

By ANNA FANG
Of the Emerald

Vietnam today: torture, death, violations

"We ask for the release of political prisoners in Vietnam as a humanitarian act," announced Nguyen Dong, member of the Union of Vietnamese in the United States at a Friday night teach-in. The teach-in, sponsored by the Eugene Peace Action Committee (EPAC), was held in the EMU to inform people of the political injustices in South Vietnam and in the United States.

Dong, born in Saigon, told people that the war is distant to Americans but very related to Vietnamese. By talking to groups, Dong hopes to show the illegalities of the South Vietnam government, help release the political prisoners and point up the violations of the Geneva and Paris agreements.

"The challenge which the government brings to us, gives us more enunciation to try to free ourselves," Dong asserted. Political prisoners in Vietnam include students, women, children, intellectuals, and others from all walks of life. Dong said that torture is illegal according to the Geneva agreement on treatment of political prisoners. "Thieu said that all prisoners have been released," Dong commented, "but before that he denied to the world the existence of political prisoners in Vietnam."

Types of torture include killing, beating, electric shock, hot soapy water forced up one's nostrils. "We are a people struggling for peace and independence, but we are treated like animals. Why is Thieu so cruel and hostile?" asked the 24-year-old Dong.

Dong explained the current economical and political situation of Vietnam. Statistics for police forces include one officer for every 100 people, 140,000 policemen and 1.5 million soldiers in the army. "It will eventually become a military state, if something isn't done," Dong emphasized. The Vietnamese also have an identification system to

track down each and every Vietnamese. Dong said that the jail system is supported by a U.S. program indirectly. There is supposedly a food for peace program in Vietnam supported by the U.S., but actually food and money from the program are being used by the government and not given to the people. Some of the money is being funneled into the jail system, according to Dong.

Currently there are three political forces in Vietnam: the neutral, Saigon, and provisional revolutionary governments. All three are supposed to get together by order of the Paris peace agreements to hold fair elections. But this has not been done, says Dong.

Dong believes that one million tons of bombs have been stockpiled in Saigon. "The government has been land-and rice-grabbing in order to feed the huge military nation," Dong said. "After the Paris agreement, Thieu expected to receive a foreign investment to support Vietnam, but none came."

"The government of South Vietnam wants the war to be resumed so they can get U.S. aid and more bombing force," Dong retorted. "They want to inflict damage, create insecurity, and make the people stay in concentration camps which are located in the urban areas."

"The U.S. government is strong and the American people hold the prison gate of the political prisoners in Vietnam," stressed Dong. "Do something, ask for the release of prisoners in Vietnam!" Dong illustrated the situation by using an old Vietnamese saying, "A handful of rice at a moment of crisis is worth more than a whole meal when you are well off."

Dong admitted that Saigon did not like what he was doing in the United States. "I hope that South Vietnam will be able to recover the nation, mend the wounds, and that reunification will come after we rebuild the country in a peaceful manner." A film "For a Vietnamese Vietnam" and a short play were shown during the teach-in.

Wood and Fuel Co-op stems fuel shortage

By DAVID SHEAHON
Of the Emerald

Cold, wintry weather is on the way. Heating oil is in short supply. There could be some chilly households this winter.

In the Eugene area, the Wood and Fuel Co-op is trying to keep those families warm. Members of the co-op have been cutting and distributing fireplace wood to people of the community.

The co-op has been doing this for weeks. They go out every other Saturday to a field an owner wants cleared or directly into the forest because they have a permit to cut wood on state and national lands from the Forest Service.

The co-op invites anyone who can chop wood to join. Any work done will be paid for with a pickup load of wood. People unable to chop can do other things, such as staffing the baby-sitting service the co-op provides for workers, or making lunches for the woodcutters. Woodcutters are always busy, according to Allen Corneil, a coordinator for the group.

Alan Johnson, student coordinator, believes the operation was needed to act as an alternative to heating oil and especially the oil companies.

"We know that there is going to be a fuel shortage, but it's a contrived one," said Johnson. He believes that the oil companies

are withholding oil to force the prices up and to get the Alaska Oil Pipeline passed through Congress.

The oil companies profits for last year, Johnson believes, are inconsistent with the "so-called oil shortage."

"Look at the huge profits the oil companies made last year, and now they're telling us about how severe the shortage is. It just doesn't make sense," said Johnson.

The oil shortage does not seem to be affecting government, Johnson says. "You don't see any wars stopping because of a fuel shortage. Those jets keep on flying," he went on to say. "Look at the oil companies' own trucks; they don't seem to be having any problems with their needs."

Whether contrived or not, the fuel shortage does exist. Johnson and the members of the co-op will assist every household that asks for help. They can be contacted through the Roosevelt house, phone 688-7789.

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March...

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sensitive to world public opinion. All the speakers concurred that Thieu's government is dependent on U.S. support for survival, and that properly aroused public opinion in this country can end the fighting and the atrocities in South Vietnam.

In a concluding ceremony, Ron Eachus, former ASUO president who sued the Federal Bureau of Investigation for invading his privacy by starting a file on him upon his return from a trip to Hanoi, presented a check for \$674.16 to Friedman for Medical Aid to Indochina. The money is the part of the \$1000 settlement with the F.B.I. which remained after Eachus' attorney was paid.



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