

"AN INVASION OF CALIFORNIA"

A Radio Play on the theme of  
NON VIOLENT RESISTANCE

Arranged by Richard Moses

Available through the Courtesy of Motive Magazine,  
the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the American  
Friends Service Committee. This radio drama is  
most effective if the nine "players" stand informally  
around a central mike and step up to read when  
their turn comes. The reading should be slow and  
careful, with emphasis on the voice as the conveyor  
of dramatic action rather than the actions of an  
actual stage play. Other than the real (or mock)  
mike, no props are needed.

American Friends Service Committee  
Program on Non Violence  
160 North 15th Street  
Philadelphia 2, Pa.

AN INVASION OF CALIFORNIA

(Anonymous)

Cast: (possible grouping for nine players)

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Announcer               | 7. Mason (labor leader)                |
| 2. Joan Alden              | Train Dispatcher                       |
| 3. San Francisco Announcer | 8. Mrs. Johnson (housewife)            |
| 4. President               | Mary (small girl)                      |
| Minister                   | 9. Margaret (wife of train dispatcher) |
| 5. Soldier                 |  |
| 6. Cathedral Announcer     | (Naturally, each character can be      |
| News Boy                   | assigned a different player if so      |
| Grocer                     | desired.)                              |
| Bob (small boy)            |  |

ANN: (More or less ad lib) In just a few minutes, ladies and gentlemen, we shall be going on the air. When I raise my hand, may we have absolute silence. (looks at watch - raises hand -)

This is the American Broadcasting System bringing over its regular network, short wave stations and affiliated foreign stations, a speech by the President of the United States. With the attack on Hawaii yesterday and the impending invasion of the West Coast by the armed forces of Stonia, the President has cancelled all scheduled appointments to bring this message to the people. The President will be introduced by Mrs. Joan Alden, chairman of the White House Non-violent Strategy Board. Mrs. Alden -

ALDEN: The hour for testing is at hand. Twenty years ago our nation decided that the thousands of years in which violence had failed to establish peace or justice was a costly experiment best ended. We have been prepared through schools, and churches, newspapers and radio for defense through non-violence. We have tested ourselves domestically in areas of race relations, industrial problems and the like. The entire people have committed themselves and are ready to die in the faith that all men are brothers.

As you know, the American government has attempted unsuccessfully to arbitrate the differences between the countries of Pan Costia and Stonia concerning freedom of the Pacific seas. When two years ago, war broke out between these countries, we immediately stopped all exports to them with the exception of food, medical supplies, and other non-war materials. This meant, among other things, termination of a trade agreement to supply Stonia with 60 billion gallons of crude oil annually. The decision, strongly protested by the Stonian Ambassador, was reached upon the advice of our Congressional Peace and Economics Committees.

On July third, the Stonian government declared that it would be forced to invade us in order to secure the necessary oil.

ALDEN: To this our government replied: "The United States has for the past twenty years pursued a policy of non-violence. Non-cooperation with war and other injustice is an essential step which we are forced to take. Therefore, we are convinced that to carry through with this trade agreement would not merely violate our basic beliefs and practices but would also do injustice ultimately to Pan Costia and to you. We must follow this course even though we recognize that the grievances which you have against Pan Costia have a real basis in fact. We are not isolationists retreating from our responsibility for international morality. We are willing to send non-violent troops to Pan Costia to work with the underground opposing the aggressive policy of the militarist leaders against your country when you are prepared to join us in such a struggle. We wish to continue conversations on this matter."

But yesterday, Stonian forces attacked Hawaii. In the face of possible invasion of the American continent, the President now speaks. Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States.

PRES.: Fellow citizens - attack seems inevitable. I call upon you to be strong in your resistance. Be firm in your allegiance to our way of life. Do not submit to the invader, but neither must you give way to anger and hatred.

Some among our people will die, but we know how to face death with courage. All of us are pledged to die rather than to cooperate with the enemy. Remember in this hour what is at stake, your nation, its way of life, and our Stonian Brothers. Remember, now, the heroes of Hawaii who are dying rather than submit.

