



VETERANS FOR PEACE

Veterans Working Together for Peace & Justice Through Non-violence. Wage Peace!

MINUTES VFP ANNUAL MTG 2000

VETERANS FOR PEACE , MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL
BUSINESS MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 2000, AT THE HILTON ARLINGTON
AND TOWERS,
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

OPENING REMARKS

President Steinhagen referred to his full written report from the Board of Directors, previously distributed (on file). He added several comments: the reason for choosing Las Vegas as the site for the board retreat was that it was the least expensive option for transportation and housing; the names of those nominated for possible election to the board of directors were John Amidon; Keith Boylan; David Cline; James Creaven (re-run, subsequently withdrew); Sanford Kelson (subsequently withdrew); John Kim; Alan Pogue (re-run); Wilson Powell; Luis Ramos; Luis Ramos; Barry Riesch; Lee Vander Laan; and Wayne Wittman. Also, a committee has been named (on file) to plan for financial and membership development. He described plans to consolidate financial accounting at HQ. (Subsequently postponed due to unexpected resignation of executive director Hari Scordo.) Finally, President Steinhagen congratulated Fredy Champagne and his colleagues on the upcoming VFP Iraq Water Project, and encouraged all VFP members to cooperate.

OPEN FORUM

Approximately two hours were devoted to the traditional opportunity for members to speak on any issue to the assembled members and friends.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

President Steinhagen presented the elections rules, adopted by the Board of Directors as required by the VFP ByLaws: "Ballots will be mailed out with a return envelope, another separate blank envelope and the ballot, with individual statements from each nominee (maximum 350 words) plus invited photo of each. After marking the ballot, it is to be inserted into the blank envelope, sealed, and placed in the return envelope. Returned ballots will be kept in the National Office, unopened until the time of counting. Return envelopes containing ballots will be checked against a membership list, opened with the return envelope in one batch, the blank envelope containing the ballot in another. Ballots will be counted by the staff of the National Office along with a sitting Board of Directors member who is not up for re-election, designated by the president."

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PRESENTATIONS BY THOSE BOARD NOMINEES PRESENT

A first-time feature of the annual membership meeting, made possible by the new bylaws adopted at the 1999 annual members meeting. Those speaking were Kelson, Vander Laan, Riesch, Powell, Wittman, Cline, Kim, Boylan (by Gustafson), Amidon, Pogue (by Carley), and Creaven. (Kelson and Creaven subsequently withdrew from the election.)

GREETINGS FROM ABROAD

Greetings of solidarity and cordiality were brought to the VFP members from several distinguished friends from other countries, and warmly received by the members.

TRIBUTE

George Johnson paid tribute to Charles Liteky, now in prison for one year for breaking the law by entering the School of the Americas.

TREASURERS' REPORT

Treasurer Sissy Goodwin reported to the members, suggesting that VFP needs at least 2,100 members to meet our needed budget. (Full report on file/) Goodwin congratulated Jim Creaven, membership chairman, and Luis Ramos for progress in membership and chapter development in Puerto Rico. He further suggested that members who introduce resolutions take leadership initiative in carrying out their intent.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive director Hari Scodo presented his report (on file) emphasizing that VFP HQ is reaching out to chapters and initiating members with funding for the VFP Zones of Concern Project (description on file). Approximately 2/3 of VFP income is going for program, and 1/3 for administration. There were only 600 paid members in August, 1999. It can be said now that there are about 2,000 members, considering paid and recently paid individuals.

BYLAWS AMENDMENT ON ANNUAL MEETING QUORUM

Alex Gillette, Philadelphia Chapter, proposed, and Robert Vandivier, national secretary, seconded: BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BYLAWS BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:
 ART. X, SEC. 2, QUORUM "ONE HUNDRED FULL AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT AT AN ANNUAL CONVENTION SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM" be replaced by "A MAJORITY OF FULL AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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WHO HAVE REGISTERED AT THE ANNUAL CONVENTION SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM". Adopted without opposition.

RESOLUTIONS

It was moved, seconded and approved (hereinafter MSA) that ALL PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS WILL BE VOTED UP OR DOWN WITHOUT SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENTS.

13 previously submitted resolutions, each having been considered by the board of directors, were presented, along with indications of approval or disapproval. (Disapproved resolutions require a 2/3 majority vote by the members in order to pass.)
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(Most of the resolutions are presented without the "Whereas" sections. Complete resolutions are on file.) The members heard the entire 13 resolutions before taking action agreeing or disagreeing with the board actions.

1. RESOLVED THAT CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS BE ENTITLED TO THE SAME LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP AS VETERANS. (Peter Diamondstone) The board disapproved. Members concurred with board.

