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Politics

PRES. THIEU SENDS MESSAGE TO N.A. JOINT SESSION

Saigon, April 6, 1970--In his message sent to the National Assembly joint session Monday morning President Nguyen Van Thieu successively dealt with current events at home and in the world especially the recent changes in Laos and Cambodia.

'The Republic of Viet-Nam, said President Thieu, is always pursuing one aim that is to put an end to the war in Viet-Nam and to restore just peace for this part of the world. We have clearly expressed our desire for peace and we still maintain this extreme good-will and we demand that the Communists discuss seriously to have concrete results.'

'We reaffirm that the Communists must, first of all, show their good-will to cease their aggression, and be determined to discuss seriously in Paris. To discuss any matter. Such is our policy which I stated in my October 6, 1969 message and which we have repeated many times and practically every week at the Paris talks.'

PEACE IN INDO-CHINA: Dealing with the problem of peace for the whole Indo-China President Thieu said 'stable peace in Indo-China can be achieved only if the neutrality of Laos and Cambodia is not violated by external forces and is supervised and guaranteed by an efficient international system. Only with that condition can we really think of a future peaceful solution for Viet-Nam.'

In his remarks on the political events in Cambodia in the pass weeks, President Thieu once again confirmed that the RVN always respects strictly the independence, neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia within its present frontier. The two countries and the two peoples of Cambodia and Viet-Nam must be two friendly countries and peoples.

He said the RVN is ready to discuss the sooner the better, with the new government of Cambodia, a number of pending questions leading to the reestablishment of the severed relationship in a broad-minded, friendly and fair manner conducive to lasting and harmonious togetherness and ultimately to the common interest and happiness of both nations.

ECONOMIC STABILITY IS NECESSARY: President Thieu made known key measures to stabilize financial and economic activities have been presented by the government and belong to the results of debates and votes of the National Assembly.

At the present juncture, more than ever before, the country needs economic stability to concentrate all its efforts to the anti-Communist struggle and national development.

He hoped the legislative would closely cooperate with the executive to search and apply necessary measures to bring on the country a stable economy conducive to self-sufficiency.

COMMON RESPONSIBILITY: Concerning the vital struggle against the Communist aggressor, President Thieu said the executive and legislative assume the common responsibility before the people and history to lead the fight to final victory.

According to him, in order not to fall into the Communists' trap and maintain the supremacy of the law, the government had to protect the national sovereignty, safeguard public order and strictly apply the laws in force.

PRES. THIEU ADDRESSES VILLAGE OFFICIALS AT VUNG TAU TRAINING CENTER

Vung Tau, April 7, 1970--President Nguyen Van Thieu said Tuesday morning the underground Communists were inciting disturbances to create unrest in the country.

In his talk to over 2,000 village and hamlet officials and cadres attending the 1-70 training course at the Vung Tau National Cadres' Training Center, President Thieu said the right time has come to lead us to victory for the nation. If we are not careful we would lose our country.

The President urged the officials to strictly and justly apply the laws in force upon their return to their villages and hamlets.

He also mentioned the students' struggle at present, saying they wanted to plead for several Communist students arrested by the government. And in the struggle, for lack of control in their ranks the students were incited by the Communists to cause public disorder.

"For the time being we have to save the country first," President Thieu stressed.

According to him, the country now resembles a patient who needs a bitter potion to be cured. Therefore unrestrained actions must be checked otherwise they would lead to dictatorship and, he said, as a matter of fact this dictatorship would not be the work of the President.

Earlier, President Thieu explained to the trainees on the denomination "New Rural Areas" which symbolizes the new face of the countryside within the scope of the Pacification-Development Plan designed to bring the country to self-sufficiency.

Dealing with the over-all situation at present, President Thieu said the Communists were trying to score several points through their terrorist acts and shellings. However their scheme is still an illusion.

The President foretold that in the coming months the enemy will make efforts to launch some wave of counter-attacks but they will merely receive failure.

To defeat the Communists, he said, we must be strong in all fields and use democracy to win over Red dictatorship and god-fear will to win over atheism.

