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SITUATION INFORMATION REPORT

VIETNAM PRISONER RELEASE

As early as 3 July, Hanoi had broadcast that three U. S. prisoners of war would be freed. In an obvious propaganda pl@y, similar to the earlier release of prisoners to Thomas HAYDEN's group, it was announced that the POWs would be released to the custody of a delegation of American anti-war representatives. The delegation was later identified as: Stewart MEACHAN of Philadelphia, Peace Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee; Mrs. Anne SCHEER of Berkeley, California, wife of Robert SCHEER, an editor of RNAPARTS magazine; and Vernon GRIZZARD, an anti-draft organizer from Cambridge, Massachusetts. The POWs were later identified as three American airmen: Major James F. LOW of Sausalito, California, whose plane was shot down by a missile last December 16, 1967; Major Fred N. THOMPSON of Taylors, South Carolina captured March 20, 1968; and Captain Joe V. CARPENTER of Victorsville, California, captured February 15, 1968.

On 12 July, the pacifist delegation had a stopover in Paris enroute to Hanoi and in Paris met with Ambassador HARRIMAN and separately with the North Viet delegation to the Paris Conference.

Considerable confusion has evolved over the release of these Americans as was the case in the previous release which allogedly irritated Hanoi when the released prisoners were returned to the U.S. by military rather than commercial plane. On 17 July, a Hanci broadcast indicated that the men were to be freed in time to catch the weekly International Control Commission flight from Hanoi to Vientiane, Laus. Neither the POWs nor the peace group delegation were on that flight. However, on 18 July a Hanoi broadcast stated that the Vietnam Committee For Solidarity With Progressive Americans obtained the pilots from the Victnam People's Army political department and handed them over to the representatives of the "American People's Anti-War Movement." At the ceremony the Vietnamese representative pointed out that the release was a "new manifestation of the lenient and humanitarian policy of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and a very significant action at the moment when the U.S. Government is intensifying its criminal war of aggression against the Victnemese people"...

Vernon GRIZZARD, "representing the Americans who oppose the war of aggression in Vielnam" then spoke and allegedly, among other things favorable to the North Vielnamese, said "Americans can more clearly see the strength of the Vietnamese people from these humanitarian acts while the American Government continues the war."

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The released pilots also spoke. They expressed deep cratifude to the Government of the IRV, Vietnam People's Army, and the Vietnamese people for their humane and lenient policy. They promised that back in the U.S. they would make the American people understand better the great determination of the Vietnamese people to remove aggression and find national independence, freedom and reunification.

After the ceremony, the pilots and pacifists left by car for an unknown destination. Failure of the pilots to arrive at Vientians on the ICC plane on the 18th caused speculation that the North Vietnamese might fly them to Europe for a propaganda appearance at the Paris Conference. It was later conjectured that they might come out through China or through South Vietnam.

A traveler from Hanoi to Vientiane, who asked not to be identified, said he had seen the pilots at a news conference in Hanoi and that he doubted that the pilots had made their statements entirely voluntarily. He said ICC sources in Hanoi speculated that the three men will not leave North Vietnam until they have made a propaganda tour of sites where American bombs had fallen.

On 21 July Stewart MEACHAM of the Anti-War Committee reputedly cabled the American Friends Church Organization that their departure would be delayed one week but no reason was given. The State Department indicated that they had not received any official information relative to the release or departure of the pilots. On 23 July the North Vietnam Ambassador to Cambodia stated that the pilots were "already free" since they had been turned over to members of the American Facifist Organization who came to receive them. He refused further details.

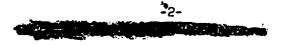
Again on 26 July the "released pilots" were not on the weekly ICC flight to Vientiane. This flight is the only scheduled air source linking North Vientiane and outside countries that does not pass through Communist China. Travelers reported they had seen the pilots and pacifists at the Metropole Hotel in Hanoi and that "they are living well". The North Vietnam Ambassador to Laos who was aboard the plane said that the pilots would "soon join their families". State Department officials again expressed puzzlement and disappointment over the delay.

The State Department's asserted puzzlement over the failure of North Vietnamese authorities to deliver the pilots to Laos was derided as a "bald-faced lie" by Robert SCHEER, an editor of RAMFARTS magazine whose wife. Anne. is a member of the Anti-War Committee seeking to bring the men to the U.S.

No further information has been noted to date--1 August 1968.

