

A Flashback to 1969-70

Superpower America out to crush ‘tiny’ Vietnam.

Occasion: Vietnamese fighters’ good will mission on an informal visit to Punjab, joins Ghadrite (Baba) Sohan Singh Bhakna’s birth centenary celebrations at his ancestral village Bhakna, Amritsar on 4th January 1970.

Showing Ghadrite (Baba) Gujjar Singh Bhakna the delegation (centre) with S. Navtej Singh of ‘Preet Lari’ fame on his left, their guide and interpreter; also visible in the background is (Baba) Bhag Singh ‘Canadaian’ of vill. Uppal Bhupa, Jalandhar.

The delegation got a spontaneous overwhelmingly warm response wherever it went.

While addressing the gathering at Bhakna village, a delegate said, “No matter America may keeps on raining bombs over our Motherland, we have managed to dig enough space deep below its soil, where we keep dancing and singings loudly enough to drown the sounds of their exploding bombs.”

Ludhiana City — an eye-witness account:— Local open theatre in Municipal Committee lawns overcrowded..... warm enough to ward off the biting cold of a late evening of December end. Lo! Here emerges, well known Akali leader of Ludhiana Sardar Surjan Singh ‘Thekedar’ sporting a beautifully tied bluish turban carrying a full length *Kirpan* and a ‘*Siropa*’ — the traditional robe of honour to welcome the heroes and getting emotional while honouring them and uttering “Here are the true followers of Guru Gobind Singh ji”....

What a heavenly sight!