

U.S. In Vietnam . . .

Saintly, Child-Like View Expressed By Chaplains

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is one installment of a series of articles on the war in Vietnam written by Howard Moffett, Collegiate Press correspondent in Saigon. The Daily Nebraskan has run two series and several articles by Moffett, who was former editor of the Yale Daily News.)

SAIGON, South Vietnam (CPS)—One of Yale's great courses is Edmund Morgan's review of American colonial history. Beginning with the Puritan fathers, Professor Morgan teaches that our history has been deeply influenced by the early Americans' view of themselves as a morally pure and righteous people—by contrast with the decadent, corrupt sons of Europe.

Chaplains in Vietnam I didn't really appreciate what he was saying until I had been in Vietnam for several months. What finally brought the idea home — and left me depressed and scared — was a series of interviews with army and air force chaplains.

There are over 430 American chaplains in Vietnam — some 320 protestants, more than 100 Catholics and three Jews. All are volunteer.

I interviewed thirteen. Almost to a man, their consciences were aggressively clear about the moral rationale for the U.S. military commitment.

That might be expected of chaplains. But what surprised and depressed me were the glowing terms they used to describe what is basically agonizing, dirty business of making many people suffer in order to prove a political point.

On the basis of these chaplains' interviews, a disinterested observer would have to consider the American approach to war as (a) saintly and (b) child-like. Consider the following four assumptions:

Save Vietnamese (1) We are here to save the Vietnamese people from the evils of Communism. This theme was sounded by at least ten of the thirteen chaplains. The following quotes are representative, and in the complete contexts would not change their import:

"How can you call this war immoral? You can't say life is more important than personal freedoms, honor, integrity and the dignity of human beings. The basic moral issue is: are these things worth defending?" — Father Thomas D. McGrath, a Roman Catholic from Worcester, Mass.

"I see China as an emotionally disturbed society."—this from Chaplain Jack Keene, United Presbyterian, who believes the U.S. has an obligation to protect South Vietnam from foreign domination.

"I'm not so concerned about the democratic process, but I think the clergy should be on the side of right. Maybe the majority of the Vietnamese people do support the Viet Cong, but, if so, they do it out of ignorance and fear. . . . It's like our American race riots. The police at Watts weren't very popular, but they were right." — Orville McCormack, Assemblies of God, Oklahoma City.

Good Intentions (2) We should be given credit for our good intentions, for sincerely wanting to help the Vietnamese people. Most American officials including the chaplains in Vietnam like to talk about how America is helping the Vietnamese.

GI's build orphanages, support poor families, put hundreds of kids through school, hand out chocolate bars the length and breadth of Vietnam, and often make considerable personal sacrifices in the process.

But with child-like naivete and almost total ignorance of what a century of

colonialism has taught the Vietnamese, they expect to be thanked. They expect the Vietnamese to take their good works and good intentions at face value.

Viet Cong's Sneaky Tactics (3) The Viet Cong should not use sneaky tricks to kill American soldiers. The thought caricatured here runs just below the surface of many American conversations.

The implication is that war ought to be played by the rules, as defined in the U.S. Code of Chivalry.

Chaplain Ross G. Wright, Conservative Baptist, from Los Angeles also showed me a UPI story of a Viet Cong atrocity.

A young American captain had been killed trying to clean out an enemy cave in the Central Highlands. A North Vietnamese soldier had come out of the cave, pushing a woman and child in front of him.

Not wanting to hit the human shields, the American lowered his gun, whereupon the North Vietnamese shot him point blank in the head.

It was a dirty thing to do, and I like it no better than the young American's mother would. But to suggest that it wasn't fair, and that the North Vietnamese soldier was an evil ogre because he took unfair advantage, is to make war into a child's game.

Tit For Tat (Tit for tat: within minutes the cave had been blown with explosives and one GI estimated over 100 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese were buried alive inside.)

With Americans complaining of sneaky tactics, Vietnamese say Americans should not be here in the first place, should not bomb and burn and loose their horrible instruments of death on Vietnamese villages, should not seek to impose American solutions on a people whose problems Americans do not understand.

