

Let Us Support Our Fighting Men

By Al Buchholz

I came uneasy to my country. My birth was shrouded by the clouds of war.

I was far too young to have had a hand in it — but I was, after all, born in one of the Axis nations. After living a year under Russian occupation, I had a chance of meeting the fighting men of America. And I knew that instead of bringing revenge they brought gum.

And they talked about home. They talked eternally about home. They were strange men on strange ground and while we, as children, looked up to them, they still scared us a little. But as the years passed, and the talk became deeds, the fear was replaced by respect. America put away bitterness, not to be forgotten, but so it wouldn't interfere with the main job of helping people.

Because of my experiences, the opportunity of living in the United States gives the words, "Peace on Earth Toward All Men of Good Will", a deeper meaning for me.

Now, as another Christmas approaches, it's my strange fighting men on another strange ground.

Now, as then, it's hard to be away from home at Christmas.

Now, as then, there's a reason it has to be done.

Occupation by Chairman Mao is no different from occupation by the Russians. Czechoslovakia wants freedom as much as America but doesn't have the means to pursue and retain it. Whereas freedom is the right at birth of all men we find it our duty to answer the call and come to the assistance of freedom seeking men.

We thought for the moment in the session halls of the United Nations.

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support in his struggle. We haven't joined with his enemy to defeat his aim. And we won't let him down by misinforming him about our feelings.

This Christmas it's time for a moratorium. A moratorium against doubt. A moratorium against failure to speak up. A moratorium to reassure our brothers and sons that we know why they can't be with us and that we're sharing the pain of their absence.

It didn't make headlines because it was done thoughtfully and quietly, but just a few weeks ago, in thousands of smaller communities across the nation, Americans stood in chill winds in parks and on court house lawns. They heard amateur speakers give voice on Veteran's Day to the real feelings in the land. Feelings which tend to be smothered by shouting antics in Chicago court rooms. The deeper feelings which must be conveyed to the Americans who stand for us in the defense of freedom.

May I call on you in asking our Commander in Chief, U.S. Forces, Republic of Vietnam, to pass on your feelings of support to our fighting men. Send a card to General Creighton W. Abrams Headquarters, U.S. Forces, Republic of Vietnam, APO 96604.

Ed. Note: — From our standpoint of view, it would be more appropriate to write a semi-personal letter addressed to any American Soldier in care of General Abrams

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We hope Christmas is joyful for you!

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