

VIET-NAM BULLETIN

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Politics

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON SITUATION IN LAOS

Saigon, March 10, 1970--The Foreign Ministry Tuesday issued the following statement on the situation in Laos:

1. Recently Communist North Viet-Nam has stepped up its war of aggression in Laos by infiltrating additional large numbers of troops from North Viet-Nam, thus creating an extremely serious situation which endangers not only the Laotian security and territory but also the neighbouring countries including the Republic of Viet-Nam.

As a signatory to the Geneva Agreements of 1962 guaranteeing the Laotian neutrality and as a victim of the armed aggression by Communist North Viet-Nam, the Republic of Viet-Nam hereby strongly denounces to world opinion the belligerent attitude of North Viet-Nam and its flagrant violations of the Geneva Agreements of 1954 on Viet-Nam and 1962 on Laos, in complete disregard for International Law and the rules of peace as laid down by the Charter of the United Nations.

2. The Republic of Viet-Nam deems it necessary to reaffirm her persistent policy (as has been previously and repeatedly stated on various occasions by the government of the Republic of Viet-Nam) of constant respect of the 1954 and 1962 Geneva Agreements, demanding that Communist North Viet-Nam and its auxiliaries in the South do the same.

3. In the face of the present ominous situation in Laos, the Republic of Viet-Nam solemnly appeals to the Governments signatories to the Geneva Agreements of 1962 to proceed, in conformity with articles 4, 6, 11 and 14 of the Protocol of the Agreements, to mutual consultations in order to reach appropriate decisions aimed at containing in due course the Communist North Vietnamese aggression which has strongly developed and intensified against the Kingdom of Laos and the neighbouring countries including the Republic of Viet-Nam.

4. The Republic of Viet-Nam pledges to cooperate with the Governments signatories to the Geneva Agreements of 1962 to seek adequate measures to safeguard the neutrality and territorial integrity of Laos and demands that North Viet-Nam withdraw all their troops of aggression from the Republic of Viet-Nam and her neighbouring countries - Laos and Cambodia.

F.M. LAM ON CAMBODIAN SITUATION

Saigon, March 12, 1970--Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam, interviewed by VP Thursday morning, said the demonstration staged by thousands of Cambodians against North Vietnamese and Viet Cong embassies in Phnom Penh is a natural reaction against the abuse of Cambodian territory by the Communists.

The Foreign Minister said the demonstration was brought about by repeated provocations by the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong on Cambodian territory which imperiled Cambodia's security and neutralist stand.

On this occasion, the Foreign Minister stressed "the more friends, less foes" policy advocated by the RVN and said there would be no difficulties that couldn't be settled, once the parties involved sit at a conference table to discuss them.

Therefore, he added, any difficulties arising from conflicting interests between the two countries can be easily settled through talks conducted with good will, especially when all these difficulties originate from a common enemy, i.e. Communist North Viet-Nam and the NLF.

Foreign Minister Lam said the RVN is ready to enter into negotiations with Cambodia for a negotiated settlement of the problems regarding the two countries.

Asked about what the most difficult problem between Cambodia and the RVN is, Foreign Minister Lam said it was that Cambodia had recognized the so-called Provisional Revolutionary Government of the NLF and let it establish an embassy in Phnom Penh, and at the same time had allowed Communist troops to operate from its territory.

Sources from foreign news agencies reported that thousands of Cambodians Wednesday demonstrated against North Vietnamese and Viet Cong embassies in Phnom Penh and over 1,500 residents of the bordering Sway-Rieng town also staged a demonstration against the presence of Communist troops on Cambodian soil.

NO TO VIET CONG GOVERNMENT

Saigon, March 12, 1970--The Swedish Riksdag (Parliament) last Wednesday rejected Communist proposals that Sweden should recognize North Korea and the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) of the Viet Cong in South Viet-Nam.

Foreign Minister Torsten Nilsson earlier had advised against the recognition of North Korea because it could endanger Sweden's membership of the United Nations truce in Korea.

In reference to the Viet Cong 'government', Nilsson said that Sweden only recognise the governments in complete control of their territory. 'This is not the case in South Viet-Nam,' he said.

