On Vietnam-Kampuchea conflict

Dear Comrades,

Allow me to take issue with your view of the Vietnam-Kampuchea conflict as a Vietnamese "invasion" rather than a border conflict, and with the way this tragic development has been reported in your pages.

Certainly every reader is deeply concerned about this conflict. At a time when hard facts are so scarce, the best way to support a rapid, peaceful solution to the extent that we can help by building sympathy for that goal here in the U.S. is by an approach which is scrupulously even-handed, mindful of present facts and past history, as well as one which duly opposes and exposes reactionary analyses and propaganda.

Support for Kampuchea's revolution is incomplete without support for Vietnam and Laos, too. Likewise, exposing Soviet strategic aims requires paying attention to the essential self-reliance of Vietnamese socialist construction, that is, their will and ability to face up to the Russians.

In my opinion, The Call improperly tilts toward Kampuchea. While the Jan. 23 editorial was balanced, the "score" was six paragraphs to two on Jan. 16.

Eric Clapton's new song

Dear Call,

Today I heard a new song on the radio. I listened to it because I liked the tune but the words struck me as being especially chauvinistic and degrading to the woman who the song is about.

In the song, the woman is instructed to "lay down Sally" and "don't you ever leave" after an apparent disagreement.

When I found out who wrote and sang the song I was no longer surprised at the blatant chauvinism.

The song is by Eric Clapton, the British singer who supports the fascist National Front Party in Great Britain. What this pointed out to me was that fascism and male chauvinism are the same thing, that the ideology of fascism and male chauvinism go hand in hand and that the fight against one is a fight against the other.

R.N., Honolulu

Bureaucrats and bankers

Dear Call:

In the Feb. 6 issue of The Call (p. 4), there is a story about the miners' strike. Perhaps nothing better symbolizes the struggle by rank-and-file unionists against Miller and the other UMW misleaders than the picture showing a miner holding a sign declaring Black Lung Disease. Note that he is protesting in front of the National Bank of Washington. This bank is owned by the UMW. Rather than use its funds to build a stronger union (organize the many unorganized mines, increase the strike fund, etc.), the union's misleaders have become bankers.

Apparently, they would rather be capitalists than fight capitalism. It would be interesting to see who banks at the National Bank, to whom the bank lends and on whom it forecloses, and in what areas the bank invests. I'd bet it would make interesting reading for the UMW rank and file.

A Midwest reader