

Viet Protest News

VIETNAM CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER
BOX 59, POST OFFICE, PARKVILLE 3052, VIC.

NUMBER 21

MAY 1969

FREE JOHN ZARB MAY 25

John Zarb has been gaoled because he opposes the Vietnam war. He refuses, on these grounds, to be conscripted to fight in a war he sees to be totally wrong. He is at present in Pentridge, serving a two year sentence.

The Vietnam Co-ordinating Committee believes that John Zarb must not be forgotten. Continuing rallies are being held by various groups to highlight his unjust imprisonment.

We urge all who oppose the Vietnam war, and the government's policy of forcing young men to do its dirty work, to join the V.C.C. in a mass rally on Sunday, May 25.

3:00 p.m. Pentridge Gaol

We must support John Zarb and all those who refuse to comply with this government's immoral policies and actions.

Free John Zarb! End conscription and the Vietnam war!

JULY 4

The V.C.C. calls for a massive turn-out on July 4, to demand INDEPENDENCE FOR VIETNAM. On this date, the U.S. government hypocritically celebrates its own independence, while denying this same right to Vietnam.

The V.C.C. is organising a march from the city to the U.S. consulate, leaving the city at 5.30 p.m. wide support has already been indicated, especially from the Trade Union movement. Full details of the demonstration will appear in the next V.P.N., to be published in mid-June.

SILENT VIGIL: The Weekly Silent Vigil for Peace in Vietnam is held outside the State Library in Swanston Street, between 12.30 and 1.30 every Wednesday.

The Weekly Vigil was founded in February 1966 by a Quaker Dr. Charles Hubbell, on the campus of the University of Santa Barbara, California. It is now held in at least 160 communities in the U.S.A., and also in Canada, Italy and in Sydney.

The Melbourne Vigil began on April 5, 1967, and is sponsored by the following organisations - Fellowship of Reconciliation, Pacifist Movement of Victoria, Quaker Peace Committee, Save Our Sons, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

You are invited to come when you can, and leave when you must. For further enquiries, contact Mrs. Alison Stodden, 10 Leslie Street, Elsternwick 3185 (phone 53.3864).

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DISCUSSION GROUP: The Students for a Democratic Society have set up an Anti-Conscription Group, which meets every second Saturday and Sunday from 2 pm to 4 pm. Meetings will be held at 57 Palmerston Street, Carlton, beginning on May 10.

The group provides advice and discussion on conscientious objection, refusing to register for "National Service", conscription generally, and the Vietnam war.

Secondary school students, who will soon have to decide what they are going to do about "National Service", are particularly welcome.

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DONATIONS WANTED: As usual, the V.C.C. would welcome donations from supporters. Money is needed to pay for the printing and distribution of Viet Protest News, and to publicise our two main demonstrations on 25th May and 4th July. The Dissenters' Defence Fund (which helps with fines, bail money, and legal expenses) will also be gratefully received.

For several months, the V.C.C. has been using the Centre for Democratic Action as the "base" for much of its activity. Like the rest of the movement, the Centre relies on donations to keep running. Any contributions from V.P.N. readers should be sent to the C.D.A., 57 Palmerston Street, Carlton 3053.

TO: V.C.C., P.O. BOX 59, PARKVILLE, 3052.

Enclosed is \$..... as donation to the V.C.C. and subscription to Viet Protest News.

Enclosed is \$..... as donation to the Dissenters' Defence Fund.

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PUBLISHED BY THE VIETNAM CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE.

AUTHORISED BY J.R. LAYFIELD, SECRETARY.