Foreign Relations

VIETNAMESE DELEGATION IN GENEVA

Saigon, March 12, 1970--Members of the diplomatic community welcomed to Geneva a Republic of Viet-Nam delegation now in Europe on a good will and a fact-finding tour, sources from Geneva reported Wednesday.

Former Foreign Minister Tran Chanh Thanh and his colleague, Ton That Uan, members of the Senate Foreign Affairs and Information Committee, are visiting European capitals, the United States and Japan. After returning to Saigon, they will report to the Senate on the government's foreign information activities.

Secretary General Andre De Blonay of the Interparliamentary Union noted at a luncheon March 10, hosted by the Vietnamese Mission, that visiting legislators "have as their home in Geneva" the headquarters of the Union.

The Republic of Viet-Nam two years ago resumed its full membership in the international body that maintains links between members of democratically elected legislatures in more than 70 countries.

Attending the luncheon were top ranking diplomats from missions accredited to the international organization, leaders of the General Agreement in Tariffs and Trade and regional groupings of the U.N. conference on Trade and Development and a representative of the World Council of Churches, the same sources said.

A VIETNAMESE APPOINTED TO ILO

Saigon, March 13, 1970--Mr. Pham Van Vy, Secretary General of the Vietnamese Federation of Plantation Workers (FPW) was recently appointed Agricultural Commissioner of the International Labor Organization (ILO).

A message was sent by Mr. T.S. Bavin, Secretary General of the International Federation of Plantation Agricultural and Allied Workers to the FPW, announcing this appointment.

Mr. Vy is concurrently Deputy Secretary General of the Vietnamese Confederation of Labor (VCL).

RVN SPOKESMAN IN SWEDEN

Stockholm, March 11, 1970--Pham Dang Lam, South Viet-Nam's chief delegate to the Paris peace talks, Monday attacked Communist demands for U.S. troop withdrawal, and said the "will of our people has increased against North Vietnamese aggression."

"Submitting to the Communist demands that the Allied troops withdraw from Viet-Nam would mean capitulation," Lam told a news conference.

"We do not depend solely on the Army to enlist the people's support but also on the rural development program and agrarian reform," he said.

Asked by newsmen what he thought of the Swedish government offer of humanitarian aid to North Viet-Nam, Mr. Lam replied:

"The war is raging South of the 17th Parallel and there are the victims of Communist terrorism and sabotage. I think humanitarian aid should go to those who need it most."

Lam, who is in Sweden on an unofficial information trip, was scheduled to meet Sweden's Foreign Minister Torsten Nilsson Tuesday.

PRES. THIEU TO CELEBRATE "VIET-NAM DAY" AT EXPO'70

Saigon, March 7--At the invitation of the Japanese government, President Nguyen Van Thieu will preside over the "Viet-Nam Day" celebration at the Osaka Expo '70, the President's Office announced Saturday.

The "Viet-Nam Day" is scheduled for mid-August 1970.

Information

MEETING HELD ON INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT

Saigon, March 11, 1970--President Nguyen Van Thieu Wednesday morning presided over a meeting at Independence Palace to consider measures and action programs for 1970 and 1971 aiming at strengthening the efficiency of the information branch at home and abroad.

Sources from the Press Secretary at the President's office said Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem, Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam and Information Minister Ngo Khac Tinh attended the meeting.

ASIAN PRESS SEMINAR TO BE HELD IN SAIGON

Saigon, March 10, 1970--About 60 journalists of various Asian countries will participate in the Asian Press Seminar organized March 17-20, by the Viet-Nam Council on Foreign Relations at Majestic Hotel, Tu Do St., Saigon.

The newsmen come from Laos, Thailand, India, Japan, Ceylon, Malaysia, the Republic of China, Australia and New Zealand.

The seminar will present to Asian newsmen various aspects of the Viet-Nam issue besides press problems.

During their stay in the Republic, the newsmen will visit the four Corps Tactical Zones, Vietnamese military base camps and industrial installations.

Education

JAPAN GIVES TECHNICAL AID TO CAN THO AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL

Saigon, March 7, 1970--The RVN and Japanese governments Saturday morning signed an agreement for technical aid to the Can Tho Agricultural Advanced School.