U.S.'s Benevolent Approach (4) The Vietnamese should be more responsive to our benevolent but firm approach to pacification.

I depart from the chaplains' script at this point to discuss the American way of pacification, which refers to making hostile peasants friendly.

The Marines have been pacifying villages in I Corps (Central Vietnam) for a year and a half now, and their example has been followed by many other American units engaged in civic action programs.

The basic formula is to move into a village, maintain order by intensive patrolling and hunt down any stray guerrillas with the left hand, while setting up medical aid programs, building dams and spillways, and giving out candy soap and toothpaste with the right.

Affects Of Approach Often the GI's make friends, especially among the kids. But observers who live in I Corps say the hard facts are that most of these villages are less pacified than when the leathernecks landed.

There are many reasons for this, but one may be that the double offer of bullets to bad Vietnamese and candy to good ones suggests something of the father trying to discipline his child.

To those Vietnamese who are weary of being treated as children by great white fathers, this approach misses the heart of the problem by about 180 degrees.

The lessons we learn from the American experience in Vietnam will be largely conditioned by our view of ourselves. If the foregoing is at all to the point, it suggests there are a lot of psychological cobwebs that will have to be cleared away first.



GIMMICKS USED FOR PARTY THEMES . . .

A fire engine was just one of many gimmicks and different kinds of decorations used for Basketball Tournament party themes at fraternities and Cather Hall Dormitory Saturday night. Other party accessories included go-go girls, a devil, a chug wagon and "crazy" LSD signs. The fire engine was located outside Chi Phi fraternity.

Greek Week Set For April 4-9; Centennial Festivities Planned

This year's Greek Week, complete with a Centennial Day and a Centennial Ball, will be held April 4-9, according to Bob Bartee, chairman of the Interfraternity Council (IFC) affairs committee.

With the exception of the Centennial festivities and an additional philanthropic project, this year's program will be very similar to past Greek Weeks, Bartee said.

Tieman To Speak The week-long program will begin with exchange dinners and a Greek convocation on April 4, he said. Gov. Norbert Tieman is slated to address the convocation.

The next two days will feature a group of seminars, involving Greek and dormitory leaders, who will discuss issues pertinent to the student community. Other items planned include quiz bowl matches between IFC and Panhellenic representatives and a housemothers' bridge party, Bartee said.

Centennial Day April 7 will be designated Centennial Day, he said, and Greeks will canvass the city selling Centennial artifacts. The day will be capped by the Centennial Ball, featuring the Astronauts combo. Princess Athena will be crowned at the ball and winners will be selected in a beard-growing contest.

The following morning fraternities will compete in the traditional Greek Games, highlighted by a "marathon" Greek relay from Crete. That afternoon fraternity and sorority leaders will hear nationally prominent speakers at the annual Greek conference at the Nebraska Center.

Awards Banquet Greek Week will conclude April 9 with an awards banquet and a philanthropic project, Bartee said. This project, a new innovation, will involve the presentation of variety shows at five Lincoln orphanages by fraternity and sorority talent groups.

Bartee said that Greek Week has a twofold purpose: — to show individual Greeks the benefits of the fraternity and sorority systems through working, playing and discussing problems together.

— to show the campus and the community that the Greek system is an important and beneficial contributor to society.

IDCC's Final Meeting Set As IDA Begins

. . . Functions Fulfilled

With its duties and obligations fulfilled after a one year existence, the Inter-Dormitory Coordinating Committee (IDCC) will disband after its final meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Cather Hall North Cafeteria.

IDCC chairman Jim Ludwig said that all floor presidents, dormitory representatives and residence hall executive officers would attend the conference, and invitations have been offered to various housing administrators to also attend the meeting.

Strong Basis Looking back over the IDCC, Ludwig said, "We were able to develop a strong basis for all dormitory governments and in the start, even this was questionable."

He said the dormitory leader workshop, held last semester, proved that government can function in a coordinated unit. He added, "Now it remains to be proven how effectively and efficiently this unit will be operating."

With the Inter-Dormitory Association (IDA) formed, Ludwig said that although the housing office has done a pretty good job of communicating with the residence halls, "it will now be a two-sided exchange instead of them trying to feed information into the separate units. They will be able to deal with system as a whole and we (IDA) will be able to ask questions."

