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Politics

JULY 11 PROPOSAL IS BASIS FOR RVN NEGOTIATION STAND

Darlac, January 16--President Nguyen Van Thieu told newsmen Wednesday morning in Ban Me Thuot that the Republic of Viet-Nam will not put forth any proposal to solve the Viet-Nam war other than the July 11, 1969, solution.

We have now to wait and see whether or not the Communist side is willing to seriously negotiate on the basis of that solution, he said.

Answering a question on the possible pull-out of all U.S. combat troops from Viet-Nam in 1970, President Thieu believed that a large number of these troops could be withdrawn as planned, and the rate of their departure depends on the strengthening of the ARVN forces.

To another question, Pres. Thieu said that it is completely wrong to say that the government has not won the support of the majority of the people.

The President elaborated that it is not necessary for the people of Viet-Nam or the people of any country to applaud and glorify the government to express their support. As far as the present government is concerned, the President believes that it has won the people's support through the achievement of much-needed social work.

The policy the RVN Government is pursuing is a good one which aims at solving the war, reorganizing the society and building democracy, he said.

To a question on the re-organization of the Vietnamese territory, President Thieu said the reform will help render anti-Communist activities more effective.

The President made known that the RVN Government will continue to hold elections according to the Constitution.

As for any other kinds of elections with the Communists, President Thieu said that he does not believe the enemy would follow his July 11 solution and consequently would refuse any election.

PRES. THIEU: WE MUST SAFEGUARD OUR FREEDOM

Saigon, January 30--On the occasion of the Lunar New Year, President Nguyen Van Thieu has sent a message to the Vietnamese overseas, which reads in full as follows:

My dear compatriots,

This past year, I had three opportunities to present before the National Assembly and the nation the situation of our country, the encouraging progress made in all fields during the past year the nation's development policy in 1970 and the years to follow.

I also had an important press conference in early January to reaffirm the determination of our people and armed forces to repel Communism, not to accept coalition with the Communists and not to accept Neutralism. It was also to reaffirm before public opinion at home and abroad our determination to achieve self support and self development and to safeguard, with the assistance of our allies in the free world, the freedom and peace of not only Viet-Nam alone but also of the world.

I have asked our Ambassadors and Chiefs of Missions to summarize the essential points I mentioned in the three messages so that today, on the occasion of the New Year, they will have the opportunity to explain the situation more clearly to you since I cannot explain them at length in my Tet Greetings.

In short, what I am assuring you of today is that, in our beloved country, our people, and the armed forces are determined to choose a correct way to save the country.

That way is to defeat the Communist aggressors in order to safeguard independence, freedom and democracy through efforts to achieve self support and self development to go towards the restoration of a just peace and to bring the country towards prosperity

We and the following generations can live, physically and spiritually, only if we do not allow the Communists to take over our beloved South Viet-Nam in one way or another, whether through military or political victory - under one aspect or another, whether through coalition or neutralism.

You can firmly believe that the Communists will be defeated, and that our country will win, because the morale of the nation and of the armed forces and the actual situation of the country allows us to strongly believe so.

I convey to all of you my warmest New Year's Greetings.

AMB. BUNKER: WE CAN ACHIEVE OUR GOAL

Saigon, January 30--U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker said Thursday the government of the Republic of Viet-Nam showed "growing strength and effectiveness" last year but, "American steadfastness" will determine if the allies achieve their goals in Viet-Nam.

In an annual address to the Saigon chapter of the American Chamber of Commerce, Ambassador Bunker struck a generally optimistic note in relieving 1969 in the war zone.

"My conclusion is that the growing strength and effectiveness of the Vietnamese Government together with a reasonable and flexible approach toward an acceptable political settlement gives us a strong basis for negotiations and a reasonable expectation of achieving our objectives with or without negotiations," the Ambassador said.

"We intend to pursue efforts toward this end on all fronts. The key element in deciding whether our investment in lives and treasure will in fact achieve our objectives in Viet-Nam, objectives which I believe are important to our own national interest, will be American steadfastness," he added.

Speaking at a luncheon meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce, at a Saigon hotel, Ambassador Bunker said that the United States must be "sufficiently patient" if it is to achieve the goal of a negotiated settlement which would allow the South Vietnamese people to determine their own future, free from outside interference by anyone."

