Socialist At WRC Rakes U.S. Foreign Policies

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Joe Britton, the Midwest Organizer of the Young Socialist Alliance, a Marxian-Socialist organization, spoke in the Will Rice Commons last Sunday on U.S. foreign policy.

With reference to Viet Nam, the Congo, and Cuba, Mr. Britton contended that national self-determination has not been a goal of United States action, but that the economic interests of a minority of Americans have had undue influence on policy. He also charged that news received in the United States has been partially determined by our government's action to present a good image to the American public.

Cites 'Mismomer'

Mr. Britton cited as examples the unpopularity of Syngman Rhee's government in Korea and Batista's Cuban regime to support his contention that the term "free world" is a "mismomer." The U.S. is "looking at the world through rose colored glasses," according to Britton, when it ignores such U.S.

actions as the recent removal of a reporter who was expelled from Viet Nam because of his articles discussing the unpopularity of the Diem regime.

Also cited was the incident in which a Time reporter was asked to rewrite his article according to the picture the United States government wished to present.

Mr. Britton said that the fact that the United States often supports unpopular governments has led to our unpopularity in the world. He mentioned Nixon's stoning in South America and the unwillingness of the secret service to let Eisenhower go to Japan as proof of this unpopularity.

Viet Nam Presence Unjust

Our action in Viet Nam, according to Mr. Britton and the Young Socialist Alliance, is not based on Viet Nam's interest. He termed the belief that we were invited by a representative government in Viet Nam a myth. The Young Socialist Alliance favors United States withdrawal from Viet Nam.

The YSA believes that the Congo operation which has been called a "United States Mercy Mission" was actually planned far in advance to cut down rebel activity against what it terms the "oppressive and immoral" Tshombe regime. That

Tshombe is forced to hire so many mercenaries is proof to Mr. Britton that the Tshombe government is acting against the interests of the majority of the Congolese people. Many of the Associated Press reports of the mercenaries atrocities were quoted. Mr. Britton stated, "This is American foreign policy in action."

U.S. Supported Rightists

Finally, Mr. Britton interpreted the recent history of Cuba. The U.S. supported the "right wing corrupt dictatorship" of Batista. Being allowed no other means, a "grass-roots" movement turned to revolutionary ones and carried out land and urban reforms.

In carrying out these reforms the revolutionaries were forced to turn to Socialism and against the United States' economic interests in Cuba according to Britton. He feels this revolution represents the truth of the theory of permanent revolution important to the modern Marxian.