Social Coordination The IDCC, which saw its first constitution defeated by the dorms six to four in an earlier residence hall vote, was formed from a committee originally started for the social coordination of the dormitories.

"With the formation of this committee, many people saw that the time was right to further develop the idea into an all-dormitory government," Ludwig added.

He credited Marv Almy, then Selleck president, as probably "most responsible for the development of IDA as he provided ideas and guidance."

Developing Concepts "His attitudes stimulated active discussion in the development of most of the concepts currently embodied in the IDA," he said.

He added that "I know John Fryar, IDA president-elect will do his best to implement the possibilities that lie within this organization."

After its first constitution was rejected by the residence halls, the group revised the bill and the halls voted to form the IDA on Feb. 21 and gave the constitution approval two days later, fulfilling the IDCC's purpose.

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Job Openings For Graduates Are Increasing

The demand for graduates of the University is mounting steadily in all fields as more employers look to the University to fill their employment opportunities, Frank M. Hallgren, placement director, said.

Hallgren stated that there will probably be 700 companies recruiting graduates at the University this year.

He said that except for regional or geographic preferences or with highly specialized job interests, the average number of jobs available for each graduate is seven or eight.

Campus Calendar

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

- MONDAY
PLACEMENT Luncheon, 12:30 p.m.
ASUN Academic Research Committee, 3:30 p.m.
PANHELLENIC, 3:30 p.m.
UNION Film Committee, 3:45 p.m.
TASSELS, 4:30 p.m.
DELTA ZETA, 5:30 p.m.
PI TAU SIGMA Smoker, 7 p.m.
TAU KAPPA EPSILON, 7 p.m.
DELTA ZETA, 7 p.m.
UNICORNS, 7 p.m.

- UNIVERSITY THEATRE Rehearsal, 7 p.m.
PHI MU, 7 p.m.
ECONOMIC and Business Round Table, 7:30 p.m.
MATH Counselors, 7:30 p.m.
ZETA BETA TAU, 9 p.m.
TUESDAY
CAMPUS LIFE Committee, 4 p.m., East Union
PEOPLE TO PEOPLE, 4:30 p.m.
SEMPER FIDELIS Society, 8 p.m., M&N Building

THOUSANDS OF NEW & USED PAPERBACKS
We have purchased a huge wholesale lot of quality paperbacks which will be on sale at 1/2 off cover price. This week only at
Zieler's Stamps & Coins just off campus at 1320 Que Street

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investigate career opportunities at San Francisco Bay Naval Shipyard, the Navy's largest industrial activity.

ENJOY UNMATCHED POTENTIAL FOR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL GROWTH. You'll be challenged by the variety offered in the design, construction, overhaul and conversion of Polaris missile submarines, guided missile frigates, destroyers, aircraft carriers, deep submergence craft, Sea Lab II, etc.
APPLY YOUR TALENTS TO IMPORTANT PROGRAMS: Nuclear power, ship structures, electrical/electronic systems, missile systems, marine/mechanical design, welding, chemistry (analytical) and metallurgical inspection and test, quality assurance, process methods and standards, tools and plant utilization.

Representative on campus FRIDAY, MARCH 17 for interview, contact your placement office
An Equal Opportunity Employer. U. S. Citizenship Required.

Los Angeles DA Visits Law School

The District Attorney of Los Angeles County and former Los Angeles Municipal Judge, Evelle J. Younger will spend Monday with students at the University College of Law. He will conduct a discussion on criminal law at 1:30 p.m. in the law college building.

Daily Nebraskan Classified Column

- FOR RENT Private picnic areas for rent, weekends or weekdays. Two miles south of Lincoln. 435-1555.
FOR SALE Small apartment home rents to male students. Note \$125/month. Will pay your way through school. All furnishings included. Small down payment. 759-3026.
WANTED One salesman. Experience preferred. Part time till June. Full time summer work. See Mr. Schwank, The Shoe Store, 1217 'D' Street.
MISCELLANEOUS Plenty of pipes at plenty half price. CLIFF'S SMOKE SHOP. 1204 'O' Street.

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