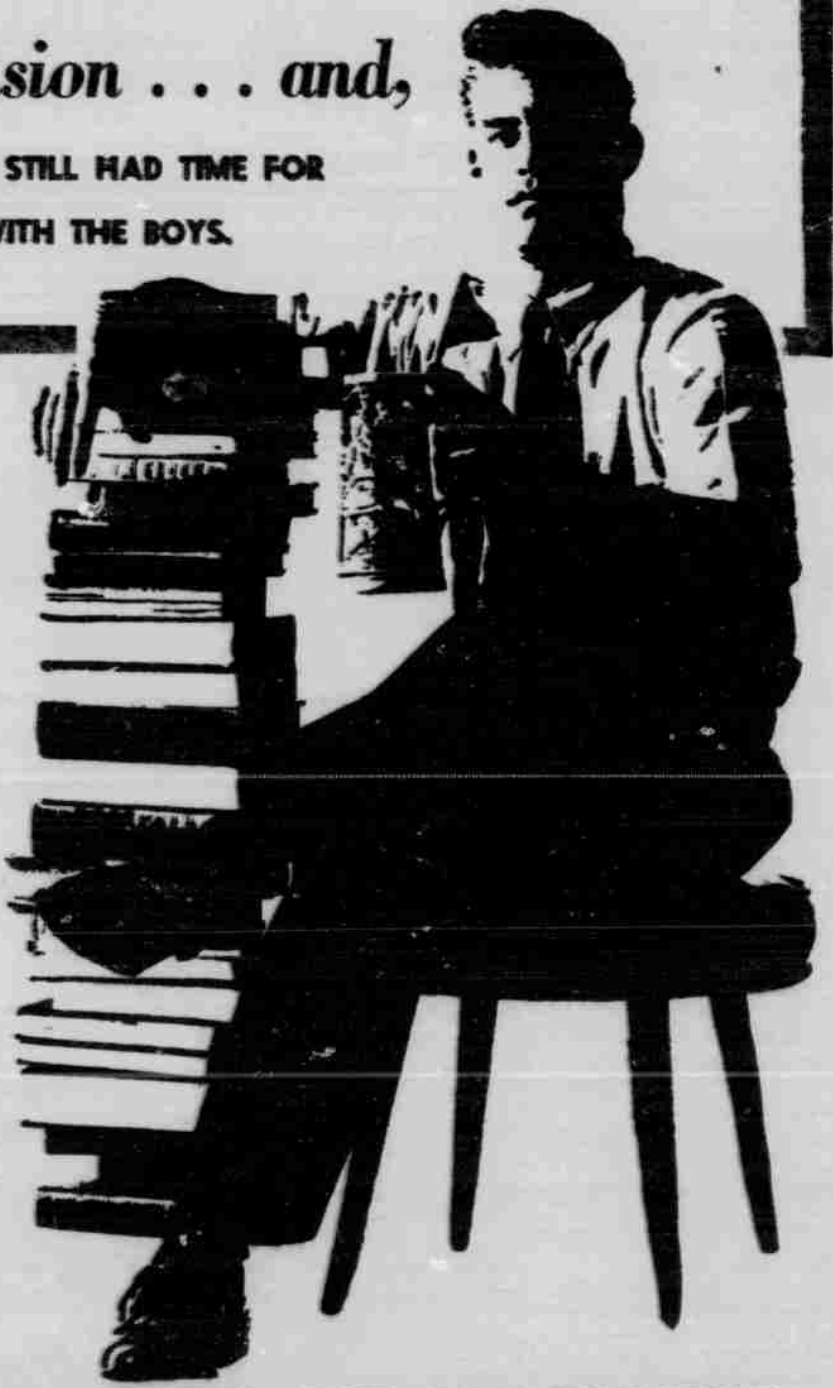
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