This was the first technical cooperation agreement between Viet-Nam and Japan for agricultural development according to which the Can Tho Agricultural Advanced School will welcome well-known Japanese lecturers and receive modern equipment for its laboratories.

Furthermore, outstanding students will be also sent to Japan after graduation for in-service training course.

Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam and Japanese Hideo Kitahara, representing the two governments signed this agreement.

Also present at the ceremony were Mr. Nguyen Quy Anh, Cabinet Director at the Foreign Ministry, Mr. To Van Que, Cabinet Director at the Education Ministry, Mr. Pham Hoang Ho, rector of Can Tho University and officials of the Japanese Embassy in Saigon.

Japan was the first nation to respond to the calling for aid of the RVN government since 1964. To date the Japanese government and people have unceasingly rendered assistance to Viet-Nam in the building of hospitals, and sending physicians and medicines to help anti-Communist refugees. The Japanese humanitarian aid to the RVN has amounted to over 6 U.S. million dollars.

The War

A FOREIGNER'S OPINION OF THE VIET-NAM WAR

Saigon, March 14, 1970--Lieutenant Commander V. Katchinsky, a retired U.S. Navy officer recently sent a letter to Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky expressing his admiration toward the RVN national cause and at the same time, putting forth a suggestion aiming at ending the war.

The letter read as follows:

"With much sadness I continue to watch the war in your country and I am very sorry that thousands of people are suffering by aggressors.

Since North Viet-Nam armies invade South Viet-Nam why doesn't South Viet-Nam retaliate and invade North Viet-Nam? Everything will then change: North Viet-Nam will call back their soldiers and the lives of many of your people will be saved.

All ammunition for the North Viet-Nam armies come unmolested to their ports. Why doesn't the South Viet-Nam Navy shell these enemy ports and put mines near their entrances, to stop delivery of ammunition.

Surely, it would be a warning to all ships approaching these ports and their inhabitants.

When North Viet-Nam suffers from destruction, as they are doing in South Viet-Nam, then the war will be closer to an end.

My sincere desire is, that people in South Viet-Nam will live in peace and will forget about this terrible war."

Lieutenant Commander Katchinsky was a pioneer pilot in 1912 and is living in Seminole, Florida.

CIVIL SERVANTS CHANGING INTO CADRES

Saigon, March 13, 1970--Mr. Tran Van An, Special Assistant at the President's office Wednesday afternoon gave a talk on the changing of civil servants into administrative cadres, one of the 11 urgent objectives that the RVN has to realize in the next five years.

The talk was held at the conference hall of the President's office.

After dealing with the RVN current situation, Mr. An pointed to the three factors which ensure success for all tasks, namely dare to want, dare to know and dare to work. He also emphasized the good conduct of administrative cadres as well as their spirit of responsibility and self-confidence.

Attending the talk were personnel at the President's office, representatives of Ministries and a number of officers of the National Defense College.

Vietnamization

THE WORD "VIETNAMIZATION" IS MISLEADING!

Says Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam

By Phu Si

Saigon, (MF), -- Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam granted an exclusive interview to Mekong Features which covered the Vietnamization of the war; a Communist party in the Republic of Viet-Nam; Hanoi's threat to Southeast Asia; the war in Laos; Vietnamese residents in Thailand, and the foreign relations of the Republic of Viet-Nam. He clarified some major issues about which there have been considerable confusion in the world press.

Minister Lam emphasized that the word "Vietnamization" is misleading, though it is used frequently by the foreign press and a number of American officials. This word tends to create the impression that up to now we haven't carried our share of the burden. For instance Mr. Lam pointed out the Vietnamese contribution on the field of battle where the ratio of Vietnamese casualties is twice the number of the allies, both killed and wounded. He went on to assert that the Vietnamese have played a major role in this struggle.

Commenting on the need to replace American troops with Vietnamese forces, he explained that this is a new kind of war, a form of guerrilla warfare with new strategy, tactics, techniques and armaments, conceived and created by the Red Chinese. The war has no frontline, comparatively little direct fighting and is not only a military war but a war that directly involves the total population. At first, Viet-Nam and her Allies were not trained to cope with such a form of warfare. But, after ten years of experience, a great deal has been learned. Now, along with modernization of the V.N. forces, the time has come for the Vietnamese to assume a greater share of responsibility on the battlefield. Mr. Lam stressed that Viet-Nam does not expect the Allies to stay in Viet-Nam indefinitely. If tomorrow, the Communists were to end the aggression, Allied troops would start to leave immediately.

