

VIETNAM: PEACE AT ANY PRICE

Bill Hooper * Ken MacGowan * Arnall Richards * Eric D. Barton * John Cowan

THE WAR IN VIETNAM HAS GONE ON MORE THAN LONG ENOUGH. THERE IS NO NEED TO recount in detail the suffering and devastation which have marked the country for the last twenty years; some experts have argued that we have been exposed to so much of the horror of Vietnam in newspaper reports and on the television screen that we no longer respond to its impact. But there is a need to say strongly and clearly that this war is an evil thing and that everything possible should be done to bring it to an end.

We say "Peace at all Costs" because there will be little advantage to the people of Vietnam whichever side eventually wins the military confrontation. In either case there will be reprisals and further death and destruction; at least if the war were ended now there is a chance that fewer people will suffer than if it drags on for several years more.

Ours is by no means the first demonstration against the Vietnam War. There have been thousands of others, some peaceful, some violent, some in Britain, some in the United States, France, Germany and many, many other countries. Why have all these demonstrations failed to influence the leaders of the countries which are participating in the fighting, and what do we, as Anarchists, hope to achieve with ours?

We believe that the Vietnam situation is the creation not so much of individual men (though Ho Chi Minh and Lyndon Johnson bear terrible responsibility for what has happened) as of the structure of the power-blocks themselves. By taking power and responsibility out of the hands of the 'ordinary man' and placing it at the service of the 'state' governments cannot in fact avoid becoming irresponsible in all they do; irresponsible because their 'responsibility' lies only to some abstract thing called 'the people' and not to real individual human beings. Once power has gone out of the hands of the individual in this way he finds it almost impossible to influence those who have taken it from him. Hence the failure of attempts to persuade governments to change their policies.

In our demonstration we are not trying to change the attitude of the British Government, for we recognise that that is a hopeless task; we are trying to show our own concern for what is happening in Vietnam, and we are trying to involve YOU, the person to whom we speak and to whom we give this leaflet, in that concern.

We suggest that the only hope for society is for the individual to regain the power which government has taken from him. This is not going to be an easy task, but we believe that not only is it possible but also imperative if we are to avoid the final nuclear holocaust which would destroy all human life.

If you are interested in the ideas we have presented, then may we suggest that you come along to St Mary's Church Hall, Highfield Street on Sunday evening (7 p.m.) when there will be an 'open-ended' discussion on the Anarchist solution to problems of peace and war; or to the next meeting of the Merseyside Anarchist Group, at 118 High Park Street, Liverpool 8, Thursday next, 8:15 p.m.

**PEACE THROUGH ANARCHISM
DEMONSTRATION PIER HEAD
2-6p.m. SAT 26th & SUN 27th OCT**