

Petition: In Defense of the French Victims of de Gaulle's Repression

During the past weeks, the world has witnessed a dramatic struggle by the people of France against the intolerable social and political conditions created by an authoritarian government totally insensitive to even their basic needs. Sparked by the actions of the student population, the protest quickly spread through all of France, developing into the largest general strike in history.

The response of the de Gaulle government to this massive outpouring of grievances was not only to ignore the demands of the vast majority of the French population, but to brand them as subversive and dangerous, declare his rule over the country, and threaten the use of the army against the workers in the factories and the students in the schools and universities.

It is with deep concern now that Americans have learned that the de Gaulle government has continued and deepened its repression. In the past week students and workers have been killed by the brutal actions of the specially trained riot police. The government has banned demonstrations and warned that any would be "pitilessly" suppressed.

In addition, the de Gaulle government has banned and outlawed revolutionary student and labor organizations, and arrested some of their leaders. Up to sixty foreign journalists have been expelled from France along with two Canadian students.

The scope and gravity of these actions against the French people are further revealed with reports that de Gaulle is now preparing a coalition with right wing fascist generals.

In the light of this deteriorating situation, and the threat to the rights and well-being of the French people, we Americans who solidarize with the just struggle of the French workers and farmers and students and with the victims of the de Gaulle repression call upon the Government of France to:

- (1) Immediately lift the ban on the proscribed political organizations.
- (2) Release immediately all political prisoners.
- (3) Re-affirm the right of free access of foreign journalists to France.
- (4) Immediately end its brutal repression of demonstrations and its attacks on the civil liberties of the French people.

Thus far, the following people in Vancouver have signed the petition:
(Organizations listed for purposes of identification only)

- 1) Jim Harding (1st Vice-President SFU Student Council)
- 2) Dodie Wepler (Secretary of the SFU Student Council)
- 3) C. P. (Paddy) Neale (Secretary, Vancouver Labor Council)
- 4) Bob Clair (2nd Vice-President, Local 217 - Vancouver - of the International Woodworkers of America, Editor of The Barker)
- 5) Mordecai Briemberg (Assistant Professor, PSA Dept. at SFU)
- 6) Frank Snowsell (NDP Federal Candidate, Capilano)

7) Bill Deverell (NDP Candidate, Vancouver Centre Federal) 8) Garth Brown (NDP Vancouver East) 9) Dan McLeod (Editor, Georgia Straight) 10) Carol Anne Power (Communist Party) 11) John Mate (UBC student) 12) Amy Dalgleish (Provincial Executive member, BC NDP and Treasurer of the Co-ordinating Committee to End the War in Vietnam) 13) Joyce Meissenheimer (Organizing Committee of the CCEWV) 14) Judy Peterson (Secretary of the CCEWV) 15) Earl Mattingly (Surrey NDP and Surrey Committee to End the War in Vietnam) 16) Ken Turner (Burnaby NDP) 17) Phil Courneyeur (League for Socialist Action) 18) Beverly Gibbs (Young Socialists) and others.

Other signators will be listed on a later listing. Yet others are being solicited.

The above petition has been endorsed by the Student Council of Simon Fraser University (SFU).

For further information: Contact Bryan Waite, Pro-tem Chairman, Ad Hoc Committee to Defend Victims of de Gaulle Repression

Address: #404, 101 East 7th, Vancouver 10, B.C.,
Canada

Phone: 879-1177, 688-2594, 681-3847