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AMERICAN USE OF WAR GASES IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND WORLD PUBLIC OPINION

THE USE OF GASES "LEGALIZED"

In September 1965, the Johnson administration decided to cross the Rubicon: it legalized the use of gases in South Vietnam by allowing the U.S. expeditionary force command to resort to this arm according to the needs of operations.

This decision lies within the framework of a long-prepared chemical warfare. The spraying of noxious chemicals over the South Vietnamese countryside and forests dates back to the earliest days of the "undeclared war" in 1961. "U.S. planes spray chemicals on the jungle along the Saigon-Cape Saint Jacques road." (*New York Times*, January 22, 1962). "Helicopters are flying over the jungle, spraying chemicals, resulting in the destruction of all food crops." (*La Tribune des Nations*, March 9, 1962). These operations were extended to the delta and undertaken

on an ever larger scale: according to still incomplete data, they numbered eleven in 1961, forty in 1962, and two hundred in 1963. If in 1963 chemicals were doused on three hundred kilometres along strategic roads, this figure rose to five hundred in 1964 and seven hundred in the first seven months of 1965. The American magazine *Popular Mechanics* wrote plainly that the war at the corner of the wood with most perfidious means was not an improvisation of the Pentagon but a large-scale operation against the peoples of Asia. (No. 2, 1962). As for the consequences, in *Bentre, Gocong, Mytho, Tayninh, Giadinh, Phuyen and Gialai* provinces alone, in the first months of 1963 no less than twenty thousand people were affected. In Cantho on December 14-15, 1965 thousands of people were affected and more than ten thousand hectares of cropland devastated.

In their declarations made on March 9 and 11, 1963, the Americans themselves admitted having used the 2.4-D and 2.4, 5T; these products in the form of concentrated solutions have a harmful effect on human beings, animals and vegetation. The South Vietnam Liberation Red Cross made known that much more dangerous chemicals were actually used such as the dinitro-orthocresol DNO; the calcium cyanamide, etc. The DNC, which is orange-yellow and smells of gunpowder, causes burns and purulent lesions through its agency, wet skin takes on a tinge of dark yellow, human beings are seriously poisoned domestic animals die and crops wither. The calcium cyanamide destroys the foliage, flowers and fruit of such big fruit-trees as coconut-trees, seriously poisons and can kill human beings and cattle.

As for war gases, the puppet Premier Nguyen Khanh admitted that the U.S. imperialists and their mercenaries had these at their disposal since the beginning of 1964 (*Reuter*, March 22, 1965). They were used on December 15, 1964 in Tayninh province, on December 23, 1964 at Camau and again in January 1965 together with explosive bombs and napalm bombs to massacre the population of Phulac village (Phuyen province), one hundred kilometres south of Quinhon. According to Liberation Press Agency, the operation at Phulac caused the death of eighty people. Hundreds of others were seriously affected.

This last crime roused a strong wave of indignation throughout the world. Washington first made awkward attempts to clear itself of it, then finally had to promise the interdiction of gases.

"The U.S. headquarters", wrote *La Tribune des Nations* on October 15, 1965, "knew well that this interdiction would not last long, just enough to put the finishing touch to the arsenal of the perfect assassin." In fact, in a raid made on September 5, 1965, against Vinhquang village (Binh Dinh province) a marine battalion under Lieutenant-Colonel Leon Utter doused 48 bottles of toxic gas on the civilians sheltering in anti-air raid trenches, killing thirty five people and wounding nineteen others (twenty six women and twenty eight children). To wash its hands of this heinous crime, the Pentagon shifted the responsibility upon Leon Utter, describing him as a newcomer who would have acted on his own account. But towards the end of September 1965, unveiling its hypocrisy, it gave full powers to the American command in Saigon to use gases. "This

decision", A.F.P. said, "was made public after the last exchange of letters on the matter between the U.S. military high command here and the Pentagon. Such an official declaration of the Pentagon was tantamount to cancelling the order issued in March forbidding the use of all war gases.

Westmoreland, Commander-in-chief of the American expeditionary force in South Vietnam, was not slow in profiting by Washington's authorization. Gases were again used in October 1965 at Bencat, fifty kilometres north of Saigon, after a violent bombing by strategic B.52s of the paratroop brigade No. 173 and in the western region of Binh Dinh province in the course of a mop-up operation (A.F.P., October 8, 1965) and at Bau Trai 2 kilometres from Saigon on January 2, 1966.

Thus gases have become a current war means officially admitted by the United States. The New York Times revealed that the gases used at Vinhquang were a standard weapon of the U.S. marines. Special sections are supplied with a new equipment composed of gas sprayers so called tear gas in powder to be employed against the people sheltering in anti-air raid dug-outs. According to A.F.P. (October 8, 1965), they are moreover provided with handgrenades of toxic gas which the officers down to grade of second-lieutenant are given full powers to use.

