

VANCOUVER VIETNAM ACTION COMMITTEE

(and its predecessor organizations)

an inventory of its archival fonds

in

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Special Collections

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April 1993



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Provenance: Vancouver Vietnam Action Committee
Vancouver Committee to End the War in Vietnam

Title: Vancouver Vietnam Action Committee fonds

Dates: 1966-1972

Physical desc.: 60 cm of textual records

Bio/Admin
History: The Vancouver Vietnam Day Committee was formed in 1966 through a coalition of several organizations that opposed the Vietnam War. A coordinating committee was established in 1968 to establish additional committees and organize demonstrations. A schism in the movement in 1969 led to the formation of the Vancouver Committee to End the War in Vietnam, which turned its assets over to the Vancouver Vietnam Action Committee later that year. At the conclusion of the war, the Committee ceased operations.

Scope/Content: The fonds consists of minutes, correspondence, financial records and printed material from various Vancouver-based organizations (including the Vancouver Vietnam Day Committee and the Vancouver Committee to End the War in Vietnam) opposed to the war in Vietnam (1966-1972).

Title source: Title based on the contents of the fonds.

Finding aids: Inventory available.

Repository: [University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections](#)

Names: Vancouver Vietnam Action Committee
Vancouver Vietnam Day Committee
Vancouver Committee to End the War in Vietnam

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HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In the city of Vancouver there has been a long tradition of radical political activism in opposition to war.

The B.C. Peace Council, whose participants included members of the Communist Party of Canada and groups with religious and philosophical pacifist beliefs, organized semi-annual demonstrations for nuclear disarmament beginning in the early 1960's.

As the Vietnam War escalated, these demonstrations grew in size and began to focus on issues related to the war. The March 1965 peace march had 150 participants, but in October 1965, participation grew to 500, according to the Pacific Tribune.

The Vancouver Viet Nam Day Committee was a broad coalition of individuals and representatives from left-wing political groups, student groups, labour organizations, and pacifist religions which undertook the mobilization of Vancouver's spring and autumn anti-Vietnam War demonstrations. It also sponsored public lectures and films, and organized demonstrations on other special occasions. While it remained broad-based in its political and philosophical ideology, its leadership was sometimes perceived to be influenced by the League for Socialist Action, a Trotskyist organization.

The Committee sponsored the formation of ad-hoc Committees to organize specific demonstrations, perhaps as a strategy to broaden the range of public support or to avoid liability for debts incurred. The Spring Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam was formed to organize the spring 1967 demonstration, and the October 21st Coordinating Committee organized the autumn 1967 march. The spring and fall 1968 demonstrations were organized by the Coordinating Committee to End the War in Vietnam, which by then had become the main ongoing organization.

As opposition to the war grew, it became more difficult for the Coordinating Committee to maintain unity among its diverse supporters. At a meeting on February 23, 1969, a faction with a New Left or Marxist ideology gained control of the Committee, and organized the April 7 demonstration around the theme "Solidarity with the N.L.F." The more moderate faction formed the April 6th Mobilization Committee, and there were two demonstrations that year.

The April 6th Mobilization Committee prevailed. It changed its name to the Vancouver Committee to End the Vietnam War, and sponsored the November 15th Vietnam Action Committee later in 1969. In December 1969 it transferred its assets to the newly-formed Vancouver Vietnam Action Committee.

The latter organization continued the role of organizing large-scale semi-annual demonstrations. The last one was in November 1972. By the spring of 1973, peace negotiations were underway between the United States and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and there was no reason for the continued existence of a Vietnam War protest movement.

The fonds was donated to Special Collections by Walter Walimaa on June 10, 1992.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The fonds comprises a complete record of the organizations that mobilized Vietnam War protests from 1966 to 1972. However, as one would expect from such a fluctuating, loosely-organized, and fractious movement, record-keeping was sporadic and internally inconsistent.

One series, a fat file folder labelled "Minutes of the Anti-War Movement, 1966-1972" was found to be relatively complete and chronologically arranged.

The fonds contains a large volume of printed ephemera generated by the Vancouver anti-war movement and by other organizations elsewhere. There is also correspondence, financial records, and other organizational records. All were found in a large transfer case, in no particular order. Most of the papers were in file folders, but there were also loose documents, and there were unrelated groups of documents within some folders.

The fonds was arranged into series representing the records of the various organizations. The series were arranged roughly into chronological order. The larger series were generally grouped into correspondence, ephemera, and financial records.

Because none of the organizations produced audited financial statements, all financial records were retained.

