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directed by Joris Ivens with the collaboration of Marceline Loidan and the Hanoi Documentary Studio. At Git-Le Coeur, Paris. Running Time, 110 MINS.

Noted Dutch documentarian Joris Ivens has brought back a film on Viet Cong life above the 17th parallel of the demilitarized zone. In a war constantly on world tv, here is a film of life on the other side. It emerges a probing look at a determined people under fire.

Is it propaganda? It does show only one side, naturally, and the hardship and dedication of these people, but there is no hysteria, no dwelling on atrocities. The lives and deaths of children, as well as adults, are there as well as one scene of a captured U.S. airman. The children are indoctrinated at an early age and Americans are always referred to as pirates. (This is propaganda.)

But it is a document that ably depicts the other side, showing them bombing nearby U.S. sites, downing planes and shooting at U.S. ships offshore. Plane parts are used to repair bicycles and other equipment. There is no mocking here but an extra-ordinarily incisive picture of life in a beleaguered village.

There is no evasion of the issues of Communism. A Communist cadre runs the village and pays tribute to Hanoi help a few hundred kilometres away. The underground life has been shown in other films but here it is made only a part of everyday life. Underground hospitals operate on the wounded. Women take a greater part in village life as younger men leave but a big military conclave concentrates on defense. People talk of atrocities and a child of nine shows off his indoctrination by telling how he would never talk if captured by the American pirates and what he would do to help his uncles and aunts.

Ivens is committed to his view that it is a war of the people, and it may be raised as to what good this will do in commenting on this most controversial American war. It would definitely be an important film for universities and commercially for bigger cities where viewpoints are differing.

Ivens shows visual observatory power in film that took two months to make. Descents into underground habitats and shelters transcend objective aspects to show a strange, subterranean life and people at work filling creators, living, building their traps and fortifications with the omnipresent rumblings of bombs and planes present throughout the film.

It is the fact that it is a completely partisan film, made by a westerner, that gives an important plausible ring, albeit it deals only with that side. A captured U.S. airman is brought in and paraded through the village. They yell at him but he is not touched and is sent to Hanoi the next day.

Film ends on children being taught a few English words, such as hands up, go, still. Whether it will affect those already committed is not the point.

It has to be taken with that in mind for any possible Stateside showings. Mosk.

17e Parallele
Le Vietnam En Guerre
(17th Parallel—Vietnam At War)
(FRENCH—DOCUMENTARY)

Paris, March 12.
Argos Films release of Capi Films,
Argos Films production. Conceived and