The objectives of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese are essentially political - aimed at keeping American casualties high to keep out anti-war pressures in the United States, and to discredit Vietnamization by inflicting defeats on the South Vietnamese Armed Forces.

"The enemy's attempts at offensive military activity have in fact raised South Vietnamese morale as it became apparent that he was able to accomplish very little," the Ambassador said.

The U.S. Ambassador concluded his address by saying that "there is much work still to be done on many counts and many obstacles to overcome. We have seen in 1969 a good measure of success. I believe we are making steady progress, and that we will have reasonable success in achieving our aims in Viet-Nam.

RVN GOVERNMENT CONTROLS MORE THAN 90% OF POPULATION

Vung Tau, January 21--The 1969 Pacification Development Plan has yielded satisfactory achievements with 84.6 per cent of the hamlets and 92.7 per cent of the total population throughout the country under government control, Lt. Col. Nguyen Van Tam, Planning Service Chief at the Central Pacification Development Coordination Center, reported at the seminar held in Vung Tau January 19-24 for the Saigon Prefect, mayors and province chiefs all over the country.

According to Lt. Col. Tam, as of December 31, 1969, the Republic of Viet-Nam has control of 9,053 of the total number of 10,746 hamlets and 16,270,144 out of a total population of 17,551,146.

In addition, the RVN also rendered ineffective last year 23,655 Communist infra-structures.

Meanwhile during the past year the government organized 3,219 civil self-defense members, 2,076,925 of them have received military and special training. A total of 399,975 assorted weapons were also issued to the CSD members during the same period.

In the field of democracy building, the government organized elections for 960 village councils and 5,671 hamlet committees.

Lt. Col. Tam made known that 51,607 village and hamlet officials attended training courses in 1969.

Aid

FUNDS RELEASED FOR IMPORT OF NECESSARY PRODUCTS

Saigon, January 22--The USAID Mission in Viet-Nam Tuesday released another 50 million dollars for the Commerical Import Program (CIP), which is administered jointly, by the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam and USAID, a communique of the U.S. Mission in Viet-Nam said Wednesday.

With the release of 50 million dollars, the first in the calendar year 1970, a total of 130 million dollars has been provided for financing necessary imports to Viet-Nam during the current U.S. fiscal year which began July 1, 1969.

Accepting the transfer of dollar credits for the Government of Viet-Nam was Economy Minister Pham Kim Ngoc, Mr. Frank Collins, Jr., acting Associate Director of USAID for Commerical and Capital Assistance represented the United States.

The funds released will finance the importation of fertilizers, chemicals and plastics, industrial machinery iron and steel products, textile materials, rubber and other products.

Availability of these commodities will assist in accomplishing one of the RVN's and USAID's primary objectives - economic stability. They will also help Viet-Nam accelerate its rate of agricultural and industrial development.

Actual procurement under the Commerical Import Program operates through commercial channels. Local importers obtain licenses from the Government of Viet-Nam, under the jointly administered program for goods essential to their businesses and to the achievement of national economic objectives. USAID assists them in finding suppliers. The importers then deposits the piaster equivalents of the imports' cost through his

bank with the National Bank of Viet-Nam where they go into the USAID counterpart account used essentially as support assistance to the Government of Viet-Nam. USAID pays the suppliers in dollars through U.S. banking channels, the communique added.

NEW ZEALAND AIDS RVN IN VARIOUS FIELDS

Saigon, January 29--The New Zealand Government in 1969 spent over 579,500 U.S. dollars for economic, technical and humanitarian aid to the Republic of Viet-Nam.

At the end of 1969, New Zealand offered scholarships to 85 Vietnamese students for study in New Zealand under the Colombo Plan.

In addition, according to a document released by the New Zealand Embassy recently, within the scope of educational and training assistance, the New Zealand Government granted a number of scholarships for in service training to Vietnamese english teachers and organized visits to New Zealand for Vietnamese dentists.

Meanwhile, as medical and humanitarian assistance, the New Zealand Government last year financed a 75 member surgical team operating in the Binh Dinh Province Hospital and is now continuing to give medical supplies to the team.

It also provided architectural services for the design of the Institute of Public Health in Saigon and gave relief items to the refugees within the Colombo and Corso Plans.

The New Zealand Government also sent to the Republic a surveyor to carry out a three-week study of land registration in Viet-Nam to prepare for a long term assistance in land administration.

