

# THE RISING TIDE

A bulletin of information and opinion from the  
FREEDOM LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION, INC.

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## FALL OFFENSIVE

FLF has plans for a strong program of education and action this Fall. To make them a success, financial assistance is an absolute necessity. Give as much as you can. Today. All contributions are tax-deductible.

## VIETNAM , CAMBODIA & LAOS: A VETERAN'S PERSPECTIVE

by Bob Dickey

*His tour of duty with the Army just completed, Bob Dickey is spending much of his time since returning to the U.S. organizing to clear up "misconceptions about the war" among American young people. Mr. Dickey spent nearly a year in the Mekong Delta and was among the U.S. helicopter crewmen shot down over Laos. He claims his views represent the majority of GI's in Vietnam, "hip, straight or what have you."*

The typical format of the anti-war leaflet/ad/poster these days seems to be based on sort of an inverse "domino theory" in Indochina (e.g., NPAC's "Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos - Had Enough???" poster promoting spring '71 antiwar activities.) True, U.S. soldiers, who might have been alive today, *did* fight and die during ground operations in Cambodia, and in the air over Laos; but this "inverse domino" analysis of U.S. involvement is, at best, highly superficial.

For years before the April 30, 1970 Cambodian incursion, in fact since 1964-65, the people of Cambodia had been invaded and oppressed by the North Vietnamese Communists. The NVA taxed them (at times to the point of starvation) and forced them under threat of death to cooperate with the North Vietnamese guerrilla war against the Saigon government being waged over the Cambodian-Vietnamese border. The situation was so bad that in early 1970, even the then Cambodian Chief of State, Prince Sihanouk, admitted his country had been invaded by the Communists and went so far as to say he hoped the U.S. would "not disentangle itself too quickly" from Indochina.<sup>1</sup> This was, of course, written before his overthrow. Nevertheless, until April 1970, the VC and NVA in Cambodia, safe from American military retaliation, had nurtured an extensive network of training centers, hospitals, supply and arms caches, and even R&R spots for the weary "liberators" of South Vietnam.

How could the U.S. withdraw militarily from South Vietnam and expect, or even hope for ANY peace to last with the spectre of the upraised Communist dagger in Cambodia? A spectre, incidentally, which in reality was a highly oiled, com-

petent, well-supplied military organization. And that is not just rhetoric, because that is *exactly* what U.S. forces in Cambodia found. The lists of Communist supplies captured in the Cambodian operation read like a modern Army quartermaster's inventory list: 19,337 individual weapons, 2,499 crew-served weapons, 1,768 tons of ammunition, 41 tons of explosives, 29 tons of commo equipment, 55 tons of medical supplies, 7,197 tons of rice, foods and salt, and 432 enemy trucks, with many additional tons of equipment destroyed by US and ARVN

forces. Quite a bit of military paraphernalia from an area alleged by the radicals to have been completely innocent of any provocation in the situation of the incursion.

To put it bluntly, would any radical today leave one of his brothers to fend for himself, armed only with a slingshot, and surrounded by a pack of mad dogs, without first neutralizing the threat to his brother's existence? So it was that the U.S. neutralized Communist forces in Cambodia surrounding the strategic areas of South Vietnam. And because of this action, U.S. forces WERE able to withdraw from the Mekong Delta, until now only the 164th Combat Aviation Group remains; and it has already begun accepting trained South Vietnamese pilots and crews and reducing even more the number of U.S. personnel in the Delta area.

The recent Laotian operation, while it was not the sensational failure described in the American press, was not exactly the victory proclaimed in Saigon, either. U.S. forces could be



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# Six Weeks in Summer

*FLF research associate James Cowin provides a revealing chronicle of events in the controversial Middle East cease-fire and examines alleged violations thereof.*

By July of 1970 both the Israelis and the Egyptians seemed resigned to a prolonged period of fighting.

The Egyptians, rearmed by the USSR and hoping for an Israeli capitulation, refused to cease hostilities unless the Israelis withdrew from all territories occupied in the 1967 war. The Israelis, fearing another Arab invasion, refused to withdraw without a definite settlement. All U.S. overtures had failed to break the deadlock or stop the bloody air-artillery duel over the canal.

Suddenly, on July 23, 1970, Egypt's President Nasser accepted the U.S. proposal for a 90-day cease-fire and peace talks. The Israelis objected, asserting that the Egyptians would use the cease-fire to build up its missile and artillery strength and then resume hostilities. The Americans, accordingly, assured Israel that the cease-fire was to include a freeze on all military deployment for 30 miles on either side of the canal, so that neither side could take advantage of the standstill. On August 1 the Israelis hesitantly accepted the American proposal.

The American press described the reaction of the State Department to the cease-fire as "euphoric." The canal was finally quiet after months of steadily escalating battles which included at least one Russian-Israeli dogfight. The danger of U.S.-Soviet confrontation had passed, and for the first time in 3 years, U.S. popularity among the Arabs began to rise.

