

The Battalion

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SCONA XI

Keynoters Give Pro, Con Views On U.S. Policy

Stop U.S. Bombings

By TOMMY DeFRANK
Battalion News Editor

End Chinese Domination

By DANI PRESSWOOD
Battalion Staff Writer

Dr. David Wurfel urged Wednesday an extended lull in American bombing of North Viet Nam as a necessary step toward a negotiated settlement in the Viet Nam war.

The keynote speaker for the eleventh Student Conference on National Affairs contended a halt in the bombings might convince the North Vietnamese the United States is willing to negotiate an end to the fighting.

"A pause in the bombing may not insure negotiations," he explained, "but there is no reason to believe expanded bombing will promote negotiations."

"We have eroded the possibility of fulfilling our commitment, and if we can fulfill it through a negotiated settlement then that is the right way," he continued.

An associate professor of political science at the University of Missouri, Wurfel added that bombing suspected Viet Cong positions in South Viet Nam is turning the people against American involvement.

"Our strategy based on air superiority the most effective weapon conceivable to denude the population of South Viet Nam against us," he said.

"The people are continuing to be alienated by atrocities so numerous we cannot face the facts," he added.

Wurfel also urged that the United States agree to a policy of self-determination for South Viet Nam — even if such action results in reunification of the country under Communist leadership.

He contended that free elections would be a necessary step toward upholding the 1954 Geneva Agreements.

"The Geneva Conference does not in any way guarantee the independence of South Viet Nam, nor does it in any way ensure the exclusion of the Communists from South Viet Nam," he reminded.

"It is clear that the independence of South Viet Nam has been preserved through the deliberate violation of the Geneva Agreements."

Wurfel claimed the spirit of the Geneva Agreements has been distorted by the United States to the advantage of our enemies throughout the world.

"The American people have been fooled by this twisting, but much of the world has not," he charged. "Thus our intentions in Viet Nam have been widely mistrusted."

The speaker said our present "predicament" in South Viet Nam is the result of a failure to heed the advice of the late President John Kennedy.

Wurfel said Kennedy realized that "it's their war; we can help and send men, but they have to win it or lose it."

"That reasoning is sound because no guerrilla war has ever been put down effectively by foreign troops," he claimed.

Wurfel also said the war in Viet Nam, supposedly designed to protect Southeast Asia from Red China, has brought the Chinese into the conflict and caused an ever-growing possibility that they will intervene.

He questioned the validity of the American involvement in Viet Nam and hinted that increased intervention will lose serious face in the eyes of other nations.

"Why should we risk our national reputation where all facts tend to show that the Communists will win?"

Wurfel pointed to the strong feelings of nationalism in Southeast Asia and said that Ho Chi Minh is able to rally support for the Communists because he is a prominent nationalist figure.

"The North Vietnamese see the Viet Cong as being nationalist," he noted, "and explains part of why the Communists are and have been by far the largest and best-organized force in Viet Nam."

Wurfel also criticized the American insistence that South Viet Nam is a bonafide nation.

"South Viet Nam cannot be called a nation by any recognized definition because it is only half a nation," he said.

The opening address was attended by 215 delegates from 85 colleges and universities in 15 states, Alaska, Canada and Mexico.

Dr. Frank N. Trager said Wednesday night the policy of the United States in Viet Nam is to "carry war there as far as necessary to make Hanoi cease and desist" and "to give 16 million people a free and independent government."

Trager, professor of international affairs at New York University, presented SCONA XI's second keynote address on "U. S. Policy in Southeast Asia (Agreements and Disagreements)." His speech outlined the viewpoint of United States policy proponents.

Trager listed the objectives of the United States in Southeast Asia as: maintaining security, improving living conditions, maintaining internal stability and preventing Communist takeover everywhere except North Viet Nam.

"They (Communists) have made the war and we must make them stop," Trager declared. "I don't want to see Viet Nam suffer another 1,000 years of Chinese domination."

He referred to the period from 111 BC to 939 AD when Viet Nam was controlled by China.

