

CONCERN FOR VIETNAM
on the part of
the American Friends Service Committee

- 1949 From this date on, persons from Vietnam attend AFSC conferences and seminars held in the United States, Europe, and Asia.
- 1954 AFSC Board issues a public statement that it is "profoundly disturbed" by the pressures for U.S. military intervention in Indochina. This intervention, the AFSC states, cannot deal with the fundamental issues of better living standards and independence that motivate unrest in Indochina.
- 1954 November Louis Schneider, associate executive secretary for program, visits Saigon for purpose of assessing situation in relation to possible AFSC programs there.
- 1956 First work camp held in Vietnam. Project is carried out by young people who are alumni of AFSC work camps and seminars in Japan.
- 1958 Voluntary Youth Association of Vietnam formed by young Vietnamese, among them members of the AFSC alumni group. From this date VYA chooses delegates for various international AFSC projects.
- 1961-62 Dr. Gilbert F. White, chairman of the Board of AFSC, serves as consultant for the Lower Mekong Coordinating Committee for Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- 1964 December Gilbert White publishes in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists "Vietnam: the Fourth Course," a proposal for using the remarkable degree of international cooperation in the development of the conflict in South Vietnam. Reprints of this article are sent to over 1000 influential people, among them President Lyndon B. Johnson.
- 1965 March Gilbert White and Russell Johnson, director of the AFSC Conferences and Seminars Program in Southern Asia, visit Saigon and return to AFSC to explore program possibilities in Vietnam.
- March Special Washington Visitation of Congressmen on the issue of Vietnam. This program has been repeated annually.
- May A three-man mission, composed of Stephen G. Cary, associate executive secretary of the AFSC; Woodruff Emlen, an investment counselor; and Dr. Kenneth Morgan, professor of religion at Colgate University, is appointed to visit Vietnam during the summer months, survey the "human situation" and make recommendations for program to the AFSC.
- September AFSC announces grants totaling \$5,000 to the National Voluntary Service of Vietnam, the Vietnamese Confederation of Labor, and the School of Youth for Social Service at Van Hanh University.

- September Steve Cary testifies before Senate Committee on refugee problem.
- October Stephen G. Cary publishes an article, "Three Months in Vietnam", in the PROGRESSIVE.
- October 4 AFSC issues a public advertisement appealing for the end of the war in Vietnam and for the relief of the victims of that war, whether in the north or in the south.
- October 7 AFSC announces that it will launch a program of self-help and education among the refugees.
- November 6 An eight-man working party begins to work on Peace in Vietnam.
- November 26 AFSC announces it will develop a second program in Vietnam, placing young Americans in service programs conducted by young Vietnamese in rural villages and hamlets.
- December Peace in Vietnam published in Spanish.
- December 21 AFSC announces the appointment of David and Mary Stickney, of Chicago, to head up a program of refugee relief in Vietnam.
- 1966 January 5 AFSC Board endorses the general point of view of the working party document, Peace in Vietnam.
- January 26 Dr. Kenneth Morgan publishes an article, "Buddhists in Saigon", in The Christian Century.
- February 28 AFSC announces the appointment of Haines and Catherine Turner to develop a program for youth service in Vietnam.
- March 23 PEACE IN VIETNAM: A NEW APPROACH IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, published by Hill & Wang.
- June 30 AFSC appeals to the President of the United States to stop all bombing of North Vietnam.
- July 19 AFSC Board decides to devote special funds to an across-the-board Vietnam effort.
- September 1 Peace Education begins two programs, funding special Vietnam volunteers to help in regional programs, and financing working parties to prepare papers on the draft, anti-communism and other related issues.
- September 1 VISA Vietnam begins.
- September 19 AFSC urges President Johnson to adapt steps to peace in Vietnam as advocated by U.Thant.

- October 9 AFSC calls for immediate cessation of U.S. bombing of North Vietnam and the beginning of a clearly stated and swiftly phased withdrawal of all American troops and weapons in a public advertisement in the NEW YORK TIMES.
- October 11 AFSC announces the opening of a day care center for refugee children at Quang Ngai and the donation of \$2000 to the Canadian Friends Service Committee and \$4000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva for the purchase and sending of medical supplies for war victims in both North and South Vietnam and in areas held by the National Liberation Front. A license to send these funds has been issued by the U.S. Treasury.
- December 20 AFSC implores President to end the U.S. bombing of Vietnam and to begin a phased military withdrawal from that country.
- 1967 January 1 Peter and Nancy Ewald become directors of VISA Vietnam.
- January 13 AFSC announces its intention of undertaking a hospital-based program of therapy and rehabilitation in South Vietnam.
- February 8 Russell Johnson of AFSC returns from a two-week visit to North Vietnam.
- March 27 "The United States has the power to destroy Vietnam but it cannot win the people" according to AFSC representative Bronson P. Clark returning after a two-month survey.
- April Peace in Vietnam, second edition, with chapter bringing it up to date.
- June Peace in Vietnam, published in German and French.
- July 12 In the war in Vietnam, civilian casualties exceed military casualties many times over, according to David Stickney, returning after eighteen months in South Vietnam. In response, AFSC is opening a rehabilitation program in conjunction with Quang Ngai hospital.
- September International Conferences and Seminars opens a special office in Singapore to explore solutions for Southeast Asia.
- October Stewart Meacham trip is the first of four especially planned fact-finding trips to South East Asia, coupled with extensive travel throughout the United States upon return. Others were Bronson Clark, Russell Johnson, and John Sullivan.
- October 4 Stewart Meacham of AFSC, returning from Vietnam, says that the announced results of recent elections cannot be trusted.
- December 13 A call for an end to the war in Vietnam was issued today by the AFSC in a public advertisement appearing in the NEW YORK TIMES under the heading "What Days Are Holy?"

