

U.S. Policy Criticized at Rally

Vietnamization means changing the color of the corpses. This, brought out by Paul Mayer, Catholic priest, Harrisburg, co-conspirator, was one of many statements criticizing the U.S.'s presence in Vietnam at a rally held on Septmeber 24 at Marine Park, Red Bank. Guest speakers included Paul Mayer, Jane Fonda, Louis Lopez of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, Sokhom Hing, professor and representative of Group of Khzner Residents in America, Ed Selby of the VVAW, Tom Chase of the ASU. The speakers condemned the United States policy in Vietnam while supporting the Seven Point Peace Proposal. The turnout was estimated at 800 and the reaction was favorable although there was a small party of Nixon supporters marching nearby with posters calling "Jane" a four-letter word.

Paul Mayer, who has recently traveled through Vietnam spoke on the endless devastation inflicted on the Vietnamese by the U.S. He compared the U.S. Government to the ten plagues of the Old Testament using as examples blockade, famine, flooding, bomb craters as some. He brought to attention the destruction on the rice fields—especially the Mekong Delta which was once the rice bowl of Southeast Asia and is now importing rice. He spoke of the danger of 15 million people being drowned. According to Father Mayer, we should not just be for the survival of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia but for "our own survival".

According to Jane Fonda, "Vietnamization is a way of removing the war from the minds of the American people while imposing more than ever on the bodies of the Vietnamese people. It's an attitude about us that assumes that we are so racist and so callous and so easily pacified that we don't care that its a sterilized was, a computerized war waged from the air rather than the ground with fewer American soldiers dying although 20,000 have died since Nixon's been in office." She went on to criticize the Thieu regime.

Ms. Fonda came out in support of McGovern. "We have a candidate, McGovern, who is the creator of the anti-war movement (Applause), an independent antiwar movement who was in the streets for the last 10 years protesting the war independent of candidates forcing the Vietnam issue on the front page. This is victory for the anti-war movement. We can't say he's just another polititian, it doesn't

matter or why bother to vote. The reason what we have engaged in a peace campaign is that we feel it is urgent and vital at this time that there be a viable, powerful, loud, controversial anti-war movement independent of the McGovern campaign to pressure him to keep his

focus where it belongs to keep from going to the right...". She concluded with criticism of the Nixon doctrine and how important it is to "expose the lie of

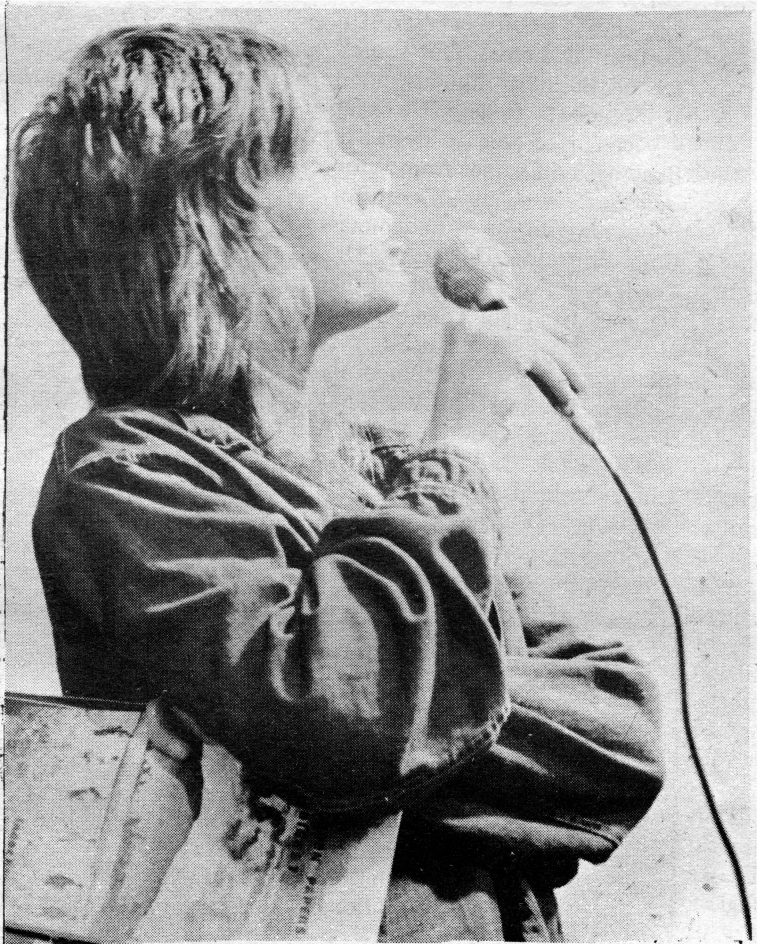
the winding down of the war, to talk about the rights of the Vietnamese people. She hacked the Seven Point Peace Proposal.

Louis Lapez compared the

state of the Puerto Rican people with that of the Vietnamese. He believes in the independence of Puerto Rico.

Ed Selby, representing the VVAW spoke of the increasing influence of the VVAW and its effect on McGovern proposal for veterans. Mr. Selby said the VVAW represents an attempt of soldiers who have been in Vietnam to share their experiences with those people who have not.

To him personally, "the war brought to a head the questions and doubts that I had about our policies there and turned me from a doubter of the policy to an ardent opponent of all wars."



This is a picture of Jane Fonda.