COMMITTEE FOR PRISONER COMMUNICATIONS

A new organization, The Committee of Liaison, came into existence early in January to facilitate communication between American prisoners held in North Vietnam and their next of kin in the United States. On returning from North Vietnam, Mrs. Cora Weiss, long active with Women’s Strike for Peace, indicated that the North Vietnamese were very interested in establishing a communications link between prisoners and their relatives. At this writing, the new committee has been able to forward two bundles of mail from North Vietnam to parents and wives here in the United States on separate occasions.

With Mr. Ross Perot travelling around the country trying to exploit the highly emotional situation in which wives or parents find themselves, the need for this new committee is quite clear. As a matter of fact, parents or wives who do not know whether their husband or son is alive can write to the Committee of Liaison (365 West 42nd Street, N.Y., N.Y. 10036) and ask them to find out whether the North Vietnamese have information on the person involved.

One of the problems faced by the Committee is the U.S. government’s subtle way of "playing with figures" on the whole prisoner issue. In late December, in Paris, the U.S. published a list of more than 1400 Americans believed "missing or held captive" in North Vietnam. The government knew full well which of the persons on the list are known to be prisoners, but did not bother to asterisk these names in the news account. It is our judgment that this helped to play upon the emotions of American parents who really do not know whether their sons are dead or alive.

It is clear from the conversations which Mrs. Weiss and others have had that the North Vietnamese are interested in dealing directly with the American peace movement on this issue and not with the U.S. government, which continues to wage its illegal and immoral war.

Finally, it should be clear that the Committee exists to facilitate communication, and not in any sense as a propaganda organ of the peace movement. If you know anyone who is having difficulty communicating with loved ones known to be held in North Vietnam, or if you know persons trying to find out whether their relatives are prisoners at all, you should suggest that they write the Committee of Liaison. In addition to Mrs. Weiss, the committee members include Mr. Richard Falk, Princeton University; Mr. David Dellinger; Mrs. Anne Bennett; Professor Franz Sherman, University of Southern California; Miss Barbara Webster; Mr. Richard Barnet; the Rev. Richard Fernandez, and others.
HANG UP ON WAR!

The National Steering Committee, after looking into various methods of war tax resistance, decided at its February meeting that CALCAV would actively promote a national program of telephone tax resistance. The 10% Federal tax on telephone service is an obvious war tax. When Congress passed the tax bill in April, 1966, Rep. Wilbur Mills stated, "It is clear that Vietnam and only the Vietnam operation makes this bill necessary." The war continues in 1970, and so does the telephone tax.

Several of the Steering Committee members indicated that they were already refusing to pay telephone taxes, and many others indicated their intention to begin refusal. The Steering Committee feels that all Americans who are conscientiously opposed to the war should consider telephone tax refusal as a means of registering their refusal to pay for the war. They have further suggested that local groups set up Peace Funds gathered from refused taxes to support life-affirming projects.

Further information about telephone tax resistance and other forms of tax resistance may be obtained from: War Tax Resistance, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y., 10012 (212-477-2970). War Tax Resistance also is setting up information centers throughout the U.S.

EASTER/PASSOVER FAST CONTINUES

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 11, in cooperation with The Fellowship of Reconciliation, we have sponsored a Fast and Vigil in front of the White House from 9 to 5, seven days a week. At this writing, groups have already come into Washington to participate in the Fast/Vigil from Connecticut, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, Virginia, and several other states. We have been encouraged by the participation of persons in the Washington D.C. area who have assisted in this continued anti-war presence outside the Chief Executive's home and offices. We expect the Fast to continue on through at least Easter, and perhaps through the end of the Jewish Passover season on April 28.

REGIONAL ORGANIZING CONFERENCES

In a slight departure from the practice of past years, CALCAV is proposing a number of regional organizing conferences to be held during March and April in areas throughout the country. This effort reflects the belief that strong local organization and action is more important at this time than a major mobilization in Washington.