And now to you across the water who call yourselves our enemies, say I repeat; Today we remain ready as always to discuss with you our common problems, to help solve our common difficulties. You will find no missiles based along our coasts, no war planes or ships. No nuclear weapons or bombs. Our voluntary inability to resist with violence is our pledge of good faith. But if you persist in this attack, we will not submit. Remember the words of Napoleon, the greatest of soldiers: The spirit has always conquered the sword. (APPLAUSE)\*

ANN: You have just heard the voice of the President. Here is a late news bulletin from Washington" Civilian Preparedness officials tonight issued last minute instructions to all citizens. First all arms now being held by sportsmen are to be turned in to local police departments immediately. Second, all intoxicating liquors are to be destroyed at once. Third, all aged, sick and infirm persons believed unable to resist the invader are to be evacuated inland at once. And now for an eyewitness report, we take you to San Francisco, where a mobile transmitter unit is on the scene. Come in San Francisco.

SF ANN: From this hill overlooking the city, I can see the hills back of the harbour, hazy and blue in the distance, and feel on the face the warm breeze from the ocean. Below two freighters have just entered the harbour and are making their way past the city to the docks. In the streets people go about their business as usual. Yet there is a sense of tension here, for an assault upon the city is expected momentarily. Civilian Preparedness officials here

- SF ANN: here are completing their plans, urging the people to be calm and go about their normal duties. They have just announced that the baseball game scheduled for this afternoon will be played as usual. We return you now to New York.
- ANN: Thank you, San Francisco. We shall hear once more from Joan Alden, chairman of the non-violent strategy board. She has gone to the Pacific Coast to supervise our program of resistance. Mrs. Alden.
- ALDEN: When the general order comes, each man and woman is to be in his place. I am confident in your abilities because of the many experiences we have had in dealing with internal conflicts of race, economics and the like. Just a few last words to those groups which have a wide and unique function. Wardens: Follow the second block plan outlined on page 66 of the manual. We may change to the double block plan but only at the point of attack upon women and children. Shock troops: Remain in the streets at all hours with teams working the prescribed order in two hour shifts. Coast Guard: It is reported that large barges are approaching. If barges collide or invaders fall overboard, stand by to assist in all rescue operations. Medical Corps: Be prepared with litters and supplies for all persons, whether American or Stonian. Train Dispatchers and other transportation officials: No equipment to any person without signed orders. Housewives: Go about your business as usual, shopping, cleaning, cooking, etc., until further orders.
- Finally, all Americans: Remember these three things:
1. No one is to furnish any supplies to the invader or to perform any service for him other than those outlined in our disciplinary code.
  2. No one is to obey any orders except those given by authorized officials.
  3. No one is to willfully injure or insult any of the invading army.
- ANN: Thank you, Joan Alden. Another news bulletin: Hawaii: There have been heavy casualties here, but the government reports that citizens refuse to submit to the invader. The following eyewitness account was broadcast over a local station early today - it is typical of scenes occurring throughout the islands. "One of the bravest things I have ever seen was the way our people marched out into the square. They hate physical pain but they knew what they were in for today. Some of them quite confidently believed they would soon be dead. Then the enemy approached. In a few seconds the square was a shambles of reeling, bleeding men. Men warded off blows with their bare arms, women stood by their sides. I was near one of our leaders as he was struck on the head with a club, over and over again. He staggered and fell, but forced himself to his feet again, hands at his side. As I watched, the soldier drew back his arm for a final swing, then dropped his club. 'It's no use,' he said, 'You can't hit a man when he stands up to you like that.'" We return to San Francisco for a special broadcast from the Cathedral of Nations.
- CATH.  
ANN: (In a hushed voice) We are standing now inside the Cathedral of Nations in the heart of downtown San Francisco. In just a moment we shall broadcast a memorial service for the brave men and women of Hawaii who are giving their lives for their country and truth...Here in the city the people remain busy but calm, having taken new courage from the President's speech. The example of Hawaii assures them that unarmed they too can meet the assault of the invader. The time is 12:30 and the invasion is expected at any moment...Now the minister has entered - he kneels ---

DIS: Well, this a surprise - the whole family bringing my lunch today - Mother, Mary, Bobby --

MARG: Oh, Charles, I must talk with you. You heard Joan Aiden. Well Bobby was in the square in front of the Palace Hotel when they came in --

BOB: Yeah, Dad, and I heard the general, I guess he was, tell the men to get trains to send soldiers away - San Jose, I think.

