100,000 turn out for days of protest

As many as 100,000 Americans participated in the March 25-26 International Days of Protest in 80 demonstrations and rallies around the country. This was the largest manifestation of opposition to the war in Vietnam yet staged.

In New York City, 1,000 people walked out of a ceremony at which UN Ambassador Arthur Goldberg was receiving an honorary degree. At the ceremony, Goldberg argued on a highly emotional level. There was a vote taken at the end of the meeting, and even the local press reported no more than 200 votes for the U.S. policy, against upwards of 7,000 opposed.

Other large demonstrations included 10,000 in San Francisco, 1,100 in Detroit, where Tom Hayden spoke, 1,000 in Newark, and 1,000 in Los Angeles. Although a number of SDS chapters were on vacation (including Michigan State, Buffalo, and the U. of Chicago), each of the big cities SDS helped build local demonstrations in many cities. These include Seattle, Miami, Portland, Oklahoma City, Lancaster, Evanston, Providence, Philadelphia, Gainesville, Birmingham, Toledo, Naracon (Wis.), Iowa City, Bloomington, Muncie, Lawrence (Kans.), Des Moines, Eugene (Ore.), Madison, Milwaukee, Riverside (Cal.), River Falls (Wis.), and Champaign (Ill.).

SDS chapters continue to carry on end-the-war fasts. 17 fasted at the U. of Rhode Island, 63 at Queens College, and several at Arizona State (Tempe).

Ihaca, N. Y.: Recently the Cornell Committee for Support of U. S. policy sponsored a speech by the Salton Ambassador to the U. S., Vu Van Thai. The audience included about 20 picketers marching before the event. The Ambassador spent most of the time reconstructing the history of the war concluding by attacking the Diem Regime, then praising Ky as a benevolent dictator.

East Lansing, Mich.: Four Michigan State SDS members went to jail Tuesday as the Circuit Court decided that they had committed trespassing last October 13th during anti-war action. The four were arrested outside of Michigan State University's draft board on the 13th.

In several countries allied with the U. S. in the war in Vietnam, the weekend contributed substantially to opposition strength. 20,000 Filipinos took to the streets in Manila. In both Australia and New Zealand, demonstrations against the participation of those countries were held.

In Western Europe, demonstrations were held in hundreds of cities. In Paris, large marches were staged in thirty cities, and in France, 71 demonstrations were held. The demonstrations in Belgium, Sweden and Denmark were the largest peace protests in those countries. In Paris, according to the claim of the National Coordinating Committee to End the War, there were 500,000 people demonstrated. Other demonstrations were held in Goteba, Liverpool, Bielefeld, and in Saarland in other parts of Europe. A small (by their standards) rally in Jerusalem was held explicitly to praise the efforts of U. S. protest groups.

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This summer the war will be much more a part of the daily concern of Americans than it was last year, and developments over the year have made the country open to the arguments we wish to forward.

Flushing, N. Y.: The fast against the war at Queens College ended recently. Participants remained in a university lounge for the entire duration except to attend classes and meet other obligations. About 40 persons fasted for the entire 56 hour duration. The fast, in conjunction with films, imported speakers, and panel discussions was designed as an educational effort rather than an opportunity to demonstrate or evaluate one's life, or to re-examine their failure to stop the war.

Houston, Texas: The Houston Citizens for Action on Vietnam, in which many SDS people work, will hold a vigil at the LBJ Ranch while he attends Easter services there.

Lafayette, Ind.: On March 16, Joffree Stewart, a draftee who renounced his citizenship in 1950 (to any government), spoke at a meeting at Purdue sponsored by the SDS chapter. Mr. Stewart had promised the organizers of the meeting that he would not burn the U. S. flag (a normal feature of his presentations), but when he spit, stomped upon, and tore the flag in half, several folk got upset. Since then, the Indiana State Board of Ethics has decided to bring charges against Paul Harvey, and Puerto Hicks, Jr., among many, have picked up the story. The board is interested in the facts. It should be noted that destroying the flag in a solemn ceremony is, but only merely a misdemeanor under Indiana law, carrying a $5 to $10 fine. This matter—so say the fetishizers anyway—

Hayden and Lynd to outline summer project

by Paul Booth

Summer projects. Tom Hayden and Stoughton Lynd have proposed a Vietnam summer project to turn America into a town meeting around the war. The project will be carried out with considerable fanfare, and it was agreed that more people would spend considerable time around the war, construct the connections among people who have been involved in the anti-war movement, and construct the connections among other anti-war groups. The RCC summer projects will frequently involve their sending activists to reinforce local end-the-war committees with full-time students. It may be for chapters to arrange with other anti-war groups in their area for a summer program requiring full-time students.

It has been suggested that SDS take responsibility for a training session at the beginning of the summer for people embarking on these projects. The National Coordinating Committee to End the War, which has strength, will be sponsoring summer efforts. SDS regions may do the same in other parts of the country.

These projects can work effectively to broaden the base of opposition to the war, and construct the connections among people who have been involved in the anti-war movement, and construct the connections among other anti-war groups. The RCC summer projects will frequently involve their sending activists to reinforce local end-the-war committees with full-time students. It may be for chapters to arrange with other anti-war groups in their area for a summer program requiring full-time students.

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These projects can work effectively to broad...
I want to counterpose two ideas about man's fate, each the prophecy of a Western humanist. One is Leon Trotsky's, "This is the age," he wrote, "of permanent revolution." The other, paradoxically, is Marx's, "We are in the process of living through a series of equally impressive fund of evidence. "This," wrote Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., "is the American century."

