Indochina Peace Campaign

On Monday, October 2, Tom Hayden and Holly Near, noted anti-war activitists visited the campus. The affair was sponsored by Delta Tau Kappa, the international social science honor society.

Ms. Near opened the program by singing a few of the anitwar folk ballads which she made popular while touring with the Jane Fonda-Donald Sutherland entertainment troupe.

DTK President Gaye Miles then introduced Ted Glick, former defendant in the Harrisburg '8' Conspiracy Trail and now area coordinator of the Indochina Peace Campaign. Glick, in a soft-spoken movement, spoke about the campaign. He explained that the new group has a three-fold purpose: To educate people about "Nixon's conduct of a mechanized war", to center the anti-war campaign in seven key industrial states, and to breathe new life into the peace movement.

Hayden opened his portion of the program with a tirade against Nixon's war policies. "The war is escalating more than ever before. Peace has become, in reality, a theme for more war. By November, over four million tons of bombs will have been dropped on Vietnam by the Nixon administration. That total is twice that which was dropped by the Allies on Europe during all of World War II."

He pointed out that "200,000 troops have been withdrawn, from Vietnam, but still remain in Cambodia and Thailand and other surrounding areas." Hayden continued his remarks by condeming the added usage of naval bombardment of the North and the devastation wracked on the civilians through the use of B-52's. "Civilian casualities have increased by 25 per cent in a war that is supposed to be winding down," he asserted.

Hayden spoke about the history of the Vietnamese struggle against foreign oppression, "a fight which has lasted hundreds of years." The French, in their quest for control of the country, were defeated at Dienbenphu in 1954,

which was the initial time of direct United States involvement in the area, according to Hayden. "The French called the Vietnamese 'gophers' then", he recalled. "Now we call them 'gooks'", referring to the racial aspects of the situation.

"In 1945, Ho Chi Minh used the preamble of the Declaration of Independence in stating the intentions of his government. The United States failed to recognize this. The U.S. failed again when it disregarded the Geneva Accord of 1954 calling for popular elections in all of Vietnam. Instead, it set up an artificial country of South Vietnam and established a military government," Hayden said.

He continued with his scenario of United States involvement leading to direct military intervention. "Journalists took part in playing up the propaganda calling for U.S. military involvement. The CIA layed out plans to create such an involvement. Cardinal Spellman called the North vietnamese 'Godless sons of atheistic communism'. The South vietnamese created a propaganda machine that called for America's deployment of armed forces."

Hayden then came to the crux of his speech. "We're not fighting for the right of self-determination, we're fighting against it." he stressed. Hayden also spoke about America's prosioners of war. "Our government does not want our POW's back- they need them there to justify continuing the war." he claimed.

"The prisoners are not mistreated. I know because I've been to the North on two occasions. The closest they come to being brainwashed are by reading any newspapers that are provided. Sure, its not a bed of roses, but what prison is?", he stated. Hayden asserted that many complaints have been made about the North Vietnamese refusal to let packages are unfounded bacause "the Northvietnamese are just being cautious. In the past, they have discovered packages which have contained electronic spy

equipment and escape devices. Material that endangers the lives of the POW's. The Vietnamese must think we're crazy," He exclaimed.

"They don't allow visitors because, in the past, escape attempts have been engineered. One example was Laird's attempt to free prisoners by raiding an abandoned prison camp. The prisoners had been previously moved when the Vietnamese learned of the raid from a visitor." he continued. Hayden, who is the author of "The Love of Possession is a Disease With Them" concluded his remarks with this statement, "I am dismayed at how the government lies about Vietnam. If you read the Pentagon Papers, you can see how it lies."

A question-answer period followed. When asked if the Northvietnamese would release the prisoners, would that take away the justification for continued bombing, Hayden answered in an indirect way. He said that the Southvietnamese fear that it would, and that the United States is no longer interested in ending the war and is willing to let it continue indefinitely. "The fact is that we are frustrated, depressed and tired. We need to restore pride in ourselves. As it stands, we become vegetables more and more each day, being drained by the tragedy of Vietnam.
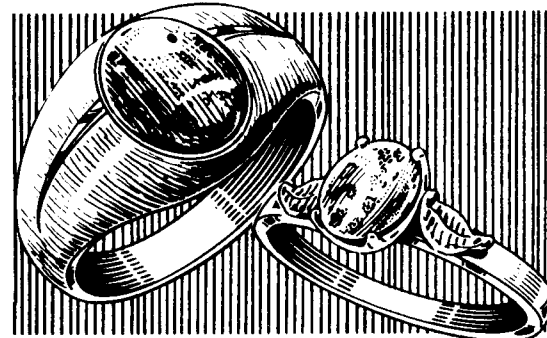
When asked if he openly supports the presidential candidacy of Senator George McGovern, Hayden responded, "I like McGovern better, but we're basically anti-Nixon. We are trying to overcome his (Nixon's) policy of putting everybody asleep in regards to his war policies. McGovern should stress the war issue more."

He also talked about the efforts of the U.S. Senate in attempting to end the war. "The numerous votes and amendments to end the war are ridiculous. Any anti-war legislation which the Senate adopts is certain to be nullified by the conservative majority in the House. Instead they should be out trying to urge the President to take action to end the war."