The gases used in South Vietnam are of varied kinds. U.P.I. (March 23, 1965) made known that the U.S. troops in South Vietnam had received and stockpiled the CN, DM and CS. Now, in his treatise on "The War Gases" reedited in New York in 1943, De Mario Sartori listed the CN chloroacitophenone $C_6H_5CO-CH_2$

Cland. the DM phenarsasine chloride $\text{NH}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4)_2\text{AsCl}$ or Adamsite together with the main war gases which had been prepared or in research at the end or immediately after the First World War. American troops also used the BZ and other kinds bearing the conventional names VX and LSD 25. The head of the press service of the U.S. State Department, McCloskey, formally stated that effectively the gases used were not simple tear-producing, but vesicant and semiasphyxiating ones, able to cause blisters on skin and inflammations of the breathing apparatus.

The effects of CN, DN and CS or thiophosgen are well-known among scientific circles. They are lachrymatory, vesicant, sternutatory, irritant and toxic gases which cause irritation of the pupil, tears, cough, detachment of the mucous membrane, vomiting, painful burns of the breathing apparatus, and are conducive to death. Some milligrams of these gases form lethal doses (U.P.I., March 25, 1965).

An investigation made on the spot by experts of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation gave these first conclusions:

1. At Phuoc U.S. troops used the alpha chloro-acetophenone sprayed in clouds, and aerosol dropped by helicopters.

2. At Boi Loi (Tay Ninh province) they used adamsite, the concentration of which must be over 0.1 mg per cubic metre of air causing sneezing and asphyxia among a large number of people.

3. In other places, phosgen and thiophosgen in strong concentration (about 20 mg per cubic metre of air) caused serious pathological states among hundreds of people.

Chemical and bacteriological warfare has been for a long time and minutely prepared by the U.S. imperialists. According to *A.P.* (March 23, 1965) the Pentagon has sped up research in chemical and bacteriological warfare, especially with toxic products that cause cecity, deafness, the loss of balance, or swoon. The budget earmarked for this purpose rose from 6.5 million dollars in 1950 to 125 million these last years. For toxic gases alone, the total cost of orders placed by the Defence Department for 1965-1966 has doubled as compared with 1963-1964.

The *A.D.N. Agency* of the German Democratic Republic revealed that Western Germany had supplied the U.S.A. with chemical products and helped her build factories in South Vietnam for the production of war gases. It is worth noting that the German Federal Republic has requisitioned the services of nazi specialists in war gases including the former head of the Science Department of Hitler's high command. A mobile Research Team belonging to the Bacteriological and Chemical Warfare Institute No. 406 set up in Sayanihara of Kanagawa district (Japan), was introduced into South Vietnam. All these details speak volumes for the Pentagon's designs.

“HUMANITARIAN INTENTIONS” AND JURIDICAL QUIBBLE

In view of the “storm of protest” which, according to John M. Hightower of the *A.P.*, has broken out until the vicinity of Washington, the White House

affirmed its "good intentions". The spokesman of the State Department declared that the U.S.A. has been employing only "non-lethal gases" in South Vietnam and that the use of gases "is even more humane than that of artillery". More humane, pretended also a colonel of the U.S. Navy, David Saunders, in an article carried by the *Baltimore Sun* and quoted by U.S.I.S. He has calculated that in the First World War, out of 1,300,000 people affected by gases, only some ninety thousand died. Thus, the death percentage was, very low.

For his part, Defence Secretary McNamara asserted on March 25, 1965 that the same gases have been used throughout the world to repress riots, at Harlem for instance. The following day, however the New York Police Deputy-Superintendent hurriedly gave the lie, saying that he had not the kinds of gases used in Vietnam, but had at his disposal only conventional tear gas which had not been resorted to for a long time.

On March 26, 1965, Dean Rusk spent a whole hour to give explanations to the ambassadors and diplomatic representatives of twenty nine African countries. The conviction of the listeners could be judged according to the Ghanaian ambassador's declaration. "Gases are gases" and that of the Algerian ambassador: "this press conference cannot dispel our anxiety".

What are worth the attempts of the American government to justify the recourse to gases? The *New York Post* qualified them as weak and hasty. The Syrian paper *Al-Baath* simply ridiculed them. The U.S.A. has used gases to purify the air and spread civilization

in Vietnam. For this exploit General Taylor should have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize this year." The judgment by Bertrand Russell, the world-known scientist and philosopher, is definite: "What the British told about these American non-lethal gases was already bad enough. But what the Americans have just done in Vietnam makes us doubt whether it is really the whole truth. Are the gases really non-lethal? One remembers the defoliants which were said to poison only vegetation but in fact also poisoned animals and human beings. We learned slowly and with difficulty that what were called weed-killers were, in fact, poisons of which, after observation of their effects, the use in the U.S.A. has been forbidden."

An American journalist, Robert Smight, has this opinion about these "herbicides": "If we try to make ourselves believe that weed-killer, in a quantity sufficient to kill jungle growth, is not going to harm a living soul, then we are just as stupid as our hired propagandists believe us to be." (*The Gazette and Daily*, March 27, 1963)

Yoshiki, a Japanese scientist, is of no other opinion, for he said, "From the scientific viewpoint, it is meaningless to make a difference between lethal gas and non-lethal gas for a stronger dose of non-lethal gas is sufficient to kill human beings."

According to *Reuter* of January 12, 1966, the gas doused in underground shelters at Cholon (January 11, 1966) took also the life of one of its users, Australian non-commissioned officer Robert Bowtell.

