

To Our GI Brothers

On September 4th, we women will march on the Presidio. We're not marching on you. We're marching to stop that building going up behind Letterman. What's that hole there about? The army says it's a research institute to study tropical infectious diseases from Southeast Asia. Sounds humanitarian, doesn't it? They want to protect you from bug bites so you can get shot at while fighting in the Nam, Laos, Cambodia.

The government has always used "special weapons" against non-white people - like smallpox-infected blankets given to the Indians, atomic bombs dropped on Japan but not on Germany, napalm and plague in Korea, and now defoliants with thalidomide in SE Asia. That's why one of every 13 babies born in Vietnam will have serious birth defects. The government has refused to sign any international agreement which prohibits the use of chemical or biological warfare agents. And while making lots of noise about how they're destroying all those stockpiles of nerve gas (obsolete anyway), they're also building the Western Medical Institute of Research (WMIR).



2567-679
Star

Research on diseases that only attack one race could be used to develop cures for those diseases. But we don't believe that the US Army, with its history, is about to develop such sophisticated knowledge about diseases, and then not use that knowledge to create weapons.

We've been lied to a lot before. Did you get your choice of MOS? Or are you just doing the dirty work that the army is about to make a whole lot dirtier? We finally learned from the Pentagon Papers that the government has been lying about Vietnam for years. We can now figure out for ourselves why the government is so interested in tropical, SE Asian diseases for the future. If we fight the WMIR now, maybe we can prevent wars like the Nam later. Once the weapons are stockpiled, it will be much harder.

Do we think our march will stop WMIR? Not by a long shot. But it's a way of beginning to build the strength in the way we know best - by getting together. We know that your fight like ours, is against the army, too.

What Can You Do About It?

On Saturday, we'd like to meet you at the Lombard Street gate between 2pm and 3pm. Nothing would freak out base command more than the sight of a couple of hundred of GIs getting together with a thousand women at the entrance to the 6th Army HQ. If you're stuck in the hospital, you can fly a banner out the window.

Taking on command-level Army strategists takes people and organization. The Coalition Opposed to Medical and Biological Attack (COMBAT) held a press conference in early August just outside the Lombard gate, and organized general picketing of the contractor who's building WMIR. We women support the goals of COMBAT. You can help, too. Call 431-8080 to get in touch.

Why March on September 4th?

September 2nd is Vietnamese Independence Day. In 1945, the Vietnamese (then one country) threw out the Japanese and took control of their own lives. We women are marching to express our belief that the Vietnamese must be independent once again. We celebrate their fight for freedom along with demanding that the government no longer use, or plan to use, germ warfare against Asian people. We're marching because we're for life, not death.