Budget

1970 NATIONAL BUDGET WILL STAND CLOSE TO 178 BILLION

Saigon, January 30--President Nguyen Van Thieu Wednesday promulgated Law No. 001-70 on the national budget for the 1970 fiscal year which totals 177,847,187,000 piasters.

The national budget for 1970 was endorsed by the National Assembly last January 31.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BANK
SPEEDS UP INTRODUCTION OF MODERN FARMING METHODS

Phan Thiet, January 23--More fish are caught and marketed every year in this province, Binh Thuan, 152 kilometers east of Saigon, than in any other part of South Vietnam.

Fishermen here have found that a little capital, backed up by hard work, can be parlayed into a good profit.

But in a wartime economy, in a developing country -- where do fishermen find capital to work with?

Ask that question of any group of fishermen at the bustling docks around Phan Thiet. In 15 minutes, you will easily find five or six men who borrowed money, at reasonable interest rates, from the local branch of the Government's Agricultural Development Bank (ADB).

"Without credit at fair interest rates, small fishermen would never be able to buy better boats or motors or nets. They would be unable to improve their earnings," said Nguyen Than Chau, director of the Phan Thiet ADB Branch.

Mr. Chau reported that his branch bank lent 91 million piasters (772,000 dollars) to 2,277 families in Binh Thuan Province during 1969.

Seventy per cent of those loans went to fishermen. Most of the rest went to rice farmers and livestock and poultry raisers.

"This year we expect to more than double our loan total, to around 200 million piasters (1,695,000 dollars)," Mr. Chau said.

ADB loans bear a one per cent monthly interest charge.

Fishermen Vu Van Bat said that the 30,000 piaster (255 dollars) loan he got to buy new nylon fishing nets would have cost him around 30 per cent interest from a commercial money lender. Often fishermen must agree to sell all their take to the lender, at a price below market value, until the loan is repaid, Mr. Bat explained.

"My income has doubled since I have had better nets to work with," Mr. Bat said. "I plan to borrow more money soon to buy a bigger boat."

Nguyen Van Phu, another fisherman, borrowed money from the ADB three times in the past two years -- to buy a boat, motor and nets. "I have paid off all the loans," he said proudly.

The chief of a nearby village, Tran Ngoc Bon, said he borrowed from the ADB four times to buy fertilizer and insecticides he needed for his 11-hectare rice farm.

In all, he said 62 families in Lai An Village have borrowed ADB money. They bought irrigation pumps, pigs and ducks.

Bank director Chau noted that the availability of the new credit system has speeded up the introduction of modern farming methods. "Five years ago, people here were suspicious of chemical fertilizers," he recalled, "but we loaned money for experimenting, and now there is such a demand for it that suppliers are hard to find."

Fishery

DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERY IS ONE STEP TOWARDS SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Saigon, January 28--President Nguyen Van Thieu dedicated the Offshore Fishery Research Institute at 116 Phan Dinh Phung St., Saigon this morning.

The three storey Institute was completed after 14 months of construction at a cost of 6,500,000 defrayed by the national budget.

On this occasion, Land Reform Agriculture and Fishery Development Minister Cao Van Than escorted President Thieu in a tour of the Institute's facilities.

Earlier, Minister Than and Mr. Tran Van Tri, Fishery Director, briefed the President on the building of the Institute and the fishery researchers in the coastal areas in Viet-Nam.

According to Minister Than, the construction of the Offshore Fishery Research Institute was a token contribution of the RVN Government to the combined U.N. Development Project and Fao Project between Viet-Nam and other free world countries.

The contribution of the RVN which amounted only to 15 per cent of the financial support of international agencies spoke out the government's concerns for the development of agriculture and fishery to proceed to a self-sufficient economy.

Minister Than said that the Offshore Fishery Development Project now under implementation will help Viet-Nam achieve in the next three years at least 800,000 tons of sea products meaning twice the present output to meet the people's needs and increase exports.

Minister Than added that after the experimental stage, the project will encourage the formation of a fleet of about 300 offshore fishing boats, with a tonnage ranging from 25 to 300 tons.

Present at the dedication ceremony were Senate President Nguyen Van Huyen, Lower House Speaker Nguyen Ba Luong, Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem, Minister of State Vu Quoc Thuc, Cabinet Members, Representatives of the Diplomatic Corps, and a number of guests.