Asked whether in peace time Viet-Nam would recognize a Communist party, Foreign Minister Lam said that Article 4 of the Viet-Nam Constitution stipulates that Communism is illegal in South Viet-Nam. Some critics maintain that such a provision is undemocratic. However, they don't understand that Communists rely on illegal methods here, using terrorism and subversion to achieve their goals. For this reason, Communist parties are illegal in many countries besides Viet-Nam, for example in Thailand, Korea, the Philippines and Indonesia. As to whether or not the Constitution may be amended to legalize Communism, that would fall under the jurisdiction of the Viet-Nam National Assembly. However, the present atmosphere is not favourable to such an amendment, said the Minister.

Speaking of the overall Communist threat, Foreign Minister Lam said that the enemy seeks to impose his rule throughout Southeast Asia with a wide-spread campaign of infiltration, terror, propaganda and military pressure. Viet-Nam was the first direct victim of this policy. Hanoi took advantage of the transition between the

colonial period and the period of independence after the Second World War, and with the support of Red China and other Communist countries, tried to seize all of Viet-Nam. However, Communist expansion in Southeast Asia was checked in South Viet-Nam.

Commenting on the situation in Laos, Lam said that events prove once again that "neutrality and coalition with the enemy do not work". The Geneva Accords of 1962, which were also signed by both the Republic of Viet-Nam and North Viet-Nam, provide for a neutral Laos. Yet, we are witnessing at this very moment the open aggression of North Vietnamese forces on Laotian territory. The fall of the Plain of Jars to the North Vietnamese last week is a clear warning. The aggression in Laos is not only a direct threat to the Laotian Kingdom, but aims at Thailand and South Viet-Nam as well, continued Foreign Minister Lam, since the enemy obviously will intensify infiltration into both these countries.

Regarding the activities of Hanoi on Thai territory, Foreign Minister Lam disclosed that around 40,000 North Vietnamese have infiltrated into Thailand in the past decade. Recently, North Vietnamese forces have sabotaged some Thai airstrips. The Foreign Minister explained that of the 40,000 North Vietnamese who claim to be refugees in Thailand, some certainly escaped from the enemy, but many are Communist cadres and soldiers. The Thai government at this very moment plans to move some 13,000 North Vietnamese refugees in Thailand to a safer place which will help to increase territorial security.

Answering a question on relations between Viet-Nam and Cambodia, Foreign Minister Lam declared that Viet-Nam wishes to maintain friendly relations with that country. Unfortunately, Cambodia has offered hospitality to the enemy and has recognized the "National Liberation Front for South Viet-Nam" (NLF). They have permitted the NLF to establish an office in Phnom-Penh with a delegation headed by someone with the rank of Ambassador. There is also a North Vietnamese Embassy there. "Cambodia claims it is following a policy of non-alignment, but judging by her actions, that nation "has adopted a dangerous line" said Minister Lam.

With regard to non-aligned countries, especially the African nations, the Foreign Minister expressed his heartfelt welcome to and appreciation of any initiative on the part of peace-loving nations willing to contribute to the restoration of peace in Viet-Nam. However, he emphasized, peace will come only when both parties show a willingness for peace. The Republic of Viet-Nam has already demonstrated its willingness to such an extent that many felt Viet-Nam had already made too many concessions to the enemy, while Hanoi refuses to cooperate. The Foreign Minister stressed: "We will not let them impose their ideology on us. We advocate a democratic regime founded on the results of democratic elections. If the people elect Communist leaders, we will accept it. But the enemy will not agree to a free election, knowing that they will fact complete defeat. Therefore, they advocate the guise of coalition, a form of open infiltration into the political life of South Viet-Nam."

Finally, the Foreign Minister stressed the necessity for Viet-Nam to develop its international relations. In May of this year there will be several meetings of the chiefs of Viet-Nam's diplomatic missions in African and European countries.

