

A View From The Right

By C. WILLIAM GEORGE

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Pro- and anti-Vietnam rallies have become about as commonplace today as were lines to the soup kitchens in the 1930's. One other resemblance is outstanding: after you've seen one, you've seen them all.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the recent Vietnam Forum. From all available reports, I gather it was just like all the rest: the liberals resorted to the same half-truths and outright fantasies as before in their arguments against U.S. involvement. Logical discussion cannot take place in the fog of an ideological dream world.

I find it rather easy to dispel two common fallacies in the current liberal argument on Vietnam. The first is that elections were called for in the Geneva agreements of 1954. The only document concerning Vietnam signed in 1954 was a cease-fire agreement, which was signed only by the French and the Viet Minh communists. I can find no place in this document where elections in 1956 are called for. These elections are called for only in the so-called "final declaration" of the Geneva Conference, which was signed by no one. In light of these factors, this document has about as much legal power as a press release.

The second fallacy is that the Diem government prosecuted the Buddhists. The United Nations fact-finding mission which was sent to South Vietnam at Diem's request found no Buddhist persecution by the Diem government, but reported that the communist Viet Cong had organized "suicide promotion squads" among the members of a minor Buddhist sect. The entire fairy tale of Buddhist persecution was revealed as an invention of the U.S. State Department and America's liberal news media. An expert on Far Eastern religions has even pointed out that the Buddhist religion is not the majority religion in South Vietnam, as the liberal press attempted to say. Nevertheless, the Unified Buddhist Association of Vietnam, representing all but a few Buddhist sects in Vietnam, issued a communique on April 12

1965 (unreported in the liberal newspapers in the United States), in which the communists are denounced for murdering monks, destroying pagodas and instigating the war.

I shall close with the following pertinent quotations:

"I recall distinguished liberal and socialist leaders informing us that Hitler was just a rational spokesman for German national interests, an understandable consequence of the 'evils of Versailles.' Beginning with the unarticulate premise that war was the ultimate evil, many fine liberals convince themselves — an many of us — that Nazism was largely a creation of British were granted her 'legitimate aspirations,' the Nazi threat would subsie into harmless **gemuetlichkeit**. — John P. Roche, former national chairman, Americans for Democratic Action (ADA).

"Vietnam represents the cornerstone of the Free World in Southeast Asia, the keystone to the arch, the finger in the dike. the Philippines an obviously Laos and Cambodia are among those whose security would be threatened if the tide of communism overlowed into Vietnam." — Senator John F. Kennedy, 1956.

"I am not one of those who believe that communism is something that you live with happily . . . It is very hard to have peaceful coexistence with people who do not understand the meaning of the word 'peace,' except to use it as a propaganda term. . . . As an American I am tired of my country acting as if it were weak and could not stand up against any combination of forces." — Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, 1956.

"Please don't let them back where you are sell me down the river with talk of despair and defeat. Talk instead of steadfastness, loyalty and of victory — for we must and we can win here. There is no backing out of Vietnam, for it will follow us everywhere we go. We have drawn the line here and the America we all know and love best is not one to back away." — Captain J. P. Spruill, killed in action in Vietnam, in a letter to his wife.