

... and the American Press Hails It As A Triumph of Democracy!

wrote those words would be arrested on a charge of poking fun at the government.

A Helpless Herd

There never has been a more expertly rigged affair. By forbidding party slates, the military (and the CIA election experts we no doubt lend-leased them) made sure that the Assembly would be an unorganized mass, easy to control. The main fall-back lies in the rules which will allow the military to substitute their own draft for any Constitution the Assembly writes. Yet even the *New York Times*, which has been so admirably critical, collapsed into wide-eyed imbecility and said (Sept. 13) the Saigon junta "now has an enhanced and legitimate status of its own as a national entity." That must have been written way out yonder on one of those LSD sugar cubes.

No one questioned the junta's figures on how many registered voters voted. No one asked how reliable such figures could be where there were no opposition watchers, where the military and the provincial chiefs were free to report any figures they pleased. Hardly an election passes in this country without some charges of fraudulent count, but the tally from Saigon was swallowed without a gulp.

What Chen Yi Actually Said to Visiting Japanese Diet Members in Peking

Because of their importance and because certain key phrases here emphasized have been omitted or glossed over in U.S. reporting, we thought readers would like to see for themselves exactly what China's Foreign Minister Chen Yi told a visiting Liberal-Democratic party (i.e. conservative) delegation from Japan Sept. 6 as reported in Japan. Chen Yi also stressed China's desire for peaceful co-existence with Japan saying, "We believe in socialism but other countries should decide socialism, capitalism, or revisionism to their own liking. We do not like to have ideas forced on us, and also we do not like to force our ideas on others" (Mainichi, Sept. 7).

"Q. There are many people in Japan who fear a possible military clash between the U.S. and China. We want to improve relations between Peking and Washington. Japan has no intention of militarily attacking China, and we do not think that the U.S. would wage a war with China.

"A. We do not think that the U.S. would immediately wage a war with us, or that the present Sino-American tension will last for a long time. We have no intention to provoke a war with the U.S. If we make such a provocation, we would lose the support of world public opinion, and without the support of world public opinion we would never succeed. The answer to this question is up to the United States.

"It is wrong to consider that China has no intention of having talks with the U.S., and the two countries will continue negotiations at Warsaw at the ambassadorial level. A settlement of questions through talks is China's basic policy. If this were not true, the Warsaw talks would have been suspended long ago.

"The solution of the Vietnam issue must be decided by the Vietnamese people and not by China. A peace conference is impossible at the present stage when the U.S. is using force. The U.S. said that its military forces would be increased to 750,000 by next Fall and to 1,000,000 by the end of next year. Until the U.S. forces withdraw from Vietnam, negotiations are impossible. If the U.S. withdraws, the issue could be settled by the Vietnamese themselves.

"The main aim of the present cultural revolution is to

Postscript to Last Week's Issue

"Any thoroughgoing Senate inquiry into the Thailand situation must ask how so clever and sweeping a resolution as the Tonkin Bay resolution came to be trotted out so swiftly . . . It would be interesting to know whether the resolution had actually been drafted before the events in Tonkin Bay."

—Our issue last week on *The Hidden History of the Coming War on Thailand*.

"Usually, his (Johnson's) timing is precisely his own—as when he presented his Vietnam resolution to Congress the day after the Gulf of Tonkin crisis. He had been carrying it around in his pocket for weeks waiting for the moment."

—Tom Wicker, *Washington Bureau chief, the New York Times in an Esquire article on LBJ, Nov. 1965.*

A wary White House played it cool for two days, perhaps unable to believe the press would prove so exuberantly gullible. Then Johnson topped the chorus by declaring the Vietnamese elections "gave us a lasting lesson in democracy." (*Wash. Post*, Sept. 14). We hope Johnson wasn't serious. We'd hate to think of what our own elections could become if he started taking lessons from Ky.

Chen Yi on Tokyo TV

"I do not think that the present tense situation between the U.S. and China will last forever. But the problem lies in the attitude of the United States. If the U.S. should invade China, China would rise up to defend itself. CHINA SUPPORTS THE IDEA OF SINO-U.S. TALKS ON THE SETTLEMENT OF THE VIETNAM DISPUTE.

"The activities of the Red Guards are correct . . . THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION IS BEING CARRIED OUT TO STRENGTHEN THE DOMESTIC CHINESE SYSTEM IN PREPARATION FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF U.S. AGGRESSION AGAINST CHINA."

—On Tokyo TV Sept. 6

consolidate the domestic structure in preparation for the worst situation. China does not think that a Sino-American conflict will eventually take place. China has no intention to wage war with the U.S. because China does not consider that the U.S. would stage a war with China.

"It is impossible to say that the worst situation will not happen. In preparation for such a case, China must solidify its domestic structure to prevent the appearance of another Wang Chao-ming who betrayed China to Japan.

"The second aim is to prevent a tendency in which revisionism is born and leads to capitalism, as is seen in the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and some East European countries. In order to prevent such a tendency, a new culture must be created by increasing production and improving techniques. This is the cultural revolution and there is a long way to go before achieving that. The present movements by the Red Guards are correct. This does not mean however that every demand by the Red Guards will be taken up as a national policy. The government has a right to decide its policy. China's foreign policy will not be changed by the cultural revolution."

