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Nationalists demonstrate in San Diego: Winning hearts and minds for the counterrevolutionary cause

Refighting the Vietnam War

The war caught up with **Nguyen Van Luy**, 72, on a quiet street in San Francisco. Luy, 72, was a rarity in the Vietnamese community—a left-wing editor who had opposed America's involvement in Vietnam all through the 1960s and '70s. Last spring a right-wing Vietnamese newspaper in Garden Grove, Calif., printed a story claiming that Luy was a supporter of the communist government in Hanoi. Three weeks later, as Luy and his wife arrived at their home one evening, a Vietnamese man met them on the sidewalk, pulled a handgun and squeezed off four shots. **Luy's wife died instantly; Luy, wounded in the abdomen, survived.** Four days later, a group calling itself the Vietnamese Organization to Exterminate Communists and Restore the Nation claimed responsibility for the shooting.

Nine years after the fall of Saigon, the war still echoes through Vietnamese refugee colonies all across America. Anticomunist sentiment runs deep among the 455,000 Vietnamese who have settled in the United States—especially among those who fought on the losing side. Militant nationalists still dream of the day when the Hanoi government will fall—and one prominent group supports a band of counterrevolutionary guerrillas that is said to be operating within Vietnam today. On any Sunday in the Vietnamese communities of Southern California, political rallies attract hundreds of refugees who wave yellow and red Vietnamese flags, sing patriotic songs and dig deep into

their pockets to support the resistance movement. "Everyone is still looking for the right time and right occasion to do something toward going back to Vietnam," says former Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky, who now lives in Huntington Beach, Calif.

Dark Side: As the attack on Luy and his wife suggests, exile patriotism has a darker side. Over the past several years, at least three refugees accused of sympathizing with Hanoi have been killed by unknown assailants, and dozens of other Vietnamese leaders have been attacked or threatened—usually because they questioned the resistance movement. "The war is still going on over here," says San Jose police officer Hai McKinney, a Vietnamese who was adopted by Americans as a boy. Refuse to contribute to the nationalists, McKinney says, and "they can always say you are procommunist." Criticize them, he adds, and "they'll gun you down, throw grenades in your house, do whatever they can."

Journalists seem particularly vulnerable. In 1982, Houston publisher Nguyen Dam Phong was shot and killed on his front lawn after he printed articles criticizing the resistance movement. Other publishers have been pressured with boycotts, and San Francisco police still haven't solved the 1981 murder of publisher

Lam Trong Duong—whose killing was claimed by the same group that allegedly hit the Luys. Resistance leaders deny any connection with the terrorist underground. Still, says Ky, "you never know what the young, fanatic, extremist nationalists might do."

The most visible nationalist group is the National United Front for the Liberation of Vietnam. Based in Orange County, Calif., and organized by former South Vietnamese Adm. Hoang Co Minh, the front finds supporters in the crowded refugee camps of Thailand. Front spokesman Tranh Minh Cong, a Santa Ana economist who once ran Saigon's national police academy, says Minh's guerrilla teams are now inside Vietnam, working "to win the hearts and minds of the people" for the counterrevolutionary cause. Cong says his Khang Chien ("the resistance") has 10,000 members in Vietnam—and no need for military support from any nation: "It's our turn now."

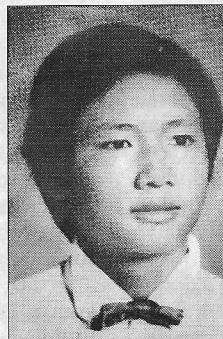
In the United States, the front recruits cadres of supporters who pledge financial aid and enlist others; it is particularly active in Southern California. But the group has been criticized for refusing to account for its finances. "That's something we don't want the enemy to know at the moment," says Cong, who insists the money buys medical supplies and food for the guerrillas and funds a radio station that began broadcasting last December.

Crime: Police say much of the violence in the Vietnamese community resembles the shakedown methods of criminal gangs, and it is almost impossible to know where crime leaves off and politics begins.* Last month, California State-Fullerton Prof. Edward Lee Cooperman—who traveled frequently to Vietnam and was regarded by many as a Hanoi sympathizer—was murdered. A Vietnamese man, Minh Van Lam, has been charged with the killing, but investigators believe it was not politically motivated.

Luy suspects that the Organization to Exterminate Communists itself may be an extortion gang trying to "scare people into giving them money." Still, those who doubted that Luy and his wife were prime targets for political assassination were startled by the terms of her will. She left her house to the government and people of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

RICHARD SANDZA in San Francisco

*Last month an anonymous witness told the president's Commission on Organized Crime that Ky himself is involved with such gangs—a charge Ky denies.



Lam: Political crime?