Trager offered three available choices for the United States in dealing with the Vietnamese situation.

The first possibility is that of withdrawal. Trager said in that case "I am sure Southeast Asia would succumb to the Communist takeover, and that I oppose in principle."

He described the second possibility, that of remaining advisers, as "killing nobody except ourselves." This is the policy the United States previously employed.

Trager said the third possibility, which is the one he favors and the one the United States has chosen, is "to win, so as to allow Viet Nam independence," and, he added, "I want what has to be done quickly in order to get the thing over."

Concerning the possibility of negotiations between the United States and China, Trager noted a basic difference of opinion as to the definition of "negotiate," and therein lies the problem.

"Our notion of negotiating is of some compromise," he said. "Their notion is of not compromising except to get something from you. We will not negotiate anything which will take away from the independence of South Viet Nam."

Trager said for the past 11 years the United States has violated the first rule of warfare, that of relying on offense rather than defense.

"We willingly, stupidly, bided by defensive posture for 11 years," he noted. "In 1965 we began to carry the war to the enemy, gingerly."

Trager outlined the United States involvement in Southeast Asia beginning in 1813 with the landing of the first missionary at Rangoon, Burma. At this time, he noted, the United States had a rather "distant outlook."

When other nations began colonizing, "most Southeast Asians wanted to be free, to be independent," he said. As a result, Viet Nam and Indonesia were forced to fight to establish independent states and were not successful until prior to World War II.

After World War II, he said, the Communists began making plans for revolutions, wars by proxy and training cadres. The Communists wanted "wars of national liberation" directed against the people in order to indoctrinate Communism.

At the Geneva Conference in 1954 "the state of Viet Nam proposed there should be a national election in both parts of Viet Nam." Russia, France and Hanoi voted against the proposal, he said.

"We didn't take them seriously enough," said Trager. "It's taken us 11 years to make up our mind in Viet Nam."

Questioned as to what kind of world he believed would exist if hostilities continue between the United States and China, Trager replied "terrible." He added, "However, I don't believe in the inevitability of war. We're not asking China to give back anything they have, only to leave Southeast Asians alone."



KEYNOTE SPEAKER MAKES POINT
Dr. David Wurfel, associate professor of political science at the University of Missouri, emphasizes a point during his address at SCONA XI opening session Wednesday.

Canadian Student Traveled Farther For Conference

By GERALD GARCIA
Managing Editor

The only noise that could be heard in Room 320 of the Memorial Student Center late Tuesday afternoon was the shower running.

Suddenly, a deep, husky voice drowned out the running water and shouted, "I will be with you in a minute."

The voice belonged to Michael B. Gurstein, student at the University of Saskatchewan, in Saskatoon, Canada, who more than likely traveled the greatest distance to attend the eleventh Student Conference On National Affairs, scheduled to run until Saturday here.

Gurstein was accompanied to the conference by Keith William Lowe, also from the Canadian university, who was roaming in the MSC during a break in the conference.

"Man, that is just what I needed," Gurstein explained as he stepped out of the shower.

The pair arrived in College Station early Tuesday afternoon after a two-day trip from Saskatoon, site of the university. They flew to the conference, but it was no fault of the airlines that it took two days to arrive.

"We wanted to do a little sightseeing in Dallas—that is why it took longer to get here," Gurstein said. However, the boys did have to make three transfers before arriving here.

Gurstein is presently taking honor courses at the university which has no semester plan. Students in Canadian colleges and universities attend from September to April and take a maximum of five courses.

Since it only takes 15 credits to receive a B. S. degree, students can finish college in three years, he said.

"But I still think our method —of no semester—is harder because we only take one test for each course—in April—and if we bust it we have to take the course over," Gurstein said.

Gurstein has received his B.S. degree and is taking honor courses—similar to the United States method of taking graduate work—for credit toward a master's degree.

The 21-year old student thinks SCONA is a good thing.

"It brings students from everywhere to discuss world problems and it helps students understand the problems better," he said.

