U.S. DIRTY VIETNAM WAR

STRAIGHT TALK

by CHEDDI JAGAN

THE C.S. - backed war in South Vietnam is a
cause for great frustration and uncertainty. Official
figures now disclose that in 1964 there were twice
as many casualties as compared for the three previous
years combined. The U.S. casualties for 1964 were 1173
including 126 killed. The combined figures for 1961,
1962 and 1963 was 615 casualties including 107 killed.

So concerned is the American public that the U.S.
Senate is preparing itself for a big showdown and a
long hard look at the situation. The National Libera-
tion Forces in Vietnam have moved from the first
phase of hit-and-run to the second phase of pitched
battle. Only a few weeks ago, the Vietnam puppet
Government and the U.S. Army (advisors, they are
called) suffered a resounding defeat around the
outskirts of Saigon, the capital.

Of 45 Senators recently interviewed in a survey,
the majority expressed apprehensions about the
future success of the U.S. “The problem is tragically
difficult”, said Senator Allan Bidde, “I believe we must
continue to do everything possible under the present
policy — increasing the emphasis on a stable and
responsible Vietnamese Government.”

Thirty-one of the Senators expressed similar views
suggesting negotiations later when the bargaining
position of the Americans had improved. Ten favored
negotiations now. Some suggested United Nations
mediation towards a settlement based on neutrality.

A few came up in favor of expansion of the war
into North Vietnam. But according to Senator Mike
Mansfield, “Expansion will not solve the problem. It
is more likely to enlarge it and in the end we may find
ourselves engaged all over Asia in full scale war.”

One Senator said that he did not “know how to get
off the tiger’s back.” Three Senators called for com-
plete withdrawal of U.S. advisors and military aid.

Why is the war being fought in the first place?
And, why is it being lost by the Americans?

The answer is to be found in an article by Sol
W. Sanders in the U.S. News and World Report, a
pro-imperialist, big business magazine. On 19th Oc-
tober, 1964, he wrote: “In the eyes of the Communists,
the war which is going on in South Vietnam is not a
struggle between North Vietnamese and South Viet-
namese; It is, rather, a continuation of the old war
against the French, with the United States now play-
ing the villain role once played by France.”

The United States is losing out because it is try-
ing to prop up a rotten system. For this same reason
its vast military superiority is not turning out. It is
like an elephant trying to fight against a mosquito.

It has tried, in its policy of counter-insurgency, to
imitate the methods of the guerrillas. But as Cho Gue-
varys pointed out, there is a world of difference be-
tween national liberation guerrillas and imperialist
guerrillas. The first fights with and for the people,
while the second fights against their interests.

It is time the Americans learned the bitter lessons
which the French learned in Indo-China and Algeria
— You cannot hold back the tide.

450 MINIMUM

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