Files containing more than one form of material have their contents listed roughly in descending order of volume. For example, a file described as "correspondence, circulars, leaflets" should contain a larger volume of correspondence than circulars or leaflets.

VANCOUVER VIETNAM ACTION COMMITTEE FONDS

<u>Box-File</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>Box 1</u>	MINUTES OF THE ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT, 1966-1972.
1-1	1966
1-2	1967
1-3	Spring Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, 1967
1-4	1968
1-5	1969
1-6	1970
1-7	1971
1-8	1972
	VANCOUVER VIET NAM DAY COMMITTEE, 1966-1968
1-9	Correspondence with members, 1966-1967
1-10	Correspondence, circulars, leaflets, 1966
1-11	Correspondence, leaflets, summer 1966
1-12	Correspondence, notes re membership, autumn 1966
1-13	Correspondence re membership, autumn 1966
1-14	Phoning list, 1967
1-15	Mailing list, n.d.
1-16	Letter, itinerary and handbills for lecture by Staughton Lynd, 19 March, 1966
1-17	Handbills, press releases for demonstration, 26 March, 1966

Box-File

- 1-18 Leaflets re Hiroshima Day march, 6 August, 1966
- 1-19 Correspondence re Canadian Student Days of Protest, 11-12 November, 1966
- 1-20 Correspondence, handbills re lecture by Donald Duncan, 9 December, 1966
- 1-21 Correspondence, press release re Dave Dellinger meeting, 7 February, 1967
- 1-22 Correspondence re lecture by Sidney Lens, 18 March, 1967
- 1-23 Handbills, notes for demonstration for Lester B. Pearson, 31 March, 1967
- 1-24 Correspondence, circulars re demonstration at Expo '67, 1 July, 1967
- 1-25 Correspondence, press releases, leaflets, 1968
- 1-26 Fort Hood Three Defense Committee: correspondence, circulars, October 1966 - January 1967
- 1-27 Committee to Aid American War Objectors: correspondence, circulars, ca. 1967
- 1-28 Canadian Aid for Vietnam Civilians: correspondence, newsletters, circulars, 1966-1967
- 1-29 Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation: leaflets, pamphlets, circulars, press releases, letter, 1966-1967
- 1-30 Foundation bulletin / circulated by the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation. -- New York: the Foundation, 1967-....-- vol. 1, no. 1-....-- File contains v. 1, no. 1 to v. 1, no. 11.
- 1-31 Independent Socialist Union: publications

Box-FileBox 2

- 2-1 Student Association to End the War in Vietnam: circulars, reports, position papers, Bulletin of the Student Association to End the War in Vietnam, correspondence, 1966-1967.
- 2-1a Vietnam news letter. -- [Vancouver: UBC Vietnam Day Committee, 1966], -- File contains 3 issues, unnumbered.
- 2-1b Canada Vietnam newsletter. -- Ottawa: Ottawa Committee to End the War in Vietnam, 1967 --- Vol. 1, no. 1 (May 1966) -....-- File contains v. 1, no. 1; v. 1, no. 4, and v. 2, no. 6.
- 2-1c Canada Vietnam Newsletter: correspondence, Canada Vietnam newsletter. National Information Bulletin, 1966-1967.
- 2-1d Miscellaneous pamphlets, leaflets, circulars, newsletters received, 1966-1967
- 2-2 Newsletters, leaflets from Seattle libertarian organizations, ca. 1966
- 2-3 Outline of Vietnam history by Irving Stowe; miscellaneous pamphlets, circulars, leaflets, clippings, 1967
- 2-4 Clippings, 1966
- 2-5 Clippings, 1967
- 2-6 The Vancouver Viet Nam Day Committee Newsletter. -- Vancouver: the Committee, 1966-1968. -- [1966] - v.1, no. 7 (Sept. 1968)
- 2-7 Vietnam Protest -- Vancouver: Vancouver Vietnam Day Committee, 1966-1967. -- no. [1]-2 (summer 1966 - winter 1966-1967)
- 2-8 Submissions to Vietnam Protest, 1966-1967
- 2-9 Correspondence re submissions to Vietnam Protest, 1966-1967
- 2-10 Submissions to Vietnam Protest and correspondence, 1967
- 2-11 Reviews of anti-war pamphlets by Susan Pearce, n.d.

