"By every concievable indicator, our armed forces are in a state approaching collapse, with individual units avoiding, or having refused combat; murdering their officers, drug ridden, and disprited where not near mutinous." -- From "The Collapse of the Armed Forces" by Col. R. Heinl Jr. ARMED FORCES MAGIZINE June 7, 1971.

.... Untill recently the depth and degree of the G.I. movement has been one of the best kept secrets of the war. But now, unable to check the fast growing rebellion among the troops, the Pentagon is revealing the desperate straits into which they have fallen.

In Vietnam the combat effectivness of the Army, Marines and Navy river units, is practically zero. As Col Heinl put -- "In Vietnam "search and evade" meaning tacit avoidance of combat by units in the field is now virtually a principle of war." He goes on to say--"Desertion rates are going straight up in the Army, Marines, and Air Force. In 1970 the Army had 65,643 deserters, or roughly the equivilent of four infantry divisions. This desertion rate is well over twice the peak rate for Korea. It is more then quadruple the 1966 rate."

This situation has been recognized by the Provisional Revolutionary Governmet of Vietnam who earlier this year ordered their troops to refrain from attacking American units who were avoinding combat, and to give air and support to units and individual GIs who were carrying peace literature. In a very real sense the enlisted men of Americas ground forces, in opposition to thier officers, have made a truce with

the Vietnamese people.

To quote Col. Heinl again -- "Sedition, coupled with dissafection with-in the ranks, and externally fomented with an audacity and intensity previously inconceivable, infests the Armed services. At best count there appear to be some 144 underground newspapers published on, or aimed at, US military bases. At least lh dissident GI organizations now operate more or less openly. A three man law office was set up last Fall in Saigon to provide free civilian legal service for dissident soldiers being court-martialed in Vietnam. 26 off base andi-war "coffeehouses" ply GIs with music, coffee, anti-war literature, how-to-do-it tips on desertion, and similiar disruptive counsels."

The GI movement is not just a refusal to be cannon fodder for US imperialism. It is emerging as a genuine revolutionary movement. The fight against racism, both on and off base, being led by Third World GIs is one of the most important aspects of the liberation struggle in America. The situation in the Army and Marines is so explosive that the brass may soon be needing civilian police to quell armed uprising on military bases. What would happen is the Army was called in, now, to supress a ghetto uprising like Detroit is a question that the Pentagon

prays will not have to be answered.

For the first time since the 1930s large numbers of white workingclass youth are involving themselves in a revolutionary movement. Coming together to fight the oppresion of military service begins a process that reaches far beyond the barbed wire confines of the base. Through struggle against the brass working class youth have an opportunity to aguire information and knowledge that the system has denied them in the past. They have put this understanding to work and out of it is developing a revolutionary class consciousness and organization. In the past the officers have always been able to count on the white GIs to keep the Thrid World brothers in their place. Now the brass is often confronted with Black and white soldiers fighting together against a common enemy. This process is just begining, but the direction is clear.

All project and realisable was been detection the same to

The importance to the general movement in America of the involvement and leadership of Third World and white working-class youth can not be stated too strongly. It is these men and women and their k brothers and sister already on the unemployment lines that will be the backbone of the movement in the coming years.

of enlisted men with the struggles going on in the civilian community. GIs have been active in labor strikes, campaign to free political prisoners, tenant strikes, etc. Women at most projects are wokring with the wives and dependants of the GIs and there is an organizing project at the major WAC base. GIs have, of course, participated extensivly in the anti-war movement. On Armed Forces Day last May 17, there were anti-war demonstrations at over 50 bases, for example the march by more then

1,000 active duty GIs at Ft. Hood Texas.

All of this has not gone unnoticed by the pentagon. Repression in the military has been greatly intensified. Military stockades are designed to be so inhuman that death on the battlefield is preferred to confinement in a brig. In order to deal with the growing political insurection of GIs, especially Black GIs, the stockades have been turned into concentration camps of unbelievable brutality. These conditions have, over the last 2 years, sparked literally dozens of stockade uprisin many of them resulting in the murder of immates by the gaurds. Behind the wall of military secrecy little news of the beatings, gassings, and killings has leaked out. Cut-off from the civilian community and operatin under "military justice" the brass is able to frame and jail GIS almost at will. The only defence the GIs have is the solidarity of thier brothers and sisters. A case in point is put. Billy Smith who is one trial for his life at Ft. Ord Calif. The brass is trying to execute him for a crime to which they have no witnesses and no evidence, other then the statement by Billy's commander that he is a "troublemaker". Billy's brothers are not going to let the officers merder him, last week over 200 black GIs staged a march through the base to begin a Free Billy campaign.

One thing that the GI movement needs is civilian support. The need for money is critical. Existing projects have been unable to implement desperatly necessary programs because of lack of funds. GI organizations at many mases have asked for projects to be set up but there is xxx no money for new projects. Legal costs are skyrocketing. Every week new underground papers are launched, all of them depending to one degree or another on civilian support. The GI also needs political support from the civilian community and involvment by civilians in the defense of

military political prisoners.

"It's always been my contention that if we could raise the hard left military and political cadre in fascist America, that cadre would come from either the prisons or the dissident elements with-in the armed services."--George Jackson.

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