On this occasion, Lt. Col. Nguyen Be, Commandant of Chi Linh training center reported the results of the month-long training course for 2,359 trainees including village, hamlet officials, information armed propaganda cadres and Popular Forces' members.

President Thieu, Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem, Information Minister Ngo Khanh Tinh then presented gifts to 30 most outstanding trainees.

Accompanying President Thieu to Vung Tau were Mr. Cao Van Than, Land Reform, Agriculture, Fishery Development Minister, Maj. Gen. Tran Thanh Phong, Rural Development Minister, Open-Arms Minister Ho Van Cham, Maj. Gen. Tran Van Trung, Chief of the RVNAF Polwar Central Agency, Lt. Gen. Dang Van Quang and Mr. Tran Van An, Assistants to the President.

PRES. THIEU APPEALS TO WAR INVALIDS TO END DEMONSTRATIONS

Saigon, April 8, 1970--Following is the appeal of the President to the war-invalids (unofficial translation):

- In the past few days, a number of war invalids have come to the National Assembly Office and Independence Palace to present their aspirations.
- I have followed up what happened during one or two weeks ago and studied your aspiration. I have ordered the Prime Minister and the concerned Ministers to find out urgent measures and a program to satisfy your problems.
- The Prime Minister and an Inter-Ministerial Committee have set forth an 8-point program of action which was widely disseminated through radio and television and the press.
- The Veterans Affairs Minister also contacted a number of your representatives to gradually realize this program.
- On Monday afternoon (April 8), a number of war-invalids went to Independence Palace to present some problems to the Government for explanation. The Veteran Affairs Minister, the Saigon Prefect, the Gia Dinh province chief and the Assistant to the Chief of Military Office at the Presidency contacted them and had satisfactory explanations with them.

Finally they asked to see me inside the Palace. I accepted and invited Mr. Nguyen Dinh, War-Invalids Association Chairman who claimed to be your official representative to enter the Palace that I could inquire him about some problems relating to your aspirations.

I also invited ex-sergeant Nguyen Van Dong of the 2nd Marine Battalion to meet with me because, two days earlier, he had set forth some ideas which I considered as constructive and paid special attention to them. I want to ask him about other questions regarding your daily life.

- However, they still maintained two conditions (1) the presence of newsmen in the meeting and (2) their delegation must include five members instead of two.

I believed these two conditions were not necessary since I want to talk with you sincerely and frankly. Moreover you already have a representative who is your Association's Chairman and another one who is ex-Sergeant Nguyen Van Dong. I believed they could present the aspirations of you as well as some other practical problems which I want to know.

- Nevertheless, they still did not accept my invitation and continued to assemble in front of Independence Palace. As for me, I cannot do anything better.

Today, April 7, I believe your presence in front of Independence Palace is not necessary because:

First, every point you wanted to be explained has been explained.

Second, you want to see me, but when I invite you to enter the Palace you refused my invitation.

Third, the Prime Minister and the interministerial committee have worked out an eight-point program to gradually solve your problems.

Fourth, today April 7, I sent to the National Assembly a draft-law on the special rights reserved for the war invalids, war dead dependents and veterans, and requested both Houses to discuss and give vote to it according to emergency procedures.

I need to clarify that this bill was not drafted during your demonstrations, but long ago and for a month-long period has been supplemented to be transferred to the National Assembly at the opening of its first regular session of 1970.

Moreover, the policy and a number of measures aimed at helping disabled veterans and war dead dependents has been partly carried out long ago.

Finally, I sincerely appeal to you:

- to end your demonstrations and let the government and the National Assembly to do their work

- not to continue occupying public as well as private land to avoid regrettable incidents between you and the local inhabitants like at Tan Phu hamlet, recently.

You should not use sticks or weapons to hurt policemen or security forces, violate laws and public order, and create obstacles for circulation and the people's daily activities.

You also should not allow Communist cadres to exploit of your extremist actions for their own interests.

I am myself a soldier who fought for 20 years and now I have a number of relations who were wounded in the battlefields as you were, therefore, I understand thoroughly all problems of servicemen and ex-servicemen.