SOURCE: Public news media

RELIABILITY: Unknown



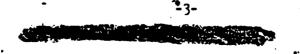


The members of the Anti-War Committee are:

Stewart MEACHAM: (James Stewart MEACHAM) A confidential source of the TBI advised on 26 June 1963 that he knew MEACHAM while both were attending the Presbyterian Seminary at Louisville, Kentucky. He stated that MEACHAM knowingly associated with Communist Party members at the time. Source stated that in 1942 he received a letter from MEACHAM in which MEACHAM stated he was a Communist; that Communism was the wave of the future and that he was through with the church. Subsequently, on 31 March 1964, MEACHAN was listed as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Triple Revolution (with such personalities as W. H. "Ping" FERRY of the Fund for the Republic: Irving LAUCKS of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions; Michael HARRINGTON; A. J. MUSTE; Gunner MYRDAL, Bayard RUSTIN, William WORTHY, Linus PAULING and Huch B. HESTER.) He was a delegate in 1965 to the Helsinki Conference, other delegates known to include Carl BLOICE of People's World, Herbert APTHEKER, Christopher KOCH of Pacifica Radio, veteran Marxist Alexander TRACHTEHPURG and Herold SUPRIANO of the DuBois Clubs of America. In 1965, as peace secretary of the American Friends Service Committee he was one of the listed sponsors of the March on Washington for Feace in Vietnam, 27 Hovember 1965. Other sponsors included Erich FROMM. D. F. FLEHING. Michael HARRINGTON, H. Stuart HUCHES. Arthur MILLER, John LEWIS of SMCC. Carl OGLESBY of SIG, Payard RUSTIN, Norman THOMAS, Dr. Benjamin SPOCK. Dr. Edwin DMHLPERG, and Degmar WILSON of WSP. There are many additional references to MEACHAM regarding his opposition to the HCUA, his activities with Turn Toward Peace, the Committee for Non-Violent Action, the World Congress for General Disarmament and Peace, the National Congress for Unemployment Insurance, etc. He appears as a signatory on an "Appeal to the Conscience of America for Peace With Honor in Vietnam" issued by the Catholic Worker, the Committee for Nonviolent Action. the Student Feace Union and the War Resisters League, in which the signatories declared their refusal to cooperate with the United States Government in pursuing the war in Vietnam and pledged to encourage conscientious objection to military service for that reason.

Vernon GPIZZARD--A Confidential source of the FRI advised in the past that 24 persons attended an organizers conference held in Chicaro on 28-29 December 1963 for the purpose of forming the "call to a founding convention to be held in June 1964 for the formation of a new national Marxist-oriented youth organization (the W.E.B. DuBois Clubs of America). GRIZZARD, a student from Swarthmore College, was one of those in attendance. He was also reported by an FBI source to have been present at a dinner to honor Hyman LIMER (Educational Secretary of the CRUSA) and to raise money for the Worker, which was held in Philadelphia on 27 June 1964.

Ann SCHEER--Ann SCHEER, the Cormer Anne Butterfield WEILE, is the wife of Robert SCHEER, foreign editor of RAMPARTS and activist in the New Left. She was born 14 March 1942 in California, the daughter



of John C. S. WEILLG, II and Andrey WEILLG, nee DAVIG. She married SCHEER on 22 October 1965. A confidential source of the FBI advised that she held an annual subscription to the Communist <u>Feople's World</u> at the time of her marriage to SCHEER. On her marriage application she listed her employment as "student."

PROJECT MERRIMACK - Special Report

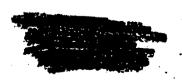
The Washington Mobilization for Peace held a meeting on 13 August 1968, to determine ways to commence a campaign against chemical and biological warfare. The group laid the groundwork for a long range plan to impede the production of biological warfare weapons as well as curtailing research into this field. Five areas of special interest discussed during this meeting were: 1) Camp D/etrick, Md.; 2) Edgewood, Md., Arsenal; 3) Pine Bluff, Arkansas; 4) Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah; 5) an area around Denver, Colorado, not called by name.

It should be noted that a large number of those participating in this meeting were known members of the Women Strike for Peace (WSP), and at one point in discussing financial matters Barbara BICK, known WSP member, suggested that the WSP handle the money as they were a sound, responsible group.

It was also reported at this meeting that the WSP will be holding a weekend retreat in September at a summer camp near Leesburg. Virginia.

Attached is a copy of the flyer this group is planning to distribute, among other places, on the buses going to the demonstrations during the Chicago Democratic National Convention.

Attachment



ARE YOU AWARE?

SECRET RESEARCH HIDES DANGEROUS WEAPONS

memical and biological weapons are powerful means of mass killing."