DIS: Hmm, that means they'll come to me. They'll demand that I give 'em cars and clear the tracks.

MARY: Daddy, - you'll have to -- they'll kill you like they did Helen Jones' father when he wouldn't put up the flag at the Hotel. Oh, Daddy!

MARG: Charles, I don't know. I listened to Joan Aiden. I thought about all we've been through and trained for all these years. But somehow, I'm not sure. Inside everything seems mixed up. I know we ought not to cooperate with them, but what can we really do now? They're here, they're killing hundreds. They're taking most of the food. Wouldn't it be better to just..... Oh, I don't know.

MARY: Oh, Daddy, Daddy!

DIS: I must stop them, Margaret.

MARG: I don't know, I just don't know....Sometimes I think....Charles, I can't think of the children without food, I can't think of you....Oh, Charles are you sure it will work?

DIS: Margaret, there are times when I've wondered.

MARG: What is we die? What about the children?

DIS: I have been thinking about you and the children since yesterday when we were sure the attack would come. I lay awake most of the night. They will come, I thought. They will come to me. What can I do? Will anything I say stop them? A thousand times over, I saw you and the children as I lay there awake. I knew there was only one thing I could say when they came: I can't help you, on this I stand, I can do no other. Yes, Mother, I have wondered....

MARY: Oh, Daddy - here they come. Look over there, by the coal cars.

DIS: All right, Mary, go home with Mother. Goodbye, little ones.

BOB/MARY: Goodbye, Daddy.

DIS: Margaret, there's no way to know if one really is non-violent until the test has come. They are almost here, dear. Go, now. I'll do my best. If I'm not home for supper - then don't expect me.

(FADE IN SOUND OF SOLDIER COUNTING CADENCE)

Goodbye, Margaret, goodbye.

SOLD: I am the lieutenant in command of troop movement. You are the chief train dispatcher?

DIS: I am.

SOLD: The commanding general has ordered the 7th division to move into San Jose immediately. We are commandeering two trains for that purpose. Please assemble them and clear the tracks. Move fast. Troops will be here in 15 minutes.

DIS: I'm sorry, sir, but we cannot furnish you or any other soldier with such facilities.

SOLD: Do you refuse? Order your men to begin at once! I don't want to shoot you.

DIS: I cannot comply with your orders.

SOLD: Order your men to begin at once!!

DIS: I cannot do so.

SOLD: I said, ORDER YOUR MEN TO BEGIN AT ONCE!! (Pause) You do not speak? CORPORAL! This man is your prisoner. Take him out. MARCH!

SF ANN: From a little distance we are following the soldiers as they leave with the dispatcher. Other men have been rounded up, too. They are lined up against the wall. The dispatcher is saying something to the soldiers. Something's happened! Can't quite see -- but the officer continues to storm and shout at his men. Apparently the soldiers are not carrying out his order. Yes! That's it! They are lowering their guns. The officer has whipped out his revolver. He is pointing it at his own men. They are refusing to obey him. He has pointed it at the railroad man. He's fired! The train dispatcher has fallen. He's fired again -- and again --. He's done it -- He has shot the railroad man and two of his own men. He is walking hurriedly away...One of his soldiers is running after him. The soldier has struck him down. There is great excitement in the street. Troops are pouring into the square from all sides. From here, I can't see just what's going on, but I'm sure he shot the dispatcher and two of his own men and that he was struck down.

MRS. J: Did you hear what happened?

SF ANN: Not everything. What's going on?

MRS. J: That railroad man they just shot. He asked the soldiers if he could pray, and then he prayed for the enemy and those soldiers who were going to shoot him. He said something like: Oh, Lord, root out of our hearts all pride and fear and anger, for these are the things which make wars possible. At that, the soldiers refused to fire and the officer had to shoot the man himself.

ANN: We'll have to break in here. Bulletins are piling up from everywhere. LOS ANGELES: Troops have landed in large numbers here, to be met by unarmed citizens who filled the streets so the soldiers could not pass. At first several hundred citizens were killed by machine gun fire, but as the troops moved on, butcher of unarmed and friendly civilians became too much for them and they refused orders to continue firing. Because of the thousands of civilians filling the streets, troops have not yet reached the City Hall,

MONTEREY: Interference by the invader with the food supply here has caused a strike at all warehouses. Supplies have stopped coming in and civilians are evacuating the city by train and auto and on foot. By nightfall the city will have become virtually a ghost town.