2. (RESOLVED THAT) COMMUNICATIONS FROM VFP OR PERSONS REPRESENTING VFP, WHEN REFERRING TO U.S. POLICY VIS A VIS IRAQ, SHALL REFLECT WITH SPECIFICITY, VFP OPPOSITION TO THE USE OF MILITARY VIOLENCE AGAINST IRAQ, RATHER THAN THE EUPHEMISTIC LANGUAGE THAT CONCEALS MILITARY VIOLENCE. IN PARTICULAR, WORDS LIKE "ECONOMIC SANCTIONS" AND "EMBARGO" REFER TO A NATION'S ACTIVITIES WITH ITS OWN BORDERS, AND THEREFORE,

SHOULD NOT BE USED TO CLOAK MILITARY VIOLENCE AGAINST ANOTHER NATION. THE PRIMARY CONCERNS OF VFP SHOULD THE BLOACKADE, ENFORCEMENT OF SO-CALLED "NO FLY ZONES", AND BOMBING OF IRAQ. MILITARY VIOLENCE NO LESS BECAUSE THEY ARE BEING CARRIED ON BY SEA-BASED FORCES RATHER THAN LAND BASED. (Diamondstone) The board disapproved, not to enter the semantic debate. Members concurred with board.

3. RESOLUTION ON KOREA. RESOLVED THAT VFP CALLS UPON PRESIDENT CLINTON AND the U.S, CONGRESS TO TAKE ACTIVE MEASURES TO BRING THE KOREAN WAR TO AN END BY SIGNING A PEACE TREATY AND NOMALIZING OUR RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA; (FURTHER)..THAT VFP CALLS UPON U.S.

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GOVERNMENT TO TAKE STEPS TO WITHDRAW OUR 37,000 TROOPS FROM S. KOREA AND SAVE SOME \$25 BILLION PER YEAR IN MILITARY WASTE FROM SUCH WITHDRAWAL; (FURTHER)..THAT VFP DECIDES TO SEND AN OFFICIAL DELEGATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO BOTH KOREAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATING THE ALLEGATION OF U.S. WAR CRIMES IN KOREA AS WELL AS TO PROMOTE RECONCILIATION AND FRIENDSHIP WITH THE KOREAN PEOPLE. (John Kim) The board disapproved in that war crimes investigation and sending delegation to Korea are too expensive and beyond our scope. Members (a) voted MSA to rescind prior vote prohibiting amendments, and (b) voted MSA to approve the resolution by more than the required 2/3 majority after inserting the words "AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE" after ".send an official delegation."

4. RESOLUTION ON ANTIPERSONNEL LANDMINES..THAT VFP CALLS UPON PRESIDENT CLINTON TO ACCEDE TO THE OTTAWA TREATY AT ONCE, WITHOUT FURTHER EXCUSE OR DELAY; (FURTHER).. THAT VFP CALLS UPON THE CONGRESS TO OUTLAW ALL PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILE OF ANTIPERSONNEL LANDMINES IN THE U.S.; AND (FURTHER)..THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE MAILED TO THE PRESIDENT AND ALL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. (Kim) Board approved. Members concurred.

5 DISCONTINUANCE OF JROTC IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS..THAT VFP OPPOSES JROTC

PROGRAMS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE U.S., AND CALLS FOR THEIR DISCONTINUANCE. (Don Thompson, Gen. George Marshall VFP Chapter #63)
Board approved. Members concurred.

6. AGAINST WEAPONS AND NUCLEAR POWER IN SPACE ..THAT VFP SUPPORTS THE GLOBAL NETWORK AGAINST WEAPONS AND NUCLEAR POWER IN SPACE, AND (FURTHER)..THAT VFP URGES ITS MEMBERS TO WORK WITH GLOBAL NETWORK IN ANY WAY FEASIBLE TO PREVENT THE U.S. FROM DEPLOYING WEAPONS AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN OUTER SPACE. (Thompson) The board approved. Members concurred.

7. UNITED NATIONS FUNDING ..THAT VFP URGES THAT THE U.S. OBLIGATIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS BE PAID IN FULL, PROMPTLY, AND WITHOUT CONDITIONS. (Everett Refior, Whitewater, Wisconsin) Board approved. Members concurred.

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8. COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY ..THAT VFP ENCOURAGES DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE STATES WHERE SENATORS WHO VOTED AGAINST THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY ARE SEEKING REELECTION. (Refior) Board approved. Members concurred.

9 OPPOSITION TO "STAR WARS" ..THAT VFP SUPPORTS THE ABM TREATY AND OPPOSES PLANS FOR A MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM. (Refior) Board approved. Members concurred.

10. INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT ..THAT VFP URGES THE U.S. TO PROMPTLY RATIFY THE ROME AGREEMENT AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN CREATING THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT. (Refior) Board approved. Members concurred.