—"Gist of the questions and answers" in Chinese Foreign Minister Chen Yi's talk Sept. 6 with Japanese parliamentarians as printed next day in the Tokyo daily *Mainichi*.

SNCC's Version of What Sparked The Racial Outbreaks in Atlanta

We thought our readers would like to see SNCC's version of what sparked the Atlanta riots. Marion Barry of SNCC's Washington office gave the following account to the press Sept. 8 on his return from Atlanta where he was attending a SNCC workshop when the first outbreak occurred Sept. 6:

At approximately 1:15 p.m. two white policemen stopped a car driven by Harold Prather, a 25-year old Negro, who lived $\frac{3}{4}$ of a block away. The cops stopped Prather at Capitol avenue and Ormond st. According to 15 or 20 persons who witnessed the incident, Prather jumped from the car and ran and was shot three times by one of the white officers. "Prather kept moving at a very slow speed and was fired upon again as he tried to get to his home $\frac{3}{4}$ of a block away," said one witness. He finally made it and fell on the porch.

Immediately after the shooting, a crowd of 150 to 200 persons gathered at Prather's house to protest the shooting. There were no SNCC people present. Stokeley Carmichael, SNCC chairman, returning from a radio interview heard about the incident over the radio and went to the scene. The people there were very angry. The local people wanted Carmichael to come back and help organize a peaceful protest demonstration. It was called for 4 p.m.

Witnesses Asked to Speak

At approximately 3:30 p.m. two SNCC people arrived at Capitol Ave. and Ormond St., the scene of the demonstration; 200 people were there. The local people had made their own signs and gone around in the various neighborhoods informing their friends as to what had happened. At 3:45 p.m. Bill Ware, project director for SNCC's Atlanta Project, and three other SNCC people arrived with a sound truck. Ware asked the assembled people what had happened and they began to tell him. Ware said the whole group should know what had happened and asked if witnesses would tell about the incident over the public address system.

Several persons began telling what they had seen. Police officers immediately moved in and told Ware to turn off the P.A. system. Ware informed the policemen that he wanted to stop rumors and make sure that everyone knew what had happened. The policemen immediately arrested Ware. Another SNCC worker asked if people still wanted to talk. The local people said "yes." The talking continued and police arrested the SNCC person. This made the crowd angrier. They demanded that police release the two SNCC people. The local people said that they would sit in the streets until the two persons were released and the Mayor suspended the policeman who shot Prather.

The policemen tried to remove people and arrested some who lived in the neighborhood. The arrests were immediately protested by the crowd, but to no avail. The people really got angry and started pushing some of the officers and several bottles were thrown. Mayor Ivan Allen arrived on the scene and brought with him 150-200 white policemen and an armored truck loaded with white cops, machine guns and other riot equipment. White officers with shotguns were stationed all along the street.

At that time Mayor Allen tried to lead the crowd to the Atlanta stadium some 4 or 5 blocks away. The crowd refused to leave their neighborhood. The crowd was also angry because all of the white officers had machine guns and shotguns, but the Negro officers had only their pistols. This really set the crowd off. Bottles, bricks and other objects were thrown at the white officers.

What the Protesters Wanted

Allen tried to talk to the people from atop a police car but they would not listen because the crowd wanted one of their leaders to talk and not Allen. The block leader who got on top of the car demanded that 1) white cops get out of there with machine guns and shotguns, 2) the release of all those illegally and unjustly arrested, and 3) the cops be fired who shot the young Negro. The crowd cheered the demands but Allen refused to answer. He refused to address himself to their grievances, at which time he was toppled from the police car. Then 50 to 60 cops rushed into the crowd and started hitting and pushing people. Mayor Allen then directed that tear gas be used to disperse the 1500 people who were on the scene. "Tear gas them or tear those houses down," Allen shouted.

All 400 to 500 officers began firing their pistols and shotguns without warning, both in the air and at the crowd. It was a terrifying experience. Unarmed people were assaulted by officers armed with tear gas, pistols, machine guns and shotguns. Never seen anything like it. Little kids, 7 or 8 years old were hit with tear gas canisters. Black women were clubbed to the ground. Anyone who was not moving fast enough was immediately arrested and thrown head first in the paddy wagon. Cops fired tear gas indiscriminately into the homes of Black people who were not even on the street. Little kids came out gasping for air. Cops went onto Black people's porches to beat and arrest them. During this period, several police cars were stoned, and several policemen were injured. During all of this, the attack was directed by Mayor Ivan Allen. He ordered little kids tear-gassed. He ordered white cops to beat and arrest black people.

SNCC's Role in the Outbreak

Now as to SNCC's role: 1) SNCC has only one project in Atlanta and that is in an area called Vine City which is on the other side of the town from the disorders. 2) SNCC has never worked in the neighborhood where the disorders took place. 3) It was the shooting of the young Negro by the white cops, then subsequent arrests of SNCC people that made people angry. 4) The local people themselves made the signs and got their friends together. 5) Stokeley Carmichael drove through the area only after the disorders began. 6) Most of the SNCC people arrived on the scene after the crowd had gathered and police were beating people. 7) The focus should be on Mayor Allen and his racist cops and not SNCC. At 11 a.m. that day SNCC members had gone to the Mayor's office with a complaint concerning police officials. At this time Mayor Allen refused to speak with the group and dismissed them by stating, "You're out of line in Atlanta which is known for its fair and equal treatment of all citizens."

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