SALINAS: Two deserters from the invading army told officials today they were totally unprepared for the reception they got. One was quoted as saying: Battle, they told us, big battle! You'll be risking your life for your country. But there ain't been no battles. We came to kill lousy enemies, but these people act like they like us. We're soldiers. We didn't come here to man power plants and shovel coal. We've had to run streetcars, railroads, and busses; man, we even had to make our own bread. An army can't run a whole country. What kind of war is this? We've tried to put a scare into these people, we've bullied 'em, shot 'em, and everywhere it's always the same: No matter how much we make 'em suffer, they keep smillin' at ya 'til ya can't look 'em in the eye for shame. They treat us like friends, but they won't help us a bit. Man, I can't figger it.

WASHINGTON: The office of Civilian Preparedness issues the following statement: There has been widespread destruction and loss of life. Thousands of civilians have been shot down. Women have been attacked, though determined non-violent resistance by courageous men has kept these attacks to a minimum. Everywhere the enemy is meeting resistance, yet everywhere families are opening their homes to troops, feeding them, sharing whatever they have with the invading army. In Portland, the mayor courteously received the enemy commander. Refusing to surrender, he was taken prisoner. The people refused to obey the orders of the traitor whom the commander appointed to take his place. Soldiers ordered to fire on the unarmed people refused to do so and an entire regiment has been courtmartialled.

The spirit is conquering the sword!

And now the President speaks again. Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States.

PRES: Fellow citizens, I have rather saddening news. Despite Stonia's military censorship, we have just learned that unprecedented rains in Stonia for the last week have resulted in disastrous floods which have wiped out many villages and made thousands homeless. It is taken for granted that America will help these disaster-ridden people. However, since it appears that the Stonians might sink any of our ships going to their aid, I have agreed to send relief fleets to the flood victims. Congress in emergency session has appropriated \$125,000,000 to cover the cost. If Stonia will desist from its invasion, we will be able to offer even more direct aid to our fellow men in need. Meanwhile our policy is no surrender, but resistance to the end. And it is now clear that we are gaining. Neutral nations are rallying to our support and the Stonian government is already putting out peace feelers. We shall continue to stand for the truth, confident that only through peace and good will can we gain peace and good will. Many of us are dying, but sometimes only by suffering can we all grow together. For wheat to grow it is necessary that the seed grain should perish. Life comes out of death. By suffering with the enemy, we are building a friendship that will never die. Once again the spirit has conquered the sword. We are not yet free but slowly we are freeing ourselves. Good will is overcoming evil and winning freedom.

ANN: (This speech is given out of role. Perhaps the ANN could walk to another part of the "Stage" or come around in front of the mike (if a mock mike is used), or maybe the other players could sit down or move away from the mike. At any rate after the PRES speech let there be a pause to signify that the play proper is over, this last is to be something different.)

Unreal, you say? Impossible? Fantastic? And yet everything we have depicted here for you has actually happened in this world.

Remember the description of the men and women of Hawaii staggering under blows but refusing to hit back? That was written in 1930 by a hard-bitten Chicago reporter, in India -- an eyewitness account of an attack on the followers of Gandhi.

And then that prayer for the enemy. That, too, is genuine. It was given by the Bishop of Oxford in behalf of the German people in the midst of the last year.

People refusing to bow to superior might? Many times: The people of Hungary in the middle of the last century under a courageous Catholic leader completely ignored Austrian overlords. They organized their own education and industry - boycotted Austrian goods, refused to pay taxes. Soon there were not enough prisons to house the rebels, but the will of the population was unshakable and Hungary was freed in a fight she surely would have lost by arms. In Africa, under Gandhi, Hindus overcame British attempts to impose racial laws upon them, and in 1947 Gandhi led a successful non-violent campaign for Indian independence.

And that strike in Reading, Pa. Yes, that happened, too, and it can happen again as it happened in Montgomery, Alabama in 1956. It can happen any time we make up our minds it shall -- And peace -- real peace -- can happen, too, whenever we clear away the clouds of hate and distrust and see that what is based on love and truth will outlast all else.

Have Americans the courage to adopt this way?