Gas warfare itself betrays the degree of atrocity reached by war, emphasized the *Frankfurter Zeitung* of the German Federal Republic. *La Dépêche du Cambodge* was alarmed by this "new form of genocide" while *The Rangoon Daily* expressed the anxiety of the Burmese people, "The use of poison in Vietnam will not only poison people in Vietnam but will also adversely affect the health of people in its neighbouring countries including Burma."

The associations of scientists of the socialist countries and a great number of other countries, raised their voices. "We find it morally repugnant that the U.S. should find itself the party to the use of weapons of indiscriminate effect, with principal effectiveness against civilian populations" (Statement by 2,500 American scientists of the Federation of American Scientists on March 24, 1965).

Sixty-six Italian scientists wrote to Johnson that the use of gases in South Vietnam had shocked their conscience.

The scientists of the whole world and progressive mankind, "declared the Soviet academician Adreanov, "condemn the barbarous acts of the American bellicists... The use of chemical arms against the people is a heinous and shameful crime."

This crime," concluded editorially the Chinese paper *Renmin Ribao*, "has enabled the whole world to realize more clearly the beastly nature of American imperialism. It is a serious challenge to human civilization and justice."

Such is world public opinion on the "humanitarian intentions" of the U.S. aggressors

Wall Street politicians also resorted to juridical quibble. "The spokesman of the U.S. State Department, McCloskey, reiterated that the use of the gases in South Vietnam is not contrary to any international law... He noted that the U.S. had never ratified the 1925 Geneva Protocol prohibiting the use of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases." (*Hsinhua News Agency*). Dean Rusk declared at a press conference on March 24, 1965 that the gases used by the American troops in South Vietnam belong to "conventional arms" and that they had recourse to them in a limited and casual way. *Izvestia* quoted the words of the American Defence Deputy Secretary Cyrus Vance, "The U.S. national policy does not prohibit the use of toxic products to repress a mass action."

"The U.S. ruling circles' attempts to have the law of the jungle passed roused the indignation of jurists all over the world. The criminal actions of the United States in using the poisonous gases in South Vietnam are an extension to the criminal actions perpetrated by Germany in the First World War, fascist Italy against Ethiopia in 1935, militarist Japan against the Chinese people in years from 1940 to 1942, and the Truman government in the years 1951 and 1952, against the Korean people."

The use of poisonous gases is a threat to human race and against the principles of international law, against the Geneva Protocol. Under the provisions of the Geneva Protocol and international law, the President of this government, its members and those who are responsible for the war in Vietnam should be condemned as war criminals like those who were con-

demned after the Second World War as war criminals due to their use of gases." (Statement of U.A.R. lawyers).

Does the U.S. argument of non-adhesion to the Geneva Protocol hold water? The Democrat Senator Wayne Morse considered that his country had departed from the principles of international law... The United States did not ratify the 1925 Geneva Protocol but its clauses point out clearly that the use of gases against human beings has been justly condemned by the general opinion of the civilized world and is applied not only to lethal gases. "Nobody," *Pravda* stressed, "has the right to underestimate the Geneva Protocol signed and ratified by tens of countries." In its communiqué dated March 26, 1965, the Association of Political and Juridical Sciences of the People's Republic of China showed that the prohibition of gases and all other noxious chemicals had been recognized by the whole world as a principle of international law and a principle of international customs that all countries must abide by.

QUO VADIS, U.S.A. ?

In using gases in South Vietnam, the U.S.A. is playing with fire and does not think of the consequences of her acts, wrote *Dawn*, a Pakistani paper. "A more disturbing development is General Maxwell Taylor's announcement that there is no limit to the potential increase of the war in Vietnam. This is confirmed by

the news that American aircraft have been attacking targets in North Vietnam selected by the pilots at will." (London Times).

McNamara's declaration on the unlimited war has opened the door to the worst forces of evil. "The use of varied gases in military action is likely to lead to gas escalation," commented Western Germany's *Frankfurter Allgemeine*. "The tears (allusion to tear-gases, Publisher) would never seem sufficient. On the whole, gas warfare appears to be an ascending stage of the horror of war all the more so as 'experiments', according to communiqués, are made of differing mixtures of gases. Who could forget, be it for a moment, that 'gas' was the best means under the Third Reich to exterminate the Jews and gypsies. The U.S.A. cannot ignore that besides physical effects, the use of gases has also a moral effect which does not limit itself on battlefields."

In his mad escalation, Johnson left his predecessors far behind. "In the aggressive war in South Vietnam," wrote *Renmin Ribao*, "the Johnson administration has directly resorted to its air force and infantry, repeatedly bombing and strafing the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and indulging in actions which the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations did not dare to undertake. At present it is impudently using noxious gases, a crime which even Hitler did not dare to commit."

"Where will this fresh adventurous action of the short-sighted generals of the Pentagon lead them to?" asked the Soviet daily *Krasnaia Zvezda*. "Horrible"

visions," evoked the *Manila Chronicle*. "The war in Vietnam is justifying those who are afraid that escalation, that is progression in the use of arms, is a phenomenon difficult to check. It has been proved that today the war called conventional can entail the use of chemical arms. All arms, except atomic arms, have been or are to be experimented in Vietnam. Where will they stop?" (Italian paper *Aventi*).