Box-File

- 2-12 Notes re consignment sales of literature, 1966-1967
- 2-13 Correspondence re sales of literature, 1966-1967
- 2-14 Paid invoices and receipts prior to June 8th, 1966
- 2-15 Bank statement, cancelled cheques, July-August 1966
- 2-16 Financial reports, invoices, autumn 1966, autumn 1967
- 2-17 Bank statements, cancelled cheques, banking correspondence, 1966-1967

SPRING MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE TO END THE WAR IN VIETNAM (1967)

- 2-18 Handbills, correspondence, meeting attendance lists, invoice, 1967
- 2-19 Spring Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam (U.S. organization): circulars, newsletters, 1967
- 2-20 Bank statements, cancelled cheques, 1967

TRADE UNIONISTS AGAINST THE WAR IN VIETNAM (1967)

Box 3

- 3-1 Minutes, handbills, spring 1967

OCTOBER 21st COORDINATING COMMITTEE (1967-1968)

- 3-2 Correspondence, financial reports, 1967
- 3-3 Financial reports, 1967-1968
- 3-4 Invoices, deposit book, correspondence re expenses, 1967
- 3-5 Bank statements, cancelled cheques, cheque stubs, 1967-1968

COORDINATING COMMITTEE TO END THE WAR IN VIETNAM (1968)

Box-File

- 3-6 Leaflets, April-July 1968
- 3-7 Correspondence, leaflets, handbills, circulars, mailing lists, press release, autumn 1968
- 3-8 Invoices, spring 1968
- 3-9 Invoices, autumn 1968
- 3-10 Invoices for Felix Green film, 1968
- 3-11 Receipt books, October 1967-October 1968
- 3-12 Cheque books, February-October 1968

APRIL 6th MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE (1969)

- 3-13 Correspondence, 1969
- 3-14 Press releases, leaflets, clippings, meeting attendance register, 1969
- 3-15 Correspondence, circulars, leaflets, press releases, clippings, 1969
- 3-16 Clippings, April 1969

VANCOUVER COMMITTEE TO END THE VIETNAM WAR (1969)

Box 4

- 4-1 Press releases, correspondence, leaflets, 1969
- 4-2 Circulars, clippings, press releases, correspondence, newsletters, 1969
- 4-3 Japan Congress against A- and H-Bombs: publications, 1968-1969

VIETNAMESE-AMERICAN-CANADIAN CONFERENCE
(1969: UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA)

Box-File

- 4-4 Correspondence, press release, agenda, review, July 1969.
- NOVEMBER 15th VIETNAM ACTION COMMITTEE (1969)
- 4-5 Leaflets, correspondence, press releases, autumn 1969
- VANCOUVER VIETNAM ACTION COMMITTEE (1969-1972)
- 4-6 Lists of volunteers, 1971?-1972?
- 4-7 Endorsement/donation forms, autumn 1971
- 4-8 Correspondence, press releases, clippings concerning parade permits, 1968-1972
- 4-9 Correspondence, December 1969 - April 1970
- 4-10 Correspondence, press releases, leaflets, May - November 1970
- 4-11 Petitions, letter, leaflet, clippings from labour unionists, autumn 1971
- 4-12 Correspondence, April - November 1971
- 4-14 Correspondence, 1971
- 4-15 Correspondence of Bob Sims, January 1972
- 4-16 Correspondence, December 1971 and spring 1972
- 4-17 Newsletter, November - December 1971
- 4-18 Press releases, leaflets, 1969-1970
- 4-19 Leaflets, clippings, press release, correspondence, 1970

Box-FileBox 5

- 5-1 Clippings re demonstration, November 1971
- 5-2 Leaflets, circulars, press releases, autumn 1971
- 5-3 Press releases, January 1972
- 5-4 Barry Weisberg: articles and resume', 1969-1972
- 5-5 Leaflets, press releases, spring 1972
- 5-6 Leaflet, autumn 1972
- 5-7 Ledger sheet, financial summaries of Vietnam Action events, 1968-1969
- 5-8 Ledger sheets, deposit book, invoices, 1969-1970
- 5-9 Financial statements, bank statements, cancelled cheques, invoices, autumn 1971 - spring 1972
- 5-10 Bank account ledger, August 1970 - November 1971
- 5-11 Bank statements, cancelled cheques, 1971
- 5-12 Invoices, 1969-1970
- 5-13 Invoices, receipts, interim cash statement for demonstration, October 31, 1970
- 5-14 Invoices, financial report, 1970
- 5-15 Invoices, 1970-1971
- 5-16 Receipt books, 1970-1971
- 5-17 Receipt book for donations, [1971]
- 5-18 Deposit book, 1970-1971
- CLERGY & LAYMEN CONCERNED (B.C.) (1971-1972)
- 5-19 Circulars, minutes, clipping, 1971-1972

OVERSIZE POSTERS

Map
Cabinet
13,
file "V"

4 posters