'God's Southern Gentleman'

Martin Luther King Sr. lay in an open casket, his hands clasping an open Bible. Before him was a remarkable congregation that had jammed Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church to honor the man they all called "Daddy." Former President Jimmy Carter was there, along with Vice President George Bush, Georgia's governor and U.S. senators and numerous other civil-rights leaders and politicians. In a



Abernathy greets Carter: 'Nonviolence'

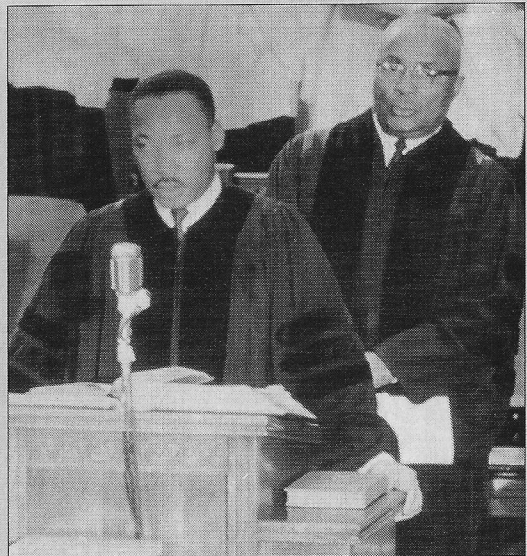
four-hour service, they took turns remembering King, who died last week of a heart attack at age 84. "He taught us well, to hate no one," declared the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy. Carter lionized him as "God's Southern gentleman." And the Rev. Jesse Jackson summed up the feelings of all present: "Martin Luther King, blessed be

the name. There's power in the name of a righteous man."

"Daddy" King was a sharecropper's son who plowed cotton behind a mule; he grew up to become the patriarch of the civil-rights movement, the father of Nobel Peace Prize winner Martin Luther King Jr. and a civil-rights hero in his own right. From the Ebenezer Baptist pulpit, where he preached for 44 years, Daddy King helped shape the destiny of a nation. In 1936 he led a protest march in downtown Atlanta so that he could register to vote. Twenty-four years later he helped make a president, swaying critical black voters behind the candidacy of John Kennedy. Four presidents later, King's influence was felt again. When Carter's campaign was almost derailed by his "ethnic purity" gaffe, King helped bail him out. Carter recalled how King ordered him to Atlanta for a rally, promising, "We'll see what we can do to repair the damage you've done yourself."

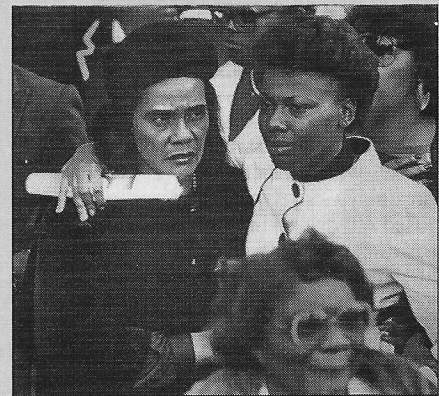
Serenity: Personal tragedy always seemed to stalk King's public triumphs. He lost two sons—Martin to an assassin's bullet in 1968 and his youngest, A. D., in a drowning accident a year later. And in 1974 Alberta, his wife of almost 48 years, was gunned down by a madman as she played the church organ. Still, he always exhorted his family to "be thankful for what we have left," and said he harbored no bitterness. In his 1981 autobiography, he wrote: "Nothing that a man does takes him lower than when he allows himself to fall so low as to hate anyone."

King's grandson, the Rev. Derek Barber King, delivered the eulogy for the



'Daddy' with Martin Jr. (1964): 'Be thankful'

family. In a sermon that brought Jackson and Abernathy to their feet to slap his back in pride, King preached from the Book of Job. "So Job died, being old and full of days," he began. And peering down at the old man in the mahogany coffin, King said, "Now, he too is free at last."



Coretta King with daughter: 'Job died'

The Olympic Surplus: Who Gets the Gold?

Perhaps the most remarkable record set at last summer's Olympic Games was in the fiscal competition. And last week the \$150 million windfall—10 times the original projection—was a prime topic of discussion at a Mexico City meeting of the International Olympic Committee. IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch said the LAOC should refund the \$7 million charged visiting teams for housing. "We have no right to claim," admitted Samaranch. "We have only the right to beg."

The IOC was not alone in feeling a dollar short. Staffers who worked 20-hour days, along with state agencies and local governments that bore some of the Games' costs,

have been complaining that they were misled. "The Olympic committee was crying poor all the time," says Kerry Fox, city attorney for Fullerton, site of the team handball competition. His city, says Fox, didn't blanch at absorbing \$142,000 in security costs because "it sort of seemed unpatriotic to doubt that they didn't have any more money to compensate us. I felt deceived when I heard the size of the surplus." Olympic workers got their first hint that the budget situation was not as precarious as advertised at an employee party held after the games. "One look at the alcohol, the lavish food, and the extravagant decorations," says one staffer, "and you knew."

So far, the Southern California Rapid Transit District—which chalked up a \$4.3 million deficit providing extra bus service to the Games—has been the only organization

to ask for a refund. LAOCOC general manager Harry Usher counters by charging the bus company with doctoring its books, and claims that "we dealt fairly and openly in all our negotiations."

The LAOCOC has earmarked \$75 million of its surplus for the U.S. Olympic Committee, \$50 million for youth sports programs in southern California and \$25 million for a reserve fund. According to USOC executive director Don Miller, a committee has been formed to "review and study" the possible redistribution of funds. In addition, a few million might even go to sports programs in Third World countries. The IOC, meanwhile, has already ensured that it won't have to go begging next time around. In 1988, organizers of the Calgary and Seoul Olympics will be obligated to turn over any surpluses to the international organization.