SCONA Event Schedule

THURSDAY

- 3-3:45 p.m. Review, Corps of Cadets (Parade Ground across from MSC)
- 4-5 p.m. Continuation of Third-Round Table Meeting (optional)
- 6-7 p.m. Texas-Style Barbecue (DeWare Fieldhouse)
- 8-10 p.m. Plenary Session (Third Address, Panel Discussion) MSC Ballroom
Reception following address (Assembly and Birch Rooms)
Texas A&M University Singing Cadets Christmas Concert (Main Lounge, MSC)

FRIDAY

- 7:30-8:30 a.m. Coffee and Informal Discussion (Serpentine Lounge)
- 8:30-11:45 a.m. Fourth Round-Table Meeting
- 12:15-1:15 p.m. Luncheon (Duncan Dining Hall)
- 2-4:30 p.m. Fifth Round-Table Meeting
- 6-7:30 p.m. Buffet Supper (MSC Ballroom)
- 8-10 p.m. Plenary Session (Fourth Address) MSC Ballroom
Reception following address (Assembly and Birch Rooms)

Transportation Mixup Delays Tech Delegates

By LANI PRESSWOOD

It finally happened. The precision timing and organization which has become a SCONA trademark momentarily broke down.

The breakdown occurred during the wee hours of Wednesday morning, 4:45 a.m. to be exact. At almost precisely that hour, a pair of unsuspecting delegates from Texas Tech descended from a train at the railway station — in Caldwell.

Caldwell is as close to the A&M campus as their streamliner stopped. They knew that. The SCONA officials knew that. But each thought the other group had arranged transportation from the station.

Wearily from the long haul from West Texas, the pair of delegates were ready to step into a car they had expected to be waiting to wing them to the A&M campus. However, it didn't take long for them to see what the situation really was.

No car. "We checked, but there were no cabs or buses in Caldwell," related Roger Hollingsworth, one of the stranded delegates.

"Or rent-a-cars," his partner Chris Hickey tossed in.

So, the two Red Raiders immediately proceeded to make use of the telephone connections between Caldwell and College Station. After calls to several places, they finally reached someone who knew what the score was and what to do about it.

A little after 8 a.m. transportation arrived in the form of a driver named Francis — Hollingsworth calls him St. Francis — and the three-hour wait in Caldwell came to an end. They had whiled away the time brushing up on this year's SCONA topic, Southeast Asia.

The pair left Lubbock at 7 p.m. Tuesday night and spent nearly ten hours on the train before their unscheduled three-hour

layover. Visions of honest-to-goodness beds likely danced in their heads as the car sped toward College Station.

Upon arrival though, they found out their rooms weren't available yet. They promptly took care of this problem in imperfect but resourceful style by sleeping in the MSC lobby until they received their room keys at 11:30 a.m.

Now that they're finally here, how do they think of SCONA XI so far?

"The program material looks good, the speakers look good, and the material is relevant and very interesting," answered Hollingsworth. "I'm looking forward to it, I think it's going to be very worthwhile."

Hickey, an official in Tech's Model United Nations operation, views his SCONA visit as an aid in mapping a stronger MUN there in the future. He foresees the possibility of a broader MUN at Tech, one in which, as in the SCONA setup, delegates from other schools will be invited.

Hickey calls Texas Tech "a big, growing school, with rising academic standards." He sees lack of student interest in campus issues and a weak editorial policy by the student newspaper, The Treador, as two areas in which Tech needs to improve.

"Tech has a friendly atmosphere," Hickey continued, "and I think we share that with A&M because I've noticed it around here, too. It gives you a warm feeling when you're spoken to on another campus."

SCONA runs through Saturday and the two Tech representatives will then join 191 other visiting delegates in heading back to their own schools.

In light of their less than smooth train-and-car trip to get here, how does the pair plan to return to Lubbock?

The reply comes quickly: "We hope to fly back."



DELEGATES PARTICIPATE IN ROUNDTABLE SESSION
SCONA XI delegates John E. Hughes of west Texas State College ponder ideas presented during opening Roundtable discussions Wednesday afternoon. A&M and Miss Sally L. Jackson of South-