Barry Commoner, Ph.D. Washington University, St. Louis

iological warfare is Public Health upside down. It aims to hurt, to ipple, to destroy -- people, useful animals, food and other plants."

Theodor Rosebury, Ph.D. Prof. Emeritus, Washington U.

carvation as a weapon of modern warfare has the particular property of Elicting suffering on civilians while doing little damage to the military."

Jean Mayer, Ph.D., D. Sc. Harvard University

tery surrounds the death of 5000 sheep near the Dugway Proving Grounds
Utah where chemical and biological weapons are produced.

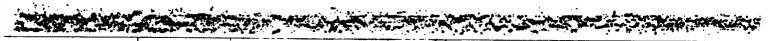
ousands of acres of cropland have been destroyed by chemical sprays in etnam. There is no assurance that these lands will ever be able to oduce crops again.

emical sprays, like Mace, are being used against demonstrators and strikers.

u have a right and a duty to demand of your Congressmen that these secret search and manufacturing projects be exposed and terminated; also to urge tification of the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

r further information communicate with:

men's International League for Peace and Freedom, U.S. Section Of Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103



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The women's interimental acagae for removement

1924 International Congress in Washington, D.C., urged that its Sections

1924

Appoint committees to investigate the development of chemical warfare and its special dangers, and to organize opposition thereto, both for the sake of ending it and as a means of educating the masses as to the real character of war in general.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, U. S. Section, said in February 1968

We view with horror that during these many years there has been an enormous increase in research in and development of chemical and biological weapons by our government or under government contract. We abhor the callousness and the erosion of morality of an increasing number of American scientists who are devoting their professional lives to the development of such weapons of destruction.

1968

We call upon the leaders of our government to take immediate steps to transform all centers of research in and production of chemical and biological weapons into centers of research in and development of the means for eradication of hunger and disease; and to destroy all of its existing stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons.

We urge our government to ratify the 1925 Geneva Protocol outlawing chemical and biological warfare, and to work for an international agreement banning the manufacture and use of chemical and biological weapons.

	Geneva Gas Protocol	
AUSTRALIA		. IRELAND
AUSTRIA	Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of	ITALY
BELGIUM	Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of	LATVIA
	Bacteriological Methods of Warfare,	
British Expire	signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925	Liberia
BULGARIA		LITIUANIA
CANADA	The text of the substantive part of the protocol reads as follows:	LUXEMBURG
CHILE		
	"Whereas the use in war of aspliyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and of all analogous liquids, materials	MEXICO
CHINA	or devices, has been justly condemned by the general opinion of the civilized world; and,	THE NETHERLANDS
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	"Whereas the prohibition of such use has been declared in Treaties to which the majority of Powers of the world are Parties; and,	NEW ZEALAND
DENMARK	"To the end that this prohibition shall be universally	NORWAY
EGYPT	accepted as a part of International Law, binding alike the conscience and the practice of nations;	POLAND
ESTONIA	"Declare; "That the High Contracting Parties, so far as they	PORTUGAL
ETHIOPIA	are not already Parties to Treaties prohibiting such use, accept this prohibition, agree to extend this prohibition to the use of bacteriological methods of war-	RUMANIA
FINLAND	fare and agree to be bound as between themselves according to the terms of this declaration."	SPAIN
PRANCE		SWEDEN
GERMANY	The Protocol has been in force since 1928. It was ratified by the 42 countries listed prior to World	SWITZERLAND
GREECE	War II. It has been signed but not ratified by:	
	BRAZIL SALVADOR	THAILAND
INDIA	JAPAN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	TURKEY
IRAN	NICARAGUA URUGUAY	
IRAQ		VENEZUELA
UNION OF SOUTH AFRI	CA UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS	YUGOSLAVIA

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Are you aware of th	e fact that in	the State of	••••••	
at :	• • • • • • • • • • • • • •		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
research and/or manufact	uring of danger	ous biological a	and chemical weapons	s .
is taking place, largely	in secret. We	urge that this	operation and other	rs.
be exposed in Congress a	nd that plans fo	or termination b	e introduced. We	
call upon you to use you	r influence on	the military to	urge that existing	
stockpiles of chemical a	nd biological w	eapons be destro	yed and that these	• .
installations be transfo	rmed into resea	rch centers for	eradication of	7
hunger and disease. We	also urge our S	enate to ratify	the 1925 Geneva	•
Protocol outlawing chemi	cal and biologi	cal warfare, wh:	ich has already bee	n
signed by 42 countries.	Such action wo	uld help to res	core the moral lead	er-
ship of the United State	s in the world.			
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