11 MILITARY BUDGET REDUCTION ..THAT VFP URGES SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN U.S. DEFENSE SPENDING (EXCEPT FOR MILITARY PAY AND BENEFITS AND VETERANS' BENEFITS), AND NEGOTIATIONS FOR WORLDWIDE ARMS REDUCTIONS. (Refior) Board approved. Members concurred.

12 UNITED NATIONS POLICE FORCE ...THAT VFP URGES

PROMPT AND FAVORABLE ACTION BY CONGRESS ON HR 4453 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION (Note: Regarding HR 4453, the second "whereas clause" describes this "McGovern-Porter bill", as calling for the U.S. to support creation of an interim volunteer U.N. Police and Security Force that could be deployed anywhere in the world within 15 days of a Security Council resolution authorizing such deployment; and could remain for up to six months or until replaced by contingents of national armed forces.) AND (FURTHER)..THAT VFP URGES PROMPT AND FAVORABLE ACTION BY CONGRESS ON HR 4453 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION. (Refior) Board approved. Members concurred.

13 ...THAT VFP WAGE PEACE. (P. Jesse Perrier, Smedley Butler Chapter) Board disapproved as unclear and not targeted. The members moved and passed (MSA) a motion to table.

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE SUBMITTED AT THE CONVENTION AND THUS REQUIRED A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR PASSAGE:

14. RELEASE OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENTS ..THAT VFP WRITE A LETTER TO THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT IN PUERTO RICO DEMANDING THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALL THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENTS INCARCERATED. (Luis R. Ramos, Chapter #81, San Juan, P.R.) MSA.
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15. AGAINST THE MILITARY PRACTICES IN VIEQUES ..THAT VFP WRITE A LETTER TO PRESIDENT CLINTON DEMANDING THE IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF THE PRACTICES IN VIEQUES, AND (FURTHER) ..THAT VFP URGE ALL ITS MEMBERS TO ENGAGE IN PROTEST ACTIONS AT U.S. NAVY BASES ACROSS THE COUNTRY, AND TO SUPPORT THE SEPTEMBER 22 DAY OF PROTEST BEFORE THE WHITE HOUSE. (Ramos) MSA.

16. TO EXPRESS VFP'S SOLIDARITY WITH PEOPLE OF OKINAWA, KOBE AND HIROSHIMA. ..VFP OPPOSES THE TRANSFER OF FUTEMA BASE ELSEWHERE IN OKINAWA OR TO JAPAN; (FURTHER) ..THAT IT STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF OKINAWA, WHO IN THEIR 1996 REFERENDUM, OVERWHELMINGLY REJECTED U.S. BASES, VFP CALLS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL U.S. TROOPS, BASES AND

MILITARY INSTALLATIONS
FROM OKINAWA;
(FURTHER) ..VFP CALLS ON THE U.S. AND JAPAN TO
RESPECT THE NUCLEAR
FREEDOM OF KOBE, HIROSHIMA AND JAPAN, AND
(FURTHER) ..THAT THIS RESOLUTION BE FORWARDED TO
THE BOSTON OKINAWA
COMMITTEE, C/O AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE
COMMITTEE. (Bob Heberle,
Chapter 27, Minneapolis/St. Paul) MSA

17. END THE "NO-FLY ZONES" OVER IRAQ ..THAT VFP AND
ITS CHAPTER WILL
STRONGLY CONDEMN THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF
THE "NO-FLY ZONES" BY
CONTACTING THEIR STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS
IMMEDIATELY. (Tom Gale,
VFP Samantha Smith Chapter #45, Beverly, Mass.) MSA

18. PRESIDENT TO SIGN THE U.N. RESOLUTION TO RAISE
MINIMUM MILITARY
SERVICE AGE TO 18 YEARS; EXPAND HIGH SCHOOL LIFE-
AFFIRMING PROGRAMS
..THAT VFP, AS THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE CITIZENS OF
THE MILITARY
INSTITUTION, WITH MISSION OF ABOLISHING WAR, (1)
CONTACT AND URGE
CONGRESS TO RAISE THE MILITARY MINIMUM AGE FROM
17-YEARS TO 18-YEARS,
WHICH WILL ELIMINATE THE NEED TO TARGET HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS; (2) URGE
PRESIDENT CLINTON TO SIGN THE U.N. RESOLUTION
RAISING THE MINIMUM AGE TO
18 YEARS; AND (3) ENCOURAGE SCHOOLS TO ADOPT
NEW AND EXPAND EXISTING
PROGRAMS THAT ARE LIFE- AFFIRMING AND PROMOTE THE
POSITIVE, HEALTHY
GROWTH OF OUR YOUTH. (Gale) MSA