The Egyptian *El Massaa*, concluded: "The declarations by American responsible personalities on the use of toxic gases in Vietnam are indicative of the extent of the dangers caused by the American policy, not only for the Vietnamese people but also for all people the world over, and shows that a serious threat unprecedented in the history of mankind is hanging over world peace and security... Therefore the people of the world should necessarily make common cause with one another in the fight against this threat which is jeopardizing mankind with destruction, a threat represented by the U.S.A. with her aggressive and destructive policy

Thus through the error committed by the Johnsons, McNamaras... the U.S.A. is banned by world public opinion. "The employment of gases," the British *Daily Mail* notes, "will tarnish the American image."

The Lebanese paper *Al Anoa* (March 24, 1965) carried a very significant humorous sketch: pedestrians with gas masks going past the American Embassy in Beyrouth. "U.S.A. has become, so to speak, the first civilized nation to use gases since the First World War." (*The Montreal Star*).

"To employ gases, the Johnson government bases itself on an old saying that: All is fair in war. But this is a war in which the moral prestige of the U.S.A. is at least as important as bullets, shells and bombs." (New York Times)

American civilization could be deflected by the forces of evil to a wrong road, pointed out the Egyptian paper *Al Akhbar*, quoting the historian Arnold Toynbee. "Arnold Toynbee, the most famous contemporary historian, was not wrong when he forewarned the world against the forces of evil hidden in the heart of the American giant who owns the biggest material capacities ever seen in the hands of a country in the history of mankind."

"These forces of evil", embodied by the U.S. imperialists, are besmearing the honour of the United States in the name of a "certain liberty": "Vietnam sees her ricefields burnt and her sons asphyxiated by the torch of liberty, at least of a certain liberty, that which enlightens the world of Ku Klux Klan and of the belated maniacs of nazism." (*La Tribune des Nations*, October 15, 1965)

A BOOMERANG FOR THE UPHOLDERS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE

This racist and neo-colonialist attitude of the men in the White House has been stigmatized by world press. U.S. President Johnson has said, "I wonder why people

castigate the use of gases in the Vietnam war and do not pay any concern over the Americans who lay down their lives in Vietnam every day. Why don't they care for the latter? "

"The query of the U.S. President is imbued with humanism and anxiety for the Americans in South Vietnam but he has never asked himself why the Americans are there and what they are defending and why he does not let this Asian country settle its own problems by itself? Johnson bewails the death of the Americans but he does not care a whit for that of the Vietnamese and the effects of gases on them." (*El Massaa*).

The use of gases in the war against Vietnam, an Asian country, reminds people of the U.S. bombs dropped on Hiroshima. A correspondent of *The Economic Weekly* reported from Tokyo, "In Japan there seems to be some racial feeling connected with the Vietnam issue, since many Japanese recall that the atomic bombs which were used against Japan were aimed at Asians and that, similarly, the chemicals now being used in Vietnam are aimed at Asians."

The Tanzanian paper *Uhuru* apprehends that the imperialists would extend the use of gases to other countries which are struggling for their independence. "It is important to realize the true nature of the U.S. imperialists who can do in Congo (Leopoldville) and even on the Tanzanian soil what they are doing in South Vietnam. They can even supply South Africa and Portugal with such arms to threaten our neighbouring countries and our own."

It is thus clear that the use of gases in South Vietnam and the bombing of North Vietnam are "part of the American strategy against the national liberation movement, especially in Southeast Asia. The American imperialists want to "impose on the Southeast Asian peoples the corrupted and discredited governments which serve the economic and strategic interests of the U.S.A. in this area." (Letter by sixty six Italian scientists to Johnson).

Why has the American strategy resorted to chemical warfare in South Vietnam? It is by no means to give proof of her strength. It is a "desperate act". (Krasnaia Zvezda). "It shows," wrote Renmin Ribao, "that the U.S.A. has lost all her confidence in her special warfare, her naval and air supremacy and in her ground forces."

In any case, the employment of gases implies that "the political war has now been given up for lost." (*The Guardian*).

The Pakistani paper *The Morning News* warned the Johnson administration that chemical warfare is "a boomerang for those who seek war." They "earn for themselves the revulsion and hatred of the people of the world." (American weekly *the National Guardian*).

The U.S. imperialists are trying in vain to create in Vietnam a "conditioned fear", according to the West German *Neue Ruhr Zeitung*, as they have done in vain in Korea. "During the war in Korea, the U.S. imperialists used a great quantity of toxic gases, bacteriological bombs and other chemical arms to massacre the innocent people of North Korea, but the Korean people

did not give way." (*Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*).

"The aspiration to liberty," affirmed the *Neues Deutschland* of the German Democratic Republic, "cannot be drowned in the clouds of toxic gases." Six republican senators sent a letter to President Johnson expressing their fear that the use of gases would urge the South Vietnamese people to "struggle more bitterly", with the support of the progressive people of the world. "There is no reason whatever why the Vietnamese people who fought heroically to free themselves from the French yoke allow the U.S. imperialists to occupy their territory." (Iraqi paper *Al Goum-houria*).