Education

MODIFICATIONS IN EDUCATION SEEN IN 1970

Saigon, January 21--Dr. Nguyen Luu Vien, Deputy Prime Minister concurrently Education Minister Tuesday morning stated that many important modifications of the educational branch will take place in 1970.

At the nation-wide seminar on education at the Saigon Pedagogy School, Dr. Vien also made known that the improvement of education will be carried out to meet the aspirations of those who have great concerns for the future of the younger generation, and especially to implement the decisions taken at the 1964 Educational Convention.

The seminar will also concentrate its activities on the review of educational programs to make them suitable to the Pacification Development Program and help the educators realize the education policy in line with the common policy of the nation.

Attending the day-long seminar were primary education service chiefs throughout the country and principals of public boy high schools in province capitals.

With the new educational system which covers 12 consecutive years, the Education Ministry will pay attention to the development of community primary schools and the establishment of comprehensive high schools.

Dr. Vien stressed that in the new educational organization, educational sectors will be set up. In addition, each province will have a public school managed by a council composed of the Students Parents Association, local authorities and the School's Management Board.

According to Dr. Vien, the forthcoming school year, the collection of tuition in high schools would likely be speeded up to provide the localities with means to maintain their facilities.

At the seminar Mr. Vu Duc Chang, Deputy Director-General for secondary, primary and popular education gave a talk on the Educational Development Project with in the Pacification Plan while Mr. Truong Van Duc, Director for primary education dealt with the problem of compulsory education at the first grade.

Culture

CULTURAL CENTER TO BE BUILT IN HUE

Saigon, January 19--A "Cultural Week" opened in the ancient imperial city of Hue last January 15 with the cornerstone laying ceremony for the construction of the Lien Quan Cultural Center on Le Loi Street.

The week was organized by a number of local writers and artists.

Representative Nguyen Dai Bang of the Hue Constituency said that the objective of the Cultural Week was to introduce art activities to the people of Hue.

Ven. Duc Tam, Chairman of the Construction Committee of Lien Quan Cultural Center said the construction cost of the Center may reach 50,000,000 piasters.

Pacification

1969 BROUGHT IN CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF RETURNEES

Saigon, January 19--In 1969, open arms centers throughout the country received 47,023 returnees.

The returnees including 28,466 military, 12,635 political and 5,922 other elements brought in 3,091 assorted weapons.

Among the ralliers were 544 infiltrators, 20 Red high-ranking cadres, and 1,016 Red cadres who rallied collectively.

During the reporting period, open arms services in all 4 CTZS set up 197 indoctrination sources for 23,234 returnees and complete procedures enabling 25,077 others to rejoin their families.

In addition 5,082 other returnees attended vocational training courses.

Meanwhile, 4,848 returnees were employed by public agencies.

Also last year the Open Arms Ministry set up 15 Chieu Hoi villages including 1,053 houses for 1,075 families.

The War

RVN ASKS NVN TO RELEASE INFORMATION ON PRISONERS

Saigon, January 31--The Vietnamese Mission in charge of relations with the International Control Commission (ICC) Friday sent a note to the ICC Secretariat requesting its intervention for the release and kind treatment of 3,237 prisoners captured and detained by the North Vietnamese army and the so-called NLF.

The prisoners included civil servants, cadres, and military personnel of the Republic of Viet-Nam.

The note also asked that the Communists release information concerning these prisoners, agree to their visit by the prisoners' relatives and accept gifts sent by their families on the occasion of the coming Tet.

Miscellaneous

INFORMATION HALL SET UP AT THE HAGUE

Saigon, January 19--The RVN Embassy in Great Britain was authorized by the Foreign Ministry to set up an information hall in The Hague, Holland, sources from the Foreign Ministry said.

Mr. Vinh Ninh, 2nd Secretary at the Embassy, will take charge of the information hall at this stage.

Amb. Le Ngoc Chan officially announced the setting up of the facility to Holland's Government agencies and the local press.

Sources from the Embassy said that political circles in Holland welcomed the establishment of such an agency to keep the public informed on the Viet-Nam situation, especially at the present juncture when any development in the RVN would influence the international situation.

The activities of the RVN Embassy in Great Britain also covers the Netherlands, the same sources said.

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In addition to VIET-NAM BULLETIN, the Embassy of Viet-Nam also publishes a Vietnamese-language monthly called TROI NAM. Readers who are interested in receiving this publication are kindly advised to fill in the opposite mailing form reserved for TROI NAM.

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