

It's a Pleasure. . . .



"IT IS A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU MR. DORIN", says Harrison Salisbury, assistant managing editor of the New York Times to Outlook Editor-In-Chief Philip Dorin. Salisbury spoke at a Community Relations lecture on "Report From Hanoi." Mrs. Seymour Epstein, president of the Jersey Shore Branch of the American Association of University Women looks on.

Peace In Vietnam Possible says Salisbury

Harrison Salisbury doesn't feel the Johnson administration has done much thinking about reaching a settlement in Vietnam.

"I don't believe Ho Chi Minh will refuse a compromise," the New York Times assistant managing editor said. "If we'd pursue a settlement with will, vigor, and imagination, we'd achieve our objective. I don't believe we've lost the ability to be a diplomatic nation and negotiate."

The journalist who spent a month behind enemy lines in Vietnam offered his "Report from Hanoi" to some 500 persons last night in Monmouth College's Polak Auditorium. His talk was the fourth in a series of five lectures being sponsored by the Jersey Shore Branch of University Women, Central Jersey Bank and Trust Co. and New Jersey Natural Gas Co.

"I'm not one of those fellows who say we've got to withdraw," he continued, "but I do say America can disengage herself from the war. We can stop the bombing without losing anything."

Claiming that America is fighting probably the most backward, primitive people in the world, he said military escalation is to no avail because the Vietnamese can exist without the industry America is bombing. He said America has escalated the war about as high as it can go and the result in Southeast Asia is a whipped up feeling of patriotism as the peasants are "reduced into human units."

"The people have been told all their cities will be destroyed," he said. "All the peasants want is peace. He has been on the run since 1920 and I don't believe even he fears being pressed out of his Spartan quarter for a primitive, jungle existence. All the Vietnamese know is that they are defending their country against the enemy."

Salisbury added that 16 and 17-year-olds, who are carrying on the major warfare load, know no life other than fighting. He said several told him they couldn't conceive of a non-army existence. North Vietnamese leaders are ready to carry on the war indefinitely, he said.

"Mr. Johnson must feel the present policy is the only policy to carry on in Vietnam," he said. "He's surrounded by a narrow circle of people of the same opinion, and they're not examining or seeing the situation as others do."

He said America has two alternatives: it can continue with a tough, grinding war "that will go nowhere" while generating hate and dissent at home, or go on escalating the war, including

bombing Hanoi, and bring Russia and Red China into action, and "go up in flames."

Calling the war the third largest America has been engaged in, Salisbury said the bombings are more intense than during World War II, that the cost to America is about \$28 billion for this year, that each American bomber shot down by the enemy is worth between \$2 million and \$6-million, and that some 2,000 aircraft have been destroyed in the war in the almost three years of American participation.

He listed America's bombing objectives as to keep South Vietnam in the war, but pressure on Ho and compel his government to negotiate, and intercept movement of men and supplies from the north. He said he disagreed with all three motives.

"The harder we hit, the more effort the Vietnamese make to transport material which is fed to them from Russia and Red China. The peasants are accustomed to carrying the war on their backs," he said. "Ninety-five percent of the people aren't affected by bombings which would destroy a culture like ours."

"It's time for a new look at the situation in Vietnam," said Salisbury. He recommended forming a coalition among North Vietnam, South Vietnam, and the National Liberation Front. "America must realize we too must compromise to reach a settlement."

C. William George, chairman of the college chapter of Young Americans for Freedom, distributed pamphlets carrying a letter from John Steinbach after Salisbury's talk. The brochure advocates victory in Vietnam.