From the struggle of the South Vietnamese people against the U.S. aggressors, "a struggle serving as a great example and a great encouragement for the fighters for freedom in Africa", the Tanzanian paper *The Nationalist* drew a lesson: "*No military force can subdue a revolutionary people, be it small; techniques and arms, however modern, cannot vanquish a people resolute in fighting...* (italique added). The intervention and aggression by U.S. imperialism impel the Vietnamese people to struggle still more stubbornly. The South Vietnamese people under the leadership of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation will keep the U.S. imperialists and the Saigon puppets on the run... *U.S. imperialism will never succeed in staying the liberation movement of various peoples: victory belongs to the South Vietnamese people and to all Southeast Asian peoples.*" (italique added).

THE WHOLE WORLD AGAINST THE USE OF POISON GASES IN SOUTH VIETNAM

The use of poison gases in South Vietnam by the U.S. imperialists has revolted human conscience, and raised a powerful wave of protest. Meetings and demonstrations have followed one another in all countries with an ever-increasing rhythm. Governments, national and international organizations, and noted personalities have made declarations and sent notes, messages, letters and appeals condemning this new American crime against mankind.

The record we give below is still incomplete. The reader would excuse us for it.

The World Federation of Trade Unions made a declaration saying among other things: "World opinion is indignant at the use of poison gases by the U.S. imperialists in South Vietnam. On behalf of 120 million working people the world over, the WFTU vehemently protests against these criminal acts and reaffirms its solidarity with the workers and people of

South Vietnam who are struggling for national independence, democratic liberties and peace." (March 1965).

— 18,000 members of the National Union of British Scientists and delegates of workers from Leeds, Sheffield... sent messages to the Wilson government asking it to protest against the use of toxic chemicals and poison gases in South Vietnam. (March 22, 1965).

— Mass meetings in London in front of the American embassy and other cities : Cardiff, Glasgow, Belfast, Liverpool, Mansfield, Nottingham.. (March 21 and 28, 1965).

— Professor John Bernal, President of the World Peace Council, raised his voice in a declaration : " Gas and napalm bombs are being used against the peaceful population of South Vietnam. The whole mankind with horror takes note of this violation by the U.S. government of all norms of international law. It demands that an end be put to these barbarous acts. Such aggression threatens the entire Southeast Asia and world peace. " (March 23, 1965).

— The French Committee for the Defence of World Peace organized a National Day of struggle against U.S. aggression in Vietnam. The communiqué published on this occasion (March 1965) condemned the use of poison gases by the U.S. imperialists in South Vietnam.

— Motion of protest by 61 British M.P.s (3 members of the Liberal Party and 58 of the Labour Party), including Philip Noel Baker, Chairman of the Labour Party Foreign Affairs section and Nobel Peace Prize winner, and Arthur Blenkinsop, Vice-Chairman of Labour group in Parliament. (March 23, 1965).

— 17,000 workers of the tobacco manufactories in Great Britain in a telegram to Prime Minister Wilson asked the British government to oppose the use of poison gases in South Vietnam. (March 23, 1965).

— 90 British M.P.s, members of the Labour, Liberal and Conservative Parties, sent a petition to the British Prime Minister asking his government to condemn the U.S. administration. (March 23, 1965)

The leadership of the Italian Socialist Party addressed a letter to the Italian Premier asking him to protest against the use of noxious gases by the U.S. imperialists in South Vietnam. (March 24, 1965).

Demonstrations of the youth at Carrare, and sit-down strike of working people, at Lerhol, Italy. (March 24, 1965)

The Norwegian organizations of the People's Action against war and the Norwegian section of the Women's International Union for Peace sent letters to the Norwegian government condemning the use of poison gases by the U.S. imperialists in South Vietnam. (March 24, 1965)

Protest of Suigi Bertoldi, a member of the Italian Socialist Party Central Committee. (March 24, 1965).

Many demonstrations of the Norwegian Peace fighters took place from March 24 to 27, 1965, in front of the U.S. embassy in Oslo.

Meeting of 2,000 people at Muongsing, Laos (March 24, 1965)

Protest of the Chinese Women's Federation and the Chinese Committee for Solidarity with the Afro-Asian Peoples. (March 1965).

— Protest of the Bulgarian Committee for Solidarity Among Peoples. (March 1965)

— The German Democratic Republic Red Cross sent a letter of condemnation to the International Red Cross. (March 1965).

Professor S. Tursky, Rector of the Warsaw University and one of the Chairmen of the International Committee of Jurists for the Inquiry about Fascist Crimes, declared that the use of poison gases by the U.S. imperialists in South Vietnam is a flagrant provocation against world opinion. (March 1965)

— Mrs. Isabelle Blume, Vice-President of the World Peace Council, in a statement to the Permanent Representative of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation in Berlin, condemned the use of noxious gases by the U.S. imperialists in South Vietnam. (March 24, 1965)

The Italian Peasants Union sent to the American embassy in Rome a letter emphasizing that the use of poison gases disgusts the Italians, and reminds them of the use of this weapon by the Italian fascists in the shameful war against Ethiopia. (March 24, 1965).

Protest of the Italian Socialist Party. (March 24, 1965).

— Protest of the Singapore Barisan Socialist Party (March 24, 1965)

Protest of 2,500 members of the Federation of American Scientists (March 24, 1965)

The Soviet Red Cross sent an appeal to the International Red Cross urging it to find efficacious measures

to halt the use of poison gases by the U.S. imperialists in South Vietnam. (March 25, 1965).