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19. DEFEAT THE "AMERICAN SERVICE MEMBERS ACT OF
2000" ..THAT VFP HQ AND
CHAPTERS CONTACT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO
DEFEAT "THE AMERICAN SERVICE
MEMBERS ACT OF 2000" , S2726 AND HR4654. (Gale) MSA

20. GLOBAL NETWORK'S OCTOBER ACTION. ..THAT VFP
CHAPTERS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS PARTICIPATE,
WHEREVER FEASIBLE, IN THE GLOBAL NETWORK
AGAINST WEAPONS AND NUCLEAR POWER IN SPACE
INTERNATIONAL PROTEST ON OCTOBER 7 BY
ORGANIZING OR JOINING A COMMUNITY ACTION,
AND/OR USING SOME OTHER WAY OF INFORMING THE
PUBLIC. (Peter B. Shaw, Chapter 47, Pittsburgh) MSA

21. EX-COMBATANTS IN EL SALVADOR. ..THAT WAYNE
WITTMAN BE AUTHORIZED TO
RECRUIT AND COORDINATE A VFP VISITING TEAM TO

JOURNEY TO EL SALVADOR AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE AND DEVELOP MEANS TO ENHANCE CONTACTS BETWEEN VFP AND DISABLED EX-COMBATANTS IN EL SALVADOR. (Wayne Wittman, VFP Chapter 27) MSA

22. ST. PAUL POLICE ASSIGNED TO UNDERCOVER POLICE ACTIVITIES AT RECENT GENETICS CONFERENCE IN MINNEAPOLIS.. THAT VFP EXPRESSES ITS GRAVE CONCERN ABOUT THE ACTIONS OF THE ST. PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS POLICE AT THE RECENT GENETICS CONFERENCE AND DIRECT THE MEMBERS OF VFP IN THESE COMMUNITIES TO DISCERN THE FACTS AND REPORT THEIR FINDINGS TO THE VFP CONVENTION IN 2001; AND (FURTHER) ..THAT VFP CHAPTER 27 TAKE ACTIONS NEEDED TO SURVACE THE FACTS AND DO WHAT IS APPROPRIATE TO PROTECT, PROMOTE AND INSURE OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS. (Wittman) MSA

FURTHER COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

? VFP membership rules should be modified to remove membership barrier of requiring "proof of honorable discharge".

? Living members of the Lincoln Brigade should be honored whenever feasible.

? VFP should develop a "legislative alert" system, perhaps using a planned egroup system.

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? VFP should consider developing a "Charlie Litekey Watch" and an "Iraq Watch" to keep track of VFP members at risk.

ADJOURNMENT

The annual business meeting of VFP members was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert C. Vandivier, National Secretary, VFP

VFP BOARD MINUTES, SUN 8/12/00

VETERANS FOR PEACE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF MEETING SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 2000

THE HILTON ARLINGTON AND TOWERS, ARLINGTON
VIRGINIA

PRESENT: Atkins (part time); Barfield; Brailsford; Champagne;
Creaven;
Goodwin; Shaw; Steinhagen; Vandivier.
ABSENT: Gustafson; Pogue

CALL TO ORDER

The board was called to order in executive session by President Steinhagen at 8:30 a.m. Principal order of business to discuss issues related to VFP checking accounts being in two banks, and to follow up on 8/10 board decision to integrate the two major VFP bank accounts.

VFP ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS

Following the direction of decisions from the 8/10/00 meeting of the board, President named a committee to work on any possible problems related to the existence of two separate accounts, and to develop a plan to meld both systems into one overall accounting system for VFP.

The committee: Wayne Wittman, chair; Hari Scordo, executive director; Ellen Barfield; Robert Vandivier; Charles Atkins. The committee was asked to undertake the following:

1. VFP financial books presently being kept in Columbia, MO, should be closed on August 31, 2000. All records should be shipped to the VFP national office. Columbia will pay all bills in their possession up to the date of August 31, 2000.
2. Chairman Wayne Wittman will come to Washington DC in September to work with executive director Hari Scordo to reconcile the financial records kept in the national office.
3. The committee will search out and select a private accountant/accounting firm to be the on-going keeper of VFP financial records. The firm or person selected to be the keeper of VFP records may or may not be a CPA firm depending on the recommendation of the committee.
4. Copies of the grant proposal on Zones of Concern should be sent to VFP directors Barfield, Brailsford and Champagne.

5. Guidelines are to be set up and published so that VFP chapters can know the rules governing dispersal of any VFP grant, including as appropriate how to apply for grant funds. The committee should investigate the need for a Grant Committee to approve/disapprove of applications for grant money. The executive director would be a member of such a committee.

BOARD ELECTION

President Steinhagen reminded those present that among the seven members running for election, those receiving the least votes will fill the existing (one year) vacancies resulting from '99 resignations.

ADJOURNMENT

The board was adjourned approximately 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert C. Vandivier, National Secretary, VFP