I have paid, and will pay particular concern to your aspirations.

I appeal for your understanding. For the sake of national interest I must restore public order and make the laws of the land respected.

In my position, I am determined not to allow the Communists to exploit your just aspirations, overthrow this regime, and take over this country easily.

You must not mistake that you have won over the government or vice-versa.

Between, anti-Communist nationalists as we are, there is no winner. Those whom we must win over are the Communists. You must understand this and help me.

GOVERNMENT DELEGATION TESTIFIES BEFORE SENATE

Saigon, April 9, 1970--Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem said Wednesday morning it is not necessary to learn who stands behind the war invalids' struggle since even when we do find out, the war disabled problem would still remain.

In reply to Senator Tran The Minh's question at the government delegation's testimony on the war invalid, students, economic and financial problems before the Senate, Prime Minister Khiem said everyone admits the good treatment to war invalids is a common problem of society which the government will solve in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution.

Recalling that the Executive had forwarded to the legislative the war invalid bill, the Prime Minister urged the lawmakers to work out other similar draft laws so as to find together the best solution for the war disabled problem.

PUBLIC AGENTS ONLY CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES: Prime Minister Khiem said the police had not suppressed the war disabled servicemen since President Thieu and he himself had forbidden public agents to exert harsh measures against them. Hence it couldn't be suppression while the police merely carried out their daily duties of maintaining the security and order in the city. Furthermore most of the wounded in the scuffle were policemen.

According to Prime Minister Khiem the scuffle which occurred Tuesday was initiated by about nine persons who infiltrated into the war invalids' rank.

LAND FOR THE WAR INVALIDS: On this occasion Senator Vu Minh Tran suggested the government to fill up muddy areas in the capital's outskirts to distribute them to the war disabled, militarymen and civil-servants.

However the Prime Minister made known it will take one year for these lands to become solid and only then would the distribution be carried out.

Meanwhile Public Works Minister Duong Kich Nhuong briefed the Senators on the Capital embellishment plan of the government, the control and requisition of private land in to-be developed areas and the enlargement of the Phu Tho Hoa, 8th precinct and the Capital's northern area to enable the building of more housing units for the people.

To the Senators' questions on the war invalid problem, Veteran Affairs Minister Pham Van Dong said about 1,800 huts have been built on public and private land but only 300 of them really belong to the invalids while the rest are owned by those who take advantage of the situation to serve their own interests.

Minister Dong disclosed at first only 11 homeless war invalids erected huts near the Veteran Affairs Ministry.

He asserted that with 300 homeless war disabled, the government will be able to solve the problem immediately by giving them temporary abodes and later resettling them in another place.

ORDER 1019 BENEFICIAL TO WAR INVALIDS: Minister Dong stressed that his Ministry's Order 1019 helps the war disabled get jobs easily rather than cuts off their means of living.

He made known that veterans disabled with incapacity of more than 85 per cent are admitted to rest centers and cared for by the government until their death.

On this occasion Minister Dong said, the draft-law providing status for war invalids, widows and orphans recently sent to the National Assembly by President Thieu had many remarkable points according to which the war invalids will enjoy allowance for their wives in addition to their own and for their children.

Moreover, in each province a war disabled family will be granted five to ten hectares of land.

NEW POLICY WORKED OUT: Earlier, Prime Minister Khiem said the Executive had worked out a whole policy to fight against dark schemes of creating unrest in the country and to boost the national economy.

He recalled that to prevent inflation, the government had to promulgate strong economic measures to increase the incomes and decrease expenditures. These measures, he said, had profound influence on the people's living standards and were applied to meet the current situation. Now the government is stepping into the phase of stabilizing the national economy and finance.

Prime Minister Kheim said the RVN government is to increase military potential to fight the Communist aggressors and concentrate its efforts on the Pacification-Development activities.