—Mass meeting in Santiago and protest of the Chilean Youth Organizations of the National Democratic Party. (March 24, 1965).

—During a talk in Berlin, Dr. Lothar Bolz, Foreign Minister of the German Democratic Republic, condemned the use of noxious gases in South Vietnam. (March 24, 1965).

—Protests of the Federation of the Japanese Women's Organization and the Federation of Private National Broadcasting Workers' Unions. (March 24, 1965).

—Protest of Italian deputies, members of the Socialist, Christian-Democratic and Liberal Parties. (March 25 and 26, 1965).

—Mrs. Eugénie Cotton, President of the Women's International Democratic Federation, made a declaration pointing out: "The bombings of South and North Vietnam are a violation of the 1954 Geneva Agreements, the use of napalm and gases is an evidence of dreadful barbarity." (March 25, 1965).

—Protest of the Central Council of Trade Unions of the U.S.S.R. (March 25, 1965).

—Protest meeting of 3,000 London pressmen. (March 25, 1965).

—16 members of the House of Representatives, members of the Democratic Party, sent a letter of protest to President Johnson: "The use of gases is a violation of the long-standing policy, according to which the U.S.A. would not be the first to use them in war time." (March 25, 1965).

The Permanent Secretariat of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization issued a declaration saying: "By its acts, U.S. imperialism lays bare its true bellicose and extremely barbarous nature as well as its fallacious allegations of 'humaneness' and 'peace'. The Secretariat invites the Asian and African peoples to take firm and efficient measures to demand that U.S. imperialism stop using toxic chemicals, napalm and phosphorous bombs in South Vietnam." (March 25, 1965)

— Demonstration of nearly 10,000 people in Tokyo during two hours. (March 25, 1965)

— The Liaison Peace Committee for Asian and the Pacific Regions made a declaration calling on the world peace-loving people to denounce and condemn the crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists in using poison gases in South Vietnam. (March 1965).

— The President of the Indonesian Peasants' Union sent to the American ambassador in Djakarta a letter stating that "the massacre of Vietnamese by noxious gases is a most inhuman act by the U.S. imperialists." (March 25, 1965).

— The Afro-Asian Journalists' Association, in a declaration urged all journalists of Asia, Africa and the world to express their indignation at the U.S. imperialists' base and shameful policy, and actively support the Vietnamese people's struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggressors. (March 28, 1965)

— Protest of many deputies from the Congress Party and the opposition in the Indian National Assembly. (March 25, 1965).

The General Confederation of Workers of Argentina declared: "The use of poison gases in South Vietnam by the U.S. imperialists causes a great emotion to mankind." (March 25, 1965).

—Protest meeting of the France-Vietnam Association in Paris. (March 25, 1965).

—Protest meeting in front of the U.S. embassy in Paris. (March 25, 1965).

—Protest of the Central Organization of Trade Unions of Indonesia. (March 26, 1965).

—The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. sent the American embassy in Moscow a note in which the Soviet government resolutely condemned the use of poison gases against the South Vietnamese people by the U.S.A." (March 26, 1965).

In a declaration published on March 27, 1965, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic "protests against the U.S. government's fallacious and inconsistent attempts aimed at marshalling the facts as trifles in establishing a relation between the gases in South Vietnam and the smoke-bombs and tear-gases used in Berlin and on the G.D.R. State border by the U.S. occupying troops

The world-wide famous British scientist and philosopher Bertrand Russell declared that "The U.S. barbarous acts in its Vietnam war constitute an outrage against humanity" (March 27, 1965).

The Political Bureau of the Costa Rican People's Vanguard Party Central Committee stressed in a de-

claration that "by using poison gases and phosphorous bombs in South Vietnam, the U.S. imperialists are as cruel as the Hitlerite fascists." (March 1965).

— Protest meetings of students and workers of Mexico City. (March 1965).

— Demonstration of the Progressive Youth Organization in front of the U.S. consulate in Georgetown, British Guiana. (March 27, 1965).

— A march for peace was organized at Bagneux (France) to protest against the use of noxious gases in South Vietnam. (March 1965).

— Mass meetings in Turin, Ancone, Naples, Venice, Tarente, Milan, Reggio, Forli... (Italy). (March 1965).

— Demonstration of over 500 people during two hours in front of the U.S. consulate in Frankfurt under the slogan "End the war of poison gases in South Vietnam". (March 27, 1965).

— Protest meeting of over 30,000 inhabitants of Brussels. (March 28, 1965).

— Meeting of Swedish youths and students in front of the U.S. embassy in Stockholm. (March 1965)

— Speaking before the U.S. Congress, Senator Abraham Ribicoff declared that the use of gases in Vietnam cannot be justified, neither on the moral, nor on the practical planes: "There is no question that the use of gas is wrong, more than that, it is just stupid." (March 1965).

— Italian deputies from the Socialist Party introduced to the Parliament a petition expressing the

anxiety and distress of the Italian public opinion at the use of poison gases in South Vietnam. (March 1965).

— In the Indian Parliament, the Indian Foreign Minister, Swaran Singh, declared that the use of poison gases in South Vietnam by the Americans is against human conscience. (March 1965).