Special Feature

THE HOSPITAL AT LIEN HIEP

A Living Memorial To GI's Killed in VN War

By Minh Tam

Saigon, March 9, 1970--A small, 50-bed hospital was recently dedicated at Lien Hiep, a village 35 miles South of Dalat in the Central Highlands of South Viet-Nam. More than 200 mountain people from a nearby Montagnard tribe watched the ceremony gravely. It was the end of January - just a few days before the Tet Lunar New Year.

This is not an ordinary hospital and the ceremonies were not run-of-the-mill. Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem of the Republic of Viet-Nam was there, as were Mr. Ellsworth Bunker, Ambassador of the United States, and General Creig Abrams, Commanding General of the U.S. forces in Viet-Nam. What brought such important people to this village? Four grey haired American women who had each lost a son in the war in Viet-Nam. They came from Worcester County, Massachusetts, to dedicate the Lien Hiep Hospital as a living memorial to all Americans who have died in the Viet-Nam war.

The Lien Hiep Hospital is unique. As General Abrams put it - "It's non-military, non-government - it's people." The people of Worcester County wanted to honour the men from their community who had died in Viet-Nam. They wanted their memorial to be useful, and significant of the cause for which the men had died. More than 100,000 U.S. dollars was raised to build the hospital for the people of Viet-Nam. The site was chosen to reach over 200,000 people in an isolated area where the lack of medical facilities is acute. The hospital, about 140 miles Northeast of Saigon, will be operated by Project Concern, an independent non-profit international relief program designed to help those in need of medical treatment.

"This hospital will provide us with the means to preserve our manpower for reconstruction and development instead of being wasted by disease and ill health", Prime Minister Khiem said.

Another small group listened intently to the proceedings. Twenty three American soldiers, all from Worcester, and all currently serving in Viet-Nam, had come from all over Viet-Nam to participate in the dedication. Their friend and schoolmates had died in Viet-Nam. Throughout the ceremony, they took turns walking up to the plaque engraved with the names of the 200 Worcester men in whose honour the hospital was built. Later, they talked with the four mothers, took their pictures, and embraced them, knowing that only fate had brought them there alive to comfort the mothers of the men who had died.

With the Montagnards and the Worcester soldiers listening, each of the distinguished guests expressed their feelings. Here was a symbol of the future of Viet-Nam, where modern medicine, education, and opportunity rise from the ruins of war. Here, a people who have fought so long for their freedom are joined by a people who have inherited theirs, and are fighting to help preserve it in Viet-Nam.

Somehow, the idea of a living memorial took shape. Those with the need, those with the means, and those with the ideals, brought together at Lien Hiep, breathed life into the memorial of the 200 Worcester men who had died. Mrs. Elaine Huntoo, one of the four mothers, said, "It would be terrible to lose a son and then lose the cause he died for." Hien Hiep Hospital was built to ensure that their cause will not be forgotten.

Women

TRUNG SISTERS DAY OBSERVED IN SAIGON

Saigon, March 13, 1970--Madame Nguyen Van Thieu, wife of the Republic of Viet-Nam President said Friday morning "In this critical juncture, the two main activities of Vietnamese women are to actively join women combat groups and to effectively participate in social activities."

The First Lady made the statement when addressing 5,000 women attending the celebration of Trung Sisters Day in front of the Saigon City Hall.

Madame Thieu added, in the recent past she and a number of other women actively carried out social activities and she felt happy because the women have been organized into groups.

Earlier, in his opening speech, Saigon Prefect Col. Do Kien Nhieu emphasized that the commemoration of Trung Sisters aimed at appealing for the sense of responsibility of women in the capital at the present war time.

Following the celebration carried out according to traditional rites, Madame Thieu along with Mesdames, Tran Thien Khiem, wife of the Prime Minister and Ngo Xuan Tich, wife of the Supreme Court Chairman, presented prizes and certificates of commendation to 15 good mothers, 11 outstanding CSD female members and four prize winners at the capital firing contest.

Later, Madame Thieu and the guests visited the home economics exhibit organized by women throughout the capital's 11 precincts.

The ceremony ended with the distribution of prizes to winners of the Baby, Home Economics and Women Literary contests organized last week.

Among the guests were cabinet members, high ranking officials at various ministries, Senator (Mrs) Nguyen Van Tho and representatives of the diplomatic corps.

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