Conferences are being planned in Peoria, Pittsburgh, and Lincoln-Omaha. Others are proposed for such places as St. Louis, New Orleans, and Milwaukee. The focus of the conferences will be on local and regional strategy, rather than national policy. The goal in each case will be to plan and organize for action.

Each conference will be arranged by local persons, with some financial and other assistance from the national office. The conferences are expected to vary in size from 35 to 200 people and to last for one or two days. Each will draw upon a major speaker and make public statements to the press.

It is hoped that these conferences will be a means for bringing groups and persons with diverse interests together for specific actions.
$\text{SONG MY:}$

\text{INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY, WAR CRIMES, AND THE LAWS OF WAR}

Our National Committee is presently involved with two separate committees which are in the process of putting together specific programs around the question of individual responsibility in time of war. First, on February 12 and 13, with the American Friends Service Committee, we co-sponsored a symposium in Washington, D.C. Twenty-five church and academic leaders discussed the specific and often subtle issues which Song My and other such incidents have raised. Out of this meeting has come a steering committee which is composed of Dr. Robert Lifton, Yale University; Mr. Richard Falk, Princeton University; Dr. Gabriel Kolko, State University in Buffalo, New York; Mr. Stewart Meacham, Peace Education Secretary for the American Friends Service Committee; Mrs. Francine Gray, a writer; and Rev. Richard R. Fernandez, of our own committee.

This committee will be involved in several different tasks, and they are putting together a proclamation with respect to individual responsibility in time of war as well as a somewhat longer position paper on this same issue. In addition, in the early spring, there will be a large conference in Washington, D.C., at which persons who have the ability to create and utilize various means of expression—writers, filmmakers, people who work with tapes, etc.—will be thoroughly briefed on the individual responsibility issue. Hopefully, it will develop a whole set of specific tools with which to assist people on a local level to discuss the war crimes issue.

Our National Committee has also become involved with the Law Center for Constitutional Rights, in New York City, in several different tasks with respect to individual responsibilities and the laws of war. One of the primary actions we will be cooperating with the Law Center on as part of our concern is the acquisition of affidavits from servicemen and ex-servicemen in the early spring. Specifically, we hope to have lawyers in at least 25 cities make themselves available on three consecutive weekends to be able to take sworn affidavits from servicemen who have seen or participated in activities in Vietnam which they consider to be "possibly criminal." The purpose is not to point fingers at individual servicemen, but rather to attempt to discern more clearly the overwhelming nature of the war being pursued there and where the responsibility lies in the higher levels of the military.

As plans develop with this and other legal programs, we will keep you posted.

\text{NATIONAL BLACK REFERENDUM}

The National Black Referendum on Vietnam (NBRV) is an attempt on the part of many national Black religious, social, and political organizations to determine the position of Black American with respect to the war in Vietnam. The referendum will take place between Palm Sunday, March 22, and Easter, March 29, in every Black community in the country. This is a significant effort not only to involve the Black community in the anti-war movement, but also to show the ill-effects of spending tax dollars for Vietnam when they could be used to alleviate the blight of America's ghettoes.

NBRV has requested CALCAV's support, so it is important for our people to help them on the local level whenever possible. For further information, call David Schilling, 212-749-8518.
POSTER SALE

The national office has acquired copies of three posters by Boston Globe cartoonist Paul Michael Szep. Szep is a Canadian-born 28 year old whose cartoons have attracted wide attention in his three-year association with the Globe. His work shows a striking flair for capturing governmental absurdities in a uniquely expressive graphic format. In an introduction to Szep’s latest book, Keep Your Left Hand High, Art Buchwald calls him "a brilliant craftsman and artist, as well as a social commentator."

The posters, shown below, are printed in black on 23x23 inch buff stock. They will be shipped postpaid at the following rates: singly, $2.00 each; any two, $3.50; any three, $4.50; four or more at $1.50 each. Use the order blank at the bottom of this page for convenience.