— Meeting of 3,000 students and professors of the Michigan University. (March 26, 1965).

— Women of Washington demonstrated and drove in 60 cars to the Pentagon to demand that the Johnson government put an end to its barbarous crimes in South Vietnam. (March 1965).

— The Cuban Red Cross sent its Vietnamese counterpart a telegram condemning the use of poison gases by the U.S. imperialists in South Vietnam. (March 29, 1965).

— The Soviet Journalists' Association made a declaration against the use of noxious gases in South Vietnam. (March 1965).

— Meeting at the Lumumba University (Moscow) by students from 82 Asian, African and Latin American countries. (March 1965).

— Protest meeting of students from 50 countries at the Fine Arts School in Prague. (March 1965).

— Demonstrations of mass organizations in the People's Republic of China: Peace Committee, Committee for Solidarity with the Afro-Asian Peoples, Federation of Trade Unions, Communist Youth League, Students' Federation, Women's Union, Scientific and

Technical Workers' Union; Political and Juridical Workers' Union; Buddhist Association, Medical Association, Red Cross. (March 1965).

— Protest of the Working Youth Union, the Women's Union, the Democratic Jurists' Association, the Red Cross and the Committee of Students of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. (March 1965).

— Protest of the German Peace Council, the German Red Cross and the German Preparatory Committee to the World Peace Congress in Helsinki. (March 1965).

— Protest of the Communist Party of Canada. (March 1965).

— Protest of the Soviet Peace Committee, the Association of International Law of the U.S.S.R., the Kom-somol, and many Soviet scientists. (March 1965).

— Protest of professors and students of the Agriculture College in Prague. (March 1965).

— Protest of the Finnish Democratic Women's Union. (March 1965).

— Protest of the Hungarian Youth Organizations Central Committee. (March 1965).

— Protest of the Arab Jurists' Federation. (March 1965).

— Protest of the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Poland. (March 1965).

The Congress of Japanese Mothers declared: "We are resolved to launch a large-scale protest movement against these U.S. imperialists' barbarous crimes." (March 29, 1965).

During a press conference in Karachi, the Pakistani Foreign Minister criticized the use of poison gases in South Vietnam. (March 29, 1965)

The Under-Secretary for South Yemeni Affairs of Yemen declared, "If the Americans do not put an end to their crimes and if they do not withdraw from South Vietnam they will be driven back to the Pacific." (March 1965)

— The Neo Lao Haksat Front Central Committee (Laos) in a statement severely condemned the use of noxious gases by the Americans in South Vietnam. (March 30, 1965)

— The spokesman of the Nepalese Foreign Minister declared that the use of poison gases by the U.S. imperialists in South Vietnam was "inhuman" and that his government was opposed to this barbarous act. (March 30, 1965).

— Protest of the spokesman of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Burma. (March 1965).

— Protest of Rasol Bux Plaejo, President, Muhammad Ahmed, Vice-President and Muhammad Juman, Secretary General, of the Awami National Party of Hyderabad. (March 30, 1965).

— Meeting of 6,000 young Japanese working people in Tokyo. (March 1965)

— Protest of the Congress of Pradesh Women, India. (March 30, 1965).

Protest of the Czechoslovak Fatherland Front. (March 30, 1965)

Protest of Mahmoud Ismail, Minister of Information and Labour of Sudan. (March 1965)

— Protest of the African People's Union of Southeast Africa, the African People's Union of Zimbabwe, the Pan-African Congress Party of South Africa, the Basutoland Congress Party and the Ngwane National Congress Party for Liberation of Swaziland. (March 30, 1965).

— The Cambodian Royal government made a declaration saying: "The Royal government of Cambodia is deeply indignant at the use of poison gases in the military operations in South Vietnam, denounces and solemnly condemns this violation of all international conventions respected by civilized nations... It calls on all governments and all moral and spiritual authorities of the world to take urgent steps with the U.S. government so as to persuade it to renounce these universally banned barbarous methods." (March 30, 1965).

— In a speech delivered at Wroclaw, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the victory over Hitlerite fascism, Wladislaw Gomulka, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party stigmatized the U.S. imperialists for having used poison gases in South Vietnam. (May 8, 1965).

— Demonstration of youths in West Berlin. (July 4, 1965).

— The International Union of Students sent to President Johnson a telegram condemning the use of noxious gases in South Vietnam. (July 1965).

Protest of the Permanent Bureau of the International Conference for Solidarity with the People of Vietnam Against the U.S. Imperialist Aggressors, For the Defence of Peace. (September 1965).

Protest of the Academy of Sciences of the People's Republic of China, Poland, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the Institute of Eastern Studies of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. (September 1965)

— The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made a declaration stressing that the U.S. imperialists should not forget the lesson given by the Korea war. In this war, they strove to subjugate the Korean people by the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons, but to no avail. (September 15, 1965).

— Protest of the Conference of Soviet Women. (September 15, 1965).

— The Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China made a declaration condemning the use of poison gases in South Vietnam by the U.S. imperialists. The declaration says: "The Chinese government hopes that the world peoples will take actions to condemn and stop U.S. imperialism's inhuman criminal activities, support the Vietnamese people in their just struggle against U.S. aggression and for the salvation of their country." (September 18, 1965).