The government delegation which testified before the Senate Wednesday morning included Dr. Nguyen Luu Vien, Deputy Prime Minister concurrently Education Minister, Minister of State for Reconstruction and Development Vu Quoc Thuc, Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam, Defense Minister Nguyen Van Vy, Veteran Affairs Minister Pham Van Dong, Economy Minister Pham Kim Ngoc, Finance Minister Nguyen Bich Hue, Land Reform, Agri-

culture, Fishery Development Minister Cao Van Than, Public Works Minister Duong Kich Nhuong, Information Minister Ngo Khac Tinh, Mr. Nguyen Van Vang, Secretary of State at the Prime Minister's Office, and Mr. Cao Van Tuong, Secretary of State for relations to the National Assembly.

Interior Vice Minister Le Cong Chat and Finance Vice Minister Ha Xuan Trung were also present.

The testimony recessed at 12:30 p.m. and will resume at 2:30 p.m.

Saigon, April 9, 1970--Justice Minister Le Van Thu Wednesday afternoon at a testimony of the government delegation before the Senate denied rumors alleging that student detainees have been tortured.

The Justice Minister made known that seven lawyers had accepted to plead for the detained students and the relatives of six students were allowed to visit them.

According to the Minister, if the students were tortured to injury, their defenders and relatives would be aware of it.

He also asserted that there was no mistake in the arrest of student Huynh Tan Mam because Mam himself signed his declaration. Moreover, witnesses and documents also proved that there was no mistake.

The police arrested a total of 41 university students, including 22 who will face the Mobile Field Court. Two others will be brought before the Military Tribunal and 17 were released.

DEVELOPMENT OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION: At the testimony Dr. Nguyen Luu Vien, Deputy Prime Minister concurrently Education Minister, dealt with the government policy on university students.

With its 1970 budget only amounting to 8,015 million VNP the Education Ministry has reserved 4,471 million for primary education, 1,751 million for secondary education. the university education thus only has over 500 million VNP.

Minister Vien, on this occasion, said that rights and activities of university students are stipulated in the RVN constitution, however, they must respect the laws of the land as any other citizen.

Concerning complaints of militarymen running for province and city council elections who get only a 20-day leave for electioneering, Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Nguyen Van Vy, explained the strength of combat units can not be in shortage too long because of a large number of military candidates for these elections.

The government delegation's testimony before the Senate was continuing as of 9 p.m. Wednesday.

Saigon, April 10, 1970--Continuing the testimony before the Senate Wednesday afternoon Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem said politics at present is too complicated and problems which were not raised three or four months ago will be posed to us in the next few months.

The Prime Minister added in Viet-Nam all current issues are resulted from the influence of the Communist aggression. Therefore no one can fortell the development of national situation.

He called for the necessary cooperation between the legislative and executive in every national activity.

Prime Minister Khiem said the government has completed the mapping out of a financial economic policy which will be presented to the lawmakers in a few days.

The Prime Minister said finding a solution for the war invalid and student problem is the common task of the government. Hence, there was no dissension among government agencies concerning this issue.

He also rejected a news report alleging that he had transferred the duty to settle the student problem to Deputy Prime Minister concurrently Education Minister Nguyen Luu Vien, saying that the latter had merely represented him to receive the students' aspirations.

NEW RICE DISTRIBUTION PROJECT: Economy Minister Pham Kim Ngoc made known the government had approved a new method of distributing rice to the provinces.

He said the purchase of rice in the Western provinces for distribution to the I, II and III CTZs has become more successful than before.

According to Minister Ngoc 40,000 to 50,000 tons of rice have been transported to Saigon from the Western province every month.

The government, he said, now forces the provincial authorities to urgently pay the debts on purchase of rice for their own provinces to facilitate the next wave of rice distribution.

According to Minister Ngoc, the government has been striving to set up safe rice warehouses to prevent shortage of rice once foreign ships fail to arrive in Saigon in due time.

He said this year's crop was successful while there remains a large quantity of rice in stocks in 1969. Hence from now till next June the government would reconsider the import of rice to decrease the expense of government-owned foreign currency.

CONSUMER ROBBED: Meanwhile Finance Minister Nguyen Bich Hue dealt with the people's loss of confidence in the value of the Vietnamese piaster which is very detrimental to the national economy.