Please send me the Szep posters in the quantities indicated below.

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All posters shipped postpaid.

Singly, $2.00 each
Any two, $3.50
Any three, $4.50
Four or more, $1.50 each

Please allow three weeks for delivery.

Make checks payable to:
Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam
475 Riverside Drive, New York, N.Y. 10027

ONLY PREPAID ORDERS CAN BE ACCEPTED.
TAX RESISTANCE

(The following is excerpted from a letter by Michael A. Robinson, one of the founders of Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam; the letter is addressed to "Director, Internal Revenue Service, Andover, Mass.")

Over the years I have voiced my opposition to American involvement in the brutalizing war in Vietnam. The tragedy of Song My epitomizes the moral failure and senseless waste of the war. I know that I am involved. My tax dollars bought the bullets of Song My.

I love my country for its dream of a free and just society and for the opportunities our Constitution provides for individual freedom and social change through peaceful means. But to support the war is to violate my conscience and pay for murder. This I cannot do. I find it impossible to maintain my religious commitment to God and man and my dedication to the cause of democracy and, at the same time, pay for the war.

I am therefore refusing to pay 20% of my Federal Income Tax, the amount estimated to be the cost of the war in Vietnam, until such time as our government withdraws its forces from that land. I do not want this money for myself. I will accumulate it in a separate account for payment to the government for peaceful purposes after our disengagement from the war in Vietnam. This I believe to be my only moral alternative.

This is a difficult step to take. I cannot do otherwise. I hope that other patriotic Americans will join with me in refusing to pay for this war we do not support.

--Michael A. Robinson, Rabbi

MINISTRY FOR DRAFT-AGE EMIGRANTS ESTABLISHED

The Rev. Richard Killmer, a former CALCAV field staff person in Minneapolis and a member of the national staff since last June, has entered upon a new "Emergency Ministry Concerning Draft-Age Emigrants in Canada," A National Council of Churches program, this new ministry represents a significant step by American churchmen towards taking up responsibility for reconciliation among a war-weary people. More on the details of the ministry in a subsequent issue.

CORRECTION

The Lenten/Passover Fast brochure lists an incorrect price for the Freedom Seder.

They cost $1.00 apiece, or $80.00 for 100.
An Army Captain stationed in Vietnam wrote to his parents, "If you do not want any more My Lais, then get the troops out of Vietnam." In the letter, part of which was printed in the Bridgeport Post, in Connecticut, on February 17, 1970, Capt. Miller said, "I have participated in many My Lai-type operations, where a lot of innocent civilians were killed. I feel guilty, certainly, but I can tell you without reservation that My Lai will continue to occur as long as our government continues to pursue the course of action that it has over the past 25 years. It is not the Lt. Calleys that are at fault. It is our people--our people. They sent us out to fight a war."

"Now I ask, if you and the people of the United States did not want us to do that, why do you provide us with weapons of mass destruction? Logically it follows that you want us to kill, slaughter, brutalize, and mutilate the people. The citizens of the United States are paying about 2 billion dollars per month for that. Isn't it ridiculous?"

On February 19, Capt. Miller retracted the letter. He said he was sorry for all the attention the letter won. "It was a boo-boo." Miller may have felt some pressure from the military to withdraw the letter!

**DR. KING FILM SET FOR MARCH 24**

A two and one-half hour documentary entitled "King: A Film Record... Montgomery to Memphis" will be shown in 300 cities on March 24. The money raised will go to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC.) It is hoped that 5 million dollars will be raised.

Several members of our steering committee saw a partial screening a few months ago, and we hope that all of our constituents will see it. Dr. King was a co-chairman of our committee and was the Director of SCLC.

**FIELD STAFF CONFERENCE**

CALCAV is holding a field staff conference on March 13-15 at High Point in Clinton, Michigan. Field staff, representatives of local steering committees, and national office staff will meet in order to plan local and national program priorities of the organization for the coming year.