In a speech delivered at the U.N. General Assembly V. David, Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia, denounced the U.S. imperialists for having used napalm bombs and poison gases in South Vietnam. (September 27, 1965)

— The 8th Congress of the International Federation of Scientific Workers held in Budapest (Hungary) passed a resolution denouncing the U.S. imperialists

for having used scientific inventions and technical realizations with a view to exterminating the Vietnamese people. (September 1965).

Mass meeting in Rome, Pavi, Reggio, Emilio, Spoleto, Novaro, (Italy). (October 1965).

— Protest of many Japanese scholars and scientists. (October 10, 1965).

Protest of "The Thai People's Voice" Radio. (October 10, 1965).

Protest of scientists of the German Democratic Republic. (October 10, 1965).

— Protest of the Confederation of German Free Trade Unions. (October 1965).

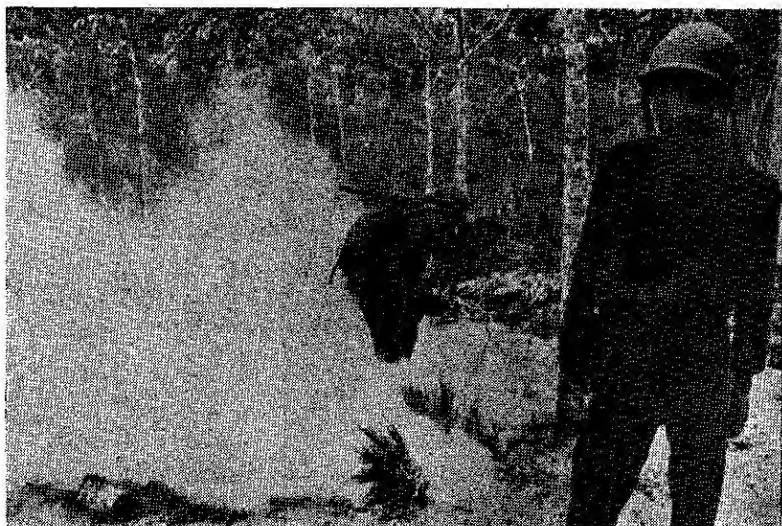
In a joint communique in Hanoi, the Delegation of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and that of the Vietnamese Lawyers' Association, vehemently denounced the use of poison gases by the U.S.A. in South Vietnam. (October 11, 1965).

Protest of the Academy of Sciences of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. (November 1, 1965).

— The Delegation of the World Federation of Democratic Youth and that of the Vietnamese Youth made a common declaration condemning the U.S. imperialist aggressors for having used napalm and phosphorous bombs, noxious chemicals and even poison gases to massacre the South Vietnamese population. (November 1965).

*In South Vietnam, the U.S.
are using toxic chemicals ...*

Photo released by the *Foreign Languages
Press* of the People's Republic of China



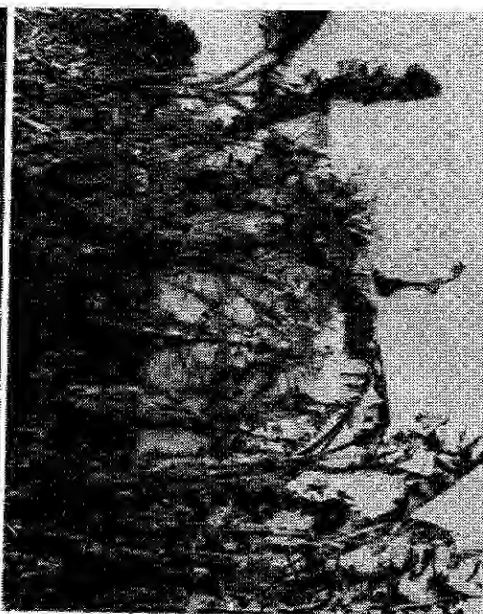
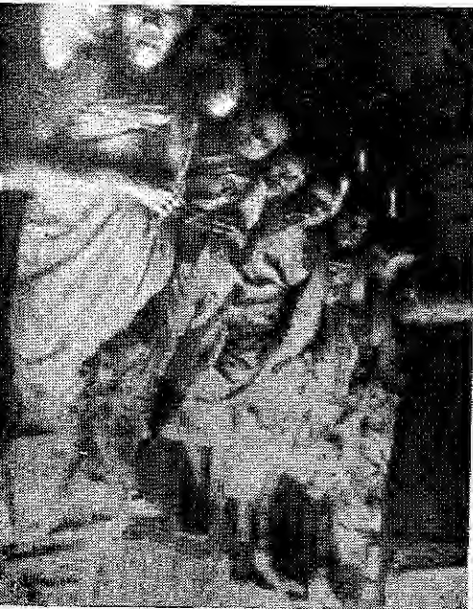


Photo released by the *South Vietnam Liberation Press Agency*. The last photo shows the bonzes of Tracon pagoda victims of toxic chemicals

Effects:

...poison gases.



Photo released by
Le Drapeau Rouge

Photo released by the
New York Herald Tribune





Not long ago, Nazi gases at Auschwitz. Today, American gases in Vietnam. And tomorrow, in our country? Demonstration in Munich against the use of poison gases by the U.S. imperialists in South Vietnam (Photo released by the *New York Herald Tribune*)