Minister Hue stressed, the consumers are pitilessly robbed by dishonest dealers since believing groundless rumors they have bought and hoarded a large quantity of foreign goods.

The government, he said, is trying to wipe out this mistake since in fact the Vietnamese piaster has not lost its value. This problem also depends on our determination to fight against inflation to stabilize the national economy, he added.

The Finance Minister said the decrease of expenditures could not be carried out to the extreme since such an action would harm the productivity and paralyze regular

activities of the country, especially the Pacification-Development Plan.

As part of the program to reduce expenditures, the government is speeding up the sale of public buildings, vehicles and spending less on personnel.

According to Minister Hue, the approximate number of 100,000 civil servants at present are really necessary since most of them belong to the Education Ministry.

U.S. AID FOR LAND REFORM: To a question of Senator Nguyen Van Ngai on the implementation of the "Land-to-the Tiller" Law, Mr. Cao Van Than, Land Reform, Agriculture, Fishery Development Minister said his Ministry had completed the drafting of a decree on the implementation of this law.

The Ministry is carrying out the dissemination of this law among the people and will later explain the techniques for implementation.

Minister Than said the RVN had signed an agreement last June with the U.S. which promised to give Viet-Nam 10 million U.S. dollars as aid. The government has also requested the release of 30 million U.S. to help carry out the Land Reform law in the first year.

The allocation, in the future, will be used to pay reparations to ex-propriated landowners.

The testimony before the Senate of the government delegation which began at 10 a.m. Wednesday ended at 9:30 p.m. the same day.

Foreign Relations

PRES. THIEU RECEIVES ROK FOREIGN MINISTER

Saigon, April 7, 1970--President Nguyen Van Thieu Monday afternoon received at Independence Palace Mr. Kyu Hah Choi, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea.

Accompanying the ROK Foreign Minister was Mr. Kyu Sup Chung, ROK Vice Foreign Minister.

Also present at the meeting were Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky, and ROK Ambassador to Viet-Nam Shin Sang Chul.

Minister Kyu Hah Choi arrived in Saigon Monday morning after having attended a diplomatic conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He is scheduled to leave Saigon Tuesday.

Later, the ROK Foreign Minister was received by Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem for thirty minutes at the latter's office.

RVN-ROK SIGN AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Saigon, April 7, 1970--Foreign Affairs Minister Tran Van Lam and Republic of Korea's Foreign Minister Kyu Hah Choi Monday afternoon signed an agreement on the economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

The agreement was signed at the Foreign Affairs Ministry in the presence of a large number of Vietnamese and Korean ranking officials, including the ROK Ambassador to Viet-Nam and Mr. Nguyen Quy Anh, Cabinet Director at the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

ROK Foreign Minister Kyu Hah Choi Monday arrived in Saigon for a two-day visit after having attended a diplomatic conference at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

LONDON MASS RALLY SUPPORTS RVN ANTI-COMMUNIST STRUGGLE

Saigon, April 7, 1970--About 300 members of 13 anti-Communist organizations in Britain last Sunday held a mass rally in front of the RVN Embassy in London, expressing their active support to the Vietnamese people's struggle for freedom and denouncing the Communist aggression of South Viet-Nam.

The demonstrators carried the RVN flag and the portrait of President Nguyen Van Thieu.

On this occasion, a seven-member delegation headed by L. John Biggs Davidson, a member of the House of Commons submitted to the RVN Embassy's representative a petition expressing support to the anti-Communist struggle of the RVN government and people.

The petition, signed by the British Democratic Alliance also made known that the large majority of the British people back the RVN government's struggle for freedom, peace and democracy.

The demonstrators later marched to the Soviet Embassy shouting anti-Communist slogans, and then gathered at Hyde Park.

The mass rally gathered over 800 persons; many of them took the floor to denounce Communist aggression in Viet-Nam, and voice out their support to the just cause of the RVN people in their anti-Communist struggle.

Participating in the mass rally and parade were the Democratic Alliance, the Association of British Friends of SVN, and Conservative Youth Groups of several universities.

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