

National

Vietnam vets protest war monument design

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — They say it's what they remember when thinking of Vietnam — a rifle

standing muzzle down in the mud, the generations-old symbol of a fallen infantryman.

They want to see that symbol towering over Arlington National Cemetery, three stories high, the black plastic of the M-16s they carried to a faraway war transmuted

to black marble, shot with veins of red, the precision machinery of the receiver reproduced in a massive aluminum casting, all supported by a column of steel barrel.

The Vietnam War, the most divisive modern conflict in modern American history, cannot even be memorialized without drawing a protest.

A group of Vietnam veterans, outraged at plans to build what they consider an inappropriate or insulting memorial in Washington, want to replace or upstage it with one of their own design, based on the rifle-in-the-earth sign of a dead soldier.

"This is what we saw with tears in our eyes after a fight, rows of M-16s stuck in the ground by their bayonets," Steve Androff, vice president of the United Veterans Coalition, said.

Funds are now being raised for a \$7 million Vietnam War Memorial to be built near the Lincoln Memorial. The group behind the drive was headed by a Vietnam combat veteran, Jann Scruggs.

The design, chosen from more than 1,400, was submitted by

Maya Ying Lin, a 21-year-old Yale architecture student. Two 200-foot-long polished black granite walls would be sunk below ground level, meeting in an inverted "V," bearing the names of all 57,000 servicemen killed in the war.

"We think we know better than a bunch of strangers what should stand in Washington to remember our brothers by," Androff said.

"Look at who's raising funds for this — Bob Hope, Gen. Westmoreland, all those people who kept the war rolling and our blood flowing."

Androff said his group is preparing to launch a national campaign to have their idea for a monument replace the controversial design approved in Washington.

"We have 3,600 members," he said, "and I'm sure many more veterans would join us in this."

"We also have some support from Vietnam veterans in Con-

gress, who agree with us that a black marble slab isn't much of a monument."

Androff, a commercial artist who served in the 1st Infantry Division, has drawn up plans for the enormous rifle monument, and would like it to be built entirely by Vietnam Veterans and placed in Arlington "with the Marine memorial to Iwo Jima, the tombs of the unknown soldiers — something we can look up to instead of down into the earth."

"There are great artists, architects, engineers, craftsmen, all who served in Vietnam," he said. "We'd need welders, stonecutters, machinists, and from the reaction I've gotten from other veterans, I don't think I'll have trouble finding them."

He estimates the monumental rifle would cost \$3 million, and concedes there is no money available to build it now.

"But, our lawyers are drawing up papers to apply for nonprofit status so we can accept donations, and I'm preparing a poster that will show what the memorial would look like to raise funds for it."

There have been several protests against the current design plans, including complaints that its shape echoes the v-fingered peace sign, symbolic of many who refused to fight in the war while others served.

Another Vietnam veteran, twice-wounded West Point grad Tom Carhart, appealed to the Capital Fine Arts Commission Tuesday to re-open the design competition, saying black was "the color of dishonor" and the monument is "a black grave in the earth."

"This monument has become symbolic of the Vietnam War, and like the war it's getting people bit-

terly divided," said Forrest L. Lay, a correspondent for Stars and Stripes who was a captain in the Green Berets.

"The sad thing is that the monument is becoming a symbol for the frustration and bitterness and anger of Vietnam veterans."

"Everybody sees in Vietnam what they want to see, and they isn't going to be any one design that all Vietnam veterans agree sums up their feelings and honors those who served at those who died."

"The monument, any monument, is not going to solve the problems of the Vietnam veterans, no matter what the design. I won't touch substantive issues like Agent Orange."

"If this controversy grows, instead of healing the wounds Vietnam left, which was the idea behind it, the Memorial may just make them worse."

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Budget revision suggested

Hance proposes defense cut

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Rep. Kent Hance, a major ally of the administration in past budget and tax fights, says President Reagan should consider revising his new budget cutting package to help its chances of getting through Congress.

The Texas Democrat is proposing a larger defense cut, a smaller

reduction in controllable domestic spending and revival of a proposal to delay cost of living increases to Social Security and other federal benefit recipients.

He also wants to defer the second and third installments of the personal tax cut which he sponsored in the House this summer.

Jim Rock, a Hance staff aide,

said Wednesday the congressman has talked with administration officials and with Republican leaders. Rock said Hance hopes to offer his package as an amendment to the final budget resolution that must be passed by Congress this year.

"I think it's beginning to look like an option," Rock said. "I think

they're really open to other options."

Hance, in a speech Tuesday directed to the National Petroleum Refiners Association, said it would be "difficult for the president to secure approval for much more than \$10 billion of his savings request" of \$16 billion.

"I believe a reduction more in the range of \$20 billion to \$25 billion is necessary in order to give the president's program, still in its early stages, a chance to be effective," he said.

His proposal would cut \$5 billion from the planned defense buildup instead of the \$2 billion Reagan has proposed; reduce 6 percent across-the-board from "discretionary" or controllable domestic spending to trim spending \$4.2 billion; defer by three months the July 1982 installment of the individual tax cut to save \$7.4 billion in 1982 and repeat the delay in 1983; and revive the cost of living deferral to cut \$5.4 billion in spending.

Reagan has proposed a 12 percent across-the-board cut in controllable domestic spending that would not affect the benefit programs.

Hance said the 6 percent cut in non-defense programs "would have a much greater chance of being approved by Congress than Reagan's 12 percent."

On the defense cut, he said: "We can make modest reductions in projected defense increases over the next three years and still adequately provide for the rebuilding of our nation's defense system."

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