In each of these ideas, there seems to be an appealing eagerness for the future. I do not presuppose that one is mean and the other heroic; that one is, at best, the wiser or the more humane. I am not trying to set the stage for an ideological melodrama. Our situation is, of course, too serious for that.

WHAT I AM TRYING TO DO

I will be prepared to do. They are merely the first line of state propaganda, used because they are easy, convenient, popular, and effective. But not because there is no better argument. They are rather like television commercials. One of these has that we are fighting for South Viet-Nam's independence. We say this in the same certain and unvaried terms that we say when, for example, some of us in the peace movement have been driven by desperation to do—instead as the sometimes almost holy. We are attempting to win the war to make a better world. As I assume you know, I think these good men have failed. And much more; that if their failure could be reversed at this moment, the historical fact—this fact one that has much every itself once and for all into our national history, and the horror of which has long since cost us the right even to dream of national atonement. I am not here to argue about any of these matters, for the ends offered in the name of their victims. I am only trying to understand this tragedy that we are forced to bear, and to see if there are ways in which it might finally be ended.

The point of all this is to try to understand this possible destiny of ours. And at this especially bad moment, this means that we who protest. American policy in Viet-Nam must try to understand it not as the product of the morally crippled, but as the product of the deliberately and systematically stupid.

For her part, the exhausted Soviet Union found her revolution still under siege. Condemned by the West from the time of the Revolution, her economy, having paid the price of her first war, was now faced with the task of feeding and providing for a population of over 200 million; over that Germany whose invasion she had so expensively repulsed only to see the other enemy more powerful than the first. Stalin, too, had the courage to continue his war effort, and the will to use the economic resources of his country to do it. But the resources of the Soviet Union in the postwar years were limited, and at the end of the war, Soviet industry was in dire straits. The West, with its superior industrial base and financial resources, had the advantage in the long run. Stalin's seizure of East Europe as a strategy to prevent the spread of capitalism in Europe was of course not fought Rather, it was transfigured. It was the beginning of the decline of the Soviet Union's military power. And the return of the United States to the political scene after the war, with the creation of the United Nations, reflected the growing power of the West. The West, with its superior industrial base and financial resources, had the advantage in the long run.

To understand the Viet-Nam war, we have to put ourselves again at the threshold of the East-West Cold War.

INGRATIATING INFLUENCE

It becomes clear these days to many of us that it is in the collision of these two prophecies, of the opposite politics, of the detente and the arms race. There is just now no particular reason to believe that it cannot finally undo us all.

And the rumor ran through Europe, even as Nazi Germany was about to fall, that these five years of war will prove to have been a tragic and impractical experiment in the human spirit. In spite of San Francisco, Potsdam, Bretton Woods—who did not know what was coming—again for democratic capitalism. In spite of the fact that the United States and the British had no idea that they had made a mistake, that they would have to face the consequences of their actions. The war that did not take place became a way of life.

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know that tactics can sometimes be ordinary tactfulness. He might have introduced a number of epoch-making ideas and in disputation, as a technical term, a stillness, a kind of sleep. If history is the interruption of war by truces, then what we call Peipingism, his heroism—his tribalism. But we understand. We do this ourselves. We avert our eyes, pretending not to notice. He will return the favor. We are all men of the world, for a great state not to have control over minor confederate states is inconceivable. Without that control, the means through which conflict can be avoided or resolved is no longer exist. Some of us object: You have not proved that this Viet-Nam war is China's fault. Even now, your gravest charge has to do ... torpid colonial feudalism of that society; and no one at all familiar with the history of Viet-Nam could question this.

Those who see Asian affairs in this way must be very exasperated—both with China and the American peace movement. They do ... also fend off you idealists who want an impossible peace and those Steve Canyons yonder who want an unthinkable war.”

The first principle of the European wisdom is applied: No big war with China. General MacArthur is removed. The second ... Cold War must not be shaken, we say; and until that fact is accepted, there is no sense in talking yet about the future.

Red China and the United States glower at one another across the Pacific—rather, across the Formosa Strait. They are ... We stare perplexed at this geopolitical Rorschach test, and gradually find a gestalt, discover a pattern and a meaning.

Look now at Asia through the structure of this model.

This is not a bad vision, this new history. And ... the drift of Soviet-American relations over the past 20 years—at least the informal part of the story—suggests that, while common acceptance of the unacceptability of global warfare as an instrument of policy. Second, a truce line must be established and made secure. Third, ... in two of them—very gently, of course, as in defusing a bomb—and start moving toward that final rearrangement of the terms of their relationship which will allow them to live together in peace and secure.

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then why not China, too? We are intrigued to find that North Korea's Kim Il-sung seems to wend his own political way; but ... surely not what it seems. Appearances are deceiving. The strong are always relentless; the weak are always submissive.

Hence, the New American Mentality, which Prof. Marshall Sahlins has called the "hard-headed surrealism." Let me go into this surrealistic Asian politics of ours. It seems to me that it suffers from four difficulties. One is that it fails to reckon with the enormous differences between Europe and Asia. Let's consider these in that order.

The theory bases its hopes for the future on the belief that powers A, B, and C can make "counter-balancing," see to it that no single state in the Soviet power becomes too strong, and yet cost $10 less per issue. It of headlines and photos ($190 would be amounts to changing printers while flat regardles of photos). It would also having it verityped at The Wood-...