- 1968 January 9 Bronson Clark, back from a second trip to Vietnam, observes that anti-American feeling there has grown rapidly.
- February 21 AFSC has suspended its various programs in Vietnam as an aftermath of the Tet offensive.
- February 26 "There is no lack of capable leadership in South Vietnam, but the leaders are in prison," according to Russell Johnson back from a visit to Vietnam.
- April 23 Dr. Majorie Nelson holds news conference following 52 days as a prisoner of the National Liberation Front.
- April 23 Announcement is made that the Child Day Care Center reopened yesterday. The rehabilitation center will resume soon.
- May 13 If the United States wants to negotiate a durable peace in Vietnam it must first withdraw its commitment to the Thieu-Ky regime and permit the South Vietnamese to choose their own government freely. This is the opinion of John Sullivan upon his return from a fact-finding trip.
- May 15 The senior prosthetists and supporting staff return to Quang Ngai to resume operations.
- July 17 Stewart Meacham, AFSC Peace Secretary, is one of three American antiwar leaders to escort three American Air Force pilots home from North Vietnam.
- August 5 The North Vietnamese will begin to negotiate with the Americans as soon as there is a cessation of the bombing, according to Stewart Meacham.
- December 16 The AFSC announces the first in a series of shipment of procaine penicillin to civilian war sufferers in National Liberation Front area. The shipments are being undertaken without U. S. State Department approval.
- 1969 April 26,27 LOOKING THROUGH A HOLE IN HELL, an appeal for the victims of both the Vietnamese and the Nigerian/Biafran war, appears in the New York Times.
- May 5 The Board of the AFSC stands in silent vigil before the White House in support of a white paper calling for U. S. withdrawal from Vietnam. A five man delegation of the Board meets with Dr. Kissinger. Later an informal group continues a twenty-four hour vigil in front of the White House, reading the names of the war dead.
- May 18 Vietnam, 1969, a shortened version of the white paper, published in the New York Times ad.

- 1969 June 13 War in Vietnam escalates according to Dot Weller, and civilian casualties have never been higher, despite Paris peace talks.
- June 23 AFSC Board authorizes special 90-day effort in Washington to press for immediate cease fire and prompt withdrawal of troops from Vietnam.
- July 7 Five-man delegation meets again with Dr. Henry Kissinger to continue discussion of Vietnam policy with top administration officials, while supporters hold Meeting for Worship on sidewalk outside. Kissinger asked group to return on September 11.
- July 9 Dr. Joseph Elder returns from fact-finding trip in Southeast Asia, including North Vietnam. AFSC asked by North Vietnamese government for instruments needed in open heart surgery to be used primarily in teaching of heart surgery.
- August 1 Dr. Jonathan Rhoads on three week trip to South Vietnam to observe and advise work of Quang Ngai provincial hospital staff at Quaker Rehabilitation Center there. We are engaged in work providing physical therapy and the making and fitting of artificial limbs for civilian war victims.
- September 8 Condolences cabled to North Vietnamese on occasion of death of Ho Chi Minh.
- October 1 AFSC announces participation in October 15 Moratorium and November 15 March Against Death against continuation of Vietnam war. Stewart Meacham, AFSC Peace Education Secretary, is a co-chairman of Steering Committee of the New Mobilization.
- October 6 Delegation of AFSC Board members meets with Dr. Henry Kissinger and came away deeply discouraged. Quaker group states nothing in their interview led them to believe there were hopeful signs of current breakthrough in peace talks.
- October 21 Dr. Joseph Elder returns from Hanoi reporting he was successful in delivering medical equipment for open heart surgery. U.S. Treasury Department granted license for purchase of supplies Dr. Elder took with him 250 letters from wives of U.S. pilots and he was told they were delivered to prisoners.
- November 9 New York Times ad, "You cannot make peace by making war" following President Nixon's speech on November 3.
- December 14 New York Times ad, "Six miles from Song My" concerning atrocities and explaining our work at Quang Ngai.