The budding euphoria did not last long. *The New York Times Index*, July-December, 1970, provides a record of the ensuing events. On August 13 the Israelis presented evidence that UAR-USSR forces had moved missiles into the cease-fire zone on the first day of the cease-fire and were continuing to build new launching sites. The Americans, realizing their newborn cease-fire was about to disintegrate, tried to play down the Israeli charges.

At first, the U.S. remained uncommitted. Defense Secretary Laird asserted during a September 17 television interview that it was impossible to prove or disprove the Israeli charges. After Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban produced before and after photographs as proof, the State Department replied that the Egyptians were aiming for the original August 9 deadline and had not finished constructing their missile launchers when the deadline was moved up to August 8. Hence, the apparent violations. The Israelis accepted the explanation and talks began on August 25.

On September 1, however, the Israelis charged the UAR-USSR forces with constructing many more launching sites along the canal. The U.S., now convinced that the UAR and USSR were continuing steady violations, threw the entire weight of its reconnaissance satellite equipment and U-2's behind the Israeli assertions. The U.S. presented evidence of almost 200 missile launchers deployed in the cease-fire area, half of which were deployed one or two nights after the cease-fire began and the other half of which were constructed during the last two weeks of August. The Israelis threatened to

withdraw from the talks unless the United States could persuade the UAR and USSR to withdraw the missiles. However the UAR rejected American charges as "completely removed from the truth," and the Americans were unable to prevent the inevitable. The Israelis withdrew from the talks on September 7, saying that they would return if the UAR would remove the missiles.

The period from August 8 to September 7 is an excellent case study of the tactics of the "socialist" camp. Lenin asserted that negotiations are simply an extension of battle, their aim being the victory of the Communist nations over the capitalist nations. What the UAR-USSR forces failed to accomplish during the fifteen-month-old "war of attrition" they achieved through the cease-fire: military superiority along the canal in preparations for a possible invasion of the Sinai.

## FLF News Briefs

### ... tour news

The FLF Asian delegation recently arrived in Seoul, Korea, beginning its homeward journey with the World Youth Crusade's Asian study tour of Taiwan, Korea and Japan.

Meeting with several groups of Korean students, delegation leader Rick Hunter reported the Koreans' shock upon learning of the growing pro-Kim Il-sung propaganda campaign in the U.S. Surprised to learn that recent Seoul anti-ROTC youth demonstrations had been cited by American radicals as evidence of pro-Communist sentiment, the Koreans were stunned when told that the flaming rhetoric of the North Korean propagandists and their American cohorts are succeeding in drumming up some support for the claim that Kim Il-sung is the only legitimate leader of the "40 million Korean people."

As with many Vietnamese and Taiwanese, Korean students are by and large reform-minded and often see weaknesses within their government; but their opposition to communism is unquestionable. The tragedy is that pro-Communist students in the U.S. — often ignorant of the patriotic spirit of Asian youth — misrepresent the healthy criticism to support the Communist program of indoctrination, alienation and revolution.

Hunter reported that the Korean students were interested in forming a committee of solidarity with the FLF and other American groups pledged to strengthening free democratic forces in Korea. In particular, FLF has developed close fraternal ties with the International Federation for Victory over Communism, which has more than once gone out of its way to accommodate FLF members in Korea. The two organizations planned to co-sponsor a Korean television show to promote Korean-American friendship and understanding.

The delegation expressed a deep love and respect for the Korean people and the "Land of the Morning Calm," where so many Koreans and Americans shed their blood shoulder by shoulder in the struggle for freedom. Nevertheless, said Hunter, the group is anxious to get back to the USA to take up the fight on the home front.

. . . Berkeley reports

The Berkeley American Youth for a Just Peace responded to FLF's plea to dramatize the murder of Vietnamese student leader Le Khac Sinh-Nhat, by holding a rally on the University of California's famed Sproul Hall steps. The press covered the story, but failed to mention Sinh-Nhat's assassination. Meanwhile, Berkeley AYJP chairman David Wynn reports a victory for YPSL Ted Roberts and FLF'er Nancy Callahan in an AYJP-sponsored debate with the International Socialists on the topic of Vietnamization.

Berkeley's summer course (organized by Miss Callahan), "American Foreign Policy and Comparative Communist Systems," is reported to be a great success, with teachers and students expressing mutual stimulation and satisfaction. Well-known professors participating this summer include Drs. Paul Seabury, Robert Scalapino, and Chalmers Johnson, among many others.

. . . National Conference

FLF announces the opening of the World Freedom Institute (WFI) this Labor Day with a three-day youth conference in Washington, D.C. Conference participants will be drawn mainly from the list of hard-core FLF workers throughout the nation, representing seven American cities coast to coast.

