

Student Harmony Viet Policy Studied Must Continue

By PETE GARZA
Battalion Columnist

After one week of classes it appears the housing arrangement in the north dorm area is working out smoothly. Yet a minor incident between Corps and civilian factions in that area last night should serve as a reminder that judicious behavior is required by all students.

A civilian student cut through a staff while the staff was marching to the evening meal. A member of that staff admonished the student and bodily removed him from the formation.

The civilian apparently knew better because his companion walked around the staff instead of plowing into the middle of it.

An insignificant action, really, except that from small, innocuous incidents like these sprout fullscale problems.

Last year in the same area several thousand dollars of damage was caused by a series of disturbances between rival Corps and civilian elements. The spark that ignited the whole mess was excessive bantering between students while Corps units were lowering the flag at evening retreat formations.

Bad feelings led to more trouble, with the eventual result being an extremely costly flooding of a civilian dorm and jumbo-sized mob scent.

The Battalion did not favor the mixing of Corps and civilian students in the north dorm area because we felt such a setup would only be inviting more trouble.

But now that such a situation has been implemented, all students must cooperate to insure peaceful, harmonious relations.

It shouldn't be such a difficult thing to do. Although a certain amount of antagonism has existed between the two student factions, most students should realize that a little good-natured ribbing never hurt anyone — as long as it remains good-natured.

Memories of what happened last spring should be enough to keep everybody quiet.

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



"I don't mind a uniform, but it does rob you of your identity! I feel like I look like any other guy in uniform!"

In discussing American foreign policy in Viet Nam with the Mexican students who participated in SCONA XI, and with the Chilean students whom I met this summer, I found a stereotype of the American government.

In both cases, the students would argue that the U. S. had no business whatsoever in Viet Nam, and when asked why they felt this way, they would give several versions of the same argument: "The U. S. as a rich capitalist country is interested solely in advancing its own economic interests; therefore at the outbreak of any social disturbance in the small and underdeveloped countries of the world, the U. S. readily steps in to exploit the people."

I refuted this argument by trying to explain our administration's policy and advocating the same arguments used by President Johnson and Secretary of State Dean Rusk. But although I am a staunch advocate of our Viet Nam policy, at the same time I could not help but sympathize with these students' position.

Our country's history is made up of countless occasions when we acted in our own selfish interest. For example, there is the Mexican-American War; our intervention in the Panama-Colombian conflict of 1903; our intervention in Guatemala in 1954; the Bay of Pigs fiasco in 1961, and our latest use of the Marines in the Dominican Republic in 1965. We have cloaked our real policies, our real motives with altruistic terms like "manifest destiny," "protecting American lives and property," "protecting the Western Hemisphere from outside aggression" and "carrying the White Man's Burden."

To explain our armed aggression against the Philippines in 1898, President William McKinley gave the following version of "White Man's Burden:"

"I could not sleep nights trying to decide what we should do. Then one night I got on my knees and I prayed. And then I knew what we must do. We had to go in there and Christianize, and uplift, and educate those Filipinos! And then I went to bed, and went to sleep and slept soundly."

And now we are engaged in a deadly conflict in Viet Nam. It is a commitment from which we cannot honorably withdraw. Eventually, though, like all other conflicts, it, too must come to an end. And then, after the fighting and killing has stopped, what will the United States do?

This is a difficult question, and one which Time Magazine in its essay "America's Permanent Stake in Asia," tried to answer.

Time said: "Once it has healed the wounds of Viet Nam, the U.S. hopes for an Asian future that will be more and more mastered by Asians themselves. In Viet Nam, it has bought time for independent Asians to get on with the business of nation building; over the next decade, it will pour out at least \$1 billion a year to provide economic thrust, including funds for a vast Mekong Delta project. Its goal is a community of non-Communist, though not necessarily aggressively anti-Communist, Asian nations that will act as a balance to Red China and create a pattern of practical meaningful cooperation."

"Once the war in Viet Nam is ended, the U. S. sees no reason why it should not watch and cheer that community from its own shores, ready to act to protect its members against aggression, but willing to let Asia select its own path into the modern world."

These contradictory paragraphs are at the root of the anti-American feeling encountered throughout Latin America, Africa, Europe and Asia. On the one hand we preach self-determination, and say we are willing to let them select their own path into the modern world; but on the other hand, we pour in millions of dollars into the economy, establish American schools, hospitals and other public institutions, and set for our goal an alliance of non-

Communist nations.

Small wonder, then, that anti-American propaganda calling us imperialists is so popular among the oppressed masses of the world.

With optimists claiming a "victory" in Viet Nam in the near future, the ground work for our policy in Asia is now being laid. As these plans are made, I hope our administration will examine its real motives closely and take a careful look at the effect those plans will have on world opinion, which in the modern propaganda war between Democracy and Communism, is increasingly becoming more and more important.

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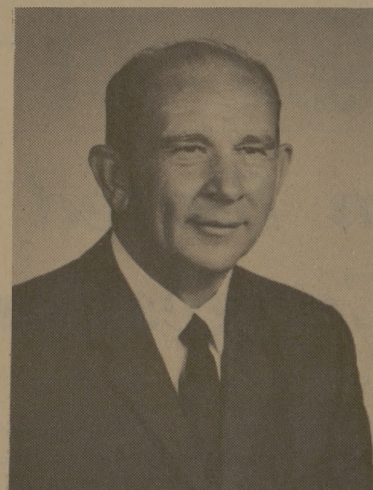
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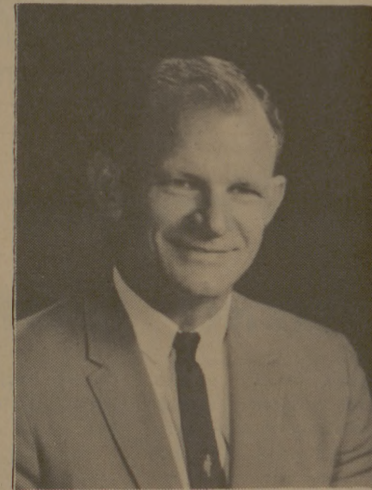
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