The conference marks the beginning of FLF's third year of operation and will be the first large-scale nationwide get-together of FLF'ers since the Foundation's formation in August 1969. The schedule includes a report on FLF history and strategy by President Neil Salonen; plans for a national activist offensive for Fall; lectures on world politics and ideology by the FLF research staff and speakers bureau; a report from the FLF Asian delegation just returned from Taiwan, Japan and Korea; several brainstorming sessions; reports from the field; films; recreation and (you guessed it!) a special surprise speaker.

Participants will arrive by plane, train and car, from California to Manhattan. Expectations are running high that the conference will launch a new stage in the FLF movement, providing unified direction and coordination in addition to invaluable learning experience and personal contacts.

The WFI plans to hold such conferences on a regular basis, drawing recruits from an expanding area of FLF activity. In order to sponsor these conferences, and to make the Fall activist program a success, the main obstacle will be — as always — fundraising. Your help is needed. Now.

**STRUGGLE ON MANY LEVELS**

A bit of "revolutionary consciousness" from the QUICKSILVER TIMES, Aug. 14-28, 1971:

Struggle has many faces. But no two faces look alike. Like the cubists, we must look at things from many sides. The problem is to find ways of creating space for ourselves. The tendency now is toward a two-sidedness which is embedded in every aspect of our lives. Our language poses questions by making us choose between opposites. The imperialist creates the anti-imperialist. Before "cool" there was hot and cold. "Cool" was the first attempt to break out of the two-sidedness. Two-sidedness always minimizes the dimensions of struggle by narrowly defining the situation. We end up with a one dimensional view of the enemy and of ourselves.

Learn to be shrewd. Our first impulse is always to define our position. Why do we feel the need to tell them? We create space by not appearing to be what we really are. Shrewdness is not simply a defensive tactic. The essence of shrewdness is learning to take advantage of the enemy's weaknesses. Otherwise you can never win. The rule is: be honest among yourselves, but deceive the enemy.

Washington POST, Aug. 28, 1971

# Soviet Arms Skill May Be Tops by '75

By Edward K. Delong  
United Press International

The Soviet Union will probably gain across-the-board technological superiority over the U.S. military in the last half of this decade because of Moscow's decision almost four years ago to drop out of the race to the moon, the Pentagon's research chief believes.

Dr. John S. Foster said in testimony released yesterday by the House Appropriations Committee that in 1967 or 1968 the Soviet Union stopped rapid expansion of its space effort which had kept Soviet military research and development spending at the same level for almost seven years.

Since then, Foster said, the Soviets have channeled much of this money into a growing military research and development program. He estimated that the Soviet Union now has a research effort 40 to 50 per cent larger than that of the United States, costing about \$3 billion a year more than the United States is spending. The General Accounting Office has done a study expressing reservations about the Pentagon's estimates of the Soviet research and development budget.

Foster told Rep. George H. Mahon, (D-Tex.), chairman of the defense appropriations subcommittee, that it is impossible to tell at this time what the increased Russian research effort is directed toward.

But within two or three years, he said, "this extra effort on their part will lead almost certainly to some very serious military surprises if this analysis is correct.

"This means that, with a

growing effort in the Soviet military area, they will attain technological superiority in area after area on which they choose to concentrate. And in the later half of this decade they will probably be technologically superior across the board . . . in the same sense that we are today technologically superior across the board."

Drawing on estimates by U.S. intelligence agencies, Foster said for the past 20 years there has been a steady increase in Soviet space and military research spending, from a \$2 billion level in 1955 to a projected level of more than \$9 billion in 1975.

He showed charts indicating, however, that from about 1961 to about 1968 the military portion of this research effort remained steady at approximately \$7 billion, while the amount devoted to the Soviet space program increased drastically.

"This was apparently a direct consequence of the challenge in the space effort, perhaps related to President Kennedy's decision to go to the moon," Foster said.

Foster said that by 1968 the United States held a technological lead of two or three years over the Soviet Union.

"Subsequently, however, the United States made a decision to reduce its effort (in military technology)," Foster said. "And the Soviet Union apparently decided to stop expanding its space program and instead devote the increased amount of talent and effort and funding to their military research and development."

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VIETNAM, CAMBODIA & LAOS

(continued from page 1)

withdrawing from the northern provinces almost as safely as they have from those in the south, if the Laos operation had been more successful.

But now the Communist dagger is raised again, this time even more threateningly. The Bolovens Plateau in Laos is being stockpiled with war goods from North Vietnam much the same as Cambodia was, but in more quantity. Indeed, the Ho Chi Minh trail itself has been rerouted to pass through the plateau, which can only be called the strongest Communist military fortress in Southeast Asia outside of North Vietnam.

Lack of strong U.S. support was a key factor in limiting

the effectiveness of the Laos operation. A successful operation in Laos by the South Vietnamese could destroy the sanctuaries in Bolovens Plateau and have a long-time neutralizing effect on Communist military capability.

<sup>1</sup> "How Kampuchea Falls in the Changing Indo-China Peninsula," *Pacific Community*, April, 1970



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