

VIET-NAM BULLETIN

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Politics

PRES. THIEU ON COMBINED US-ARVN OPERATION IN CAMBODIA

Saigon, May 2, 1970--The Press Secretary at the President's office announced Friday that President Nguyen Van Thieu in reply to foreign newsmen's question on President Nixon's address on Southeast Asia situation said that the RVN government two days earlier had authorized the ARVN to launch an operation inside the Cambodian territory to destroy the military headquarters of Communist North Viet-Nam.

This was an essential and effective measure to protect the lives of the people and soldiers of the Republic of Viet-Nam as well as of the allied combatants.

He added, President Nixon, while ordering the U.S. forces to participate in the combined Vietnamese-American operation against Communist sanctuaries in the Cambodian territory, also held that it was an essential and important measure to protect the lives of the people and soldiers of the RVN as well as of the Allied troops, especially before the Communist stubbornness of continuing their brazen violation of Cambodian territory.

President Thieu opined that with the responsibility of a President and a Commander-in Chief of the Armed Forces, President Nixon and he himself have no other choice to cope with the intransigence of the Communist aggressors.

DR. QUAT ON PRES. NIXON'S DECISION TO
SEND TROOPS TO CAMBODIA

Saigon, May 2, 1970--Dr. Phan Huy Quat, former Prime Minister, Saturday expressed his opinion over President Richard M. Nixon's decision on the Cambodian affair as follows:

"The decision is a courageous political act that comes from a sound and realistic assessment of the military and political situation of Indo-China."

"I believe that if this operation can destroy the 40,000 Communist Vietnamese troops that have so openly defied the neutrality of Cambodia, then it will bring back to this peninsula, at a much earlier date, the peace that so many good-willed people of the world have longed for. And with peace, all the U.S. soldiers can come home to their families.

"During this major turning point of the war, I hope that the Vietnamese leaders will prepare to face, in an imaginative manner, all possible eventualities."

CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT SETS UP COMMITTEE TO ASSURE
SECURITY FOR VIETNAMESE NATIONALS

Saigon, May 1, 1970--Mr. Pham Huy Ty, Cabinet Deputy Director at the Foreign Affairs Ministry Thursday said the first achievement scored by the RVN delegation in Cambodia was that the Cambodian government has decided to set up a committee to assure security for foreigners including Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia.

Mr. Pham Huy Ty, Deputy Chief of the RVN delegation in Cambodia returned to Saigon at 6 p.m. Thursday aboard a plane of Air Cambodia.

During his three-day stay in Cambodia, Mr. Ty conferred four times with the Cambodian Foreign Affairs Minister and the RVN delegation had scored satisfactory achievements including the establishment of the above committee.

To newsmen's questions at Tan Son Nhat airport, Mr. Ty said he was guided by the Phnom Penh Prefect to visit Vietnamese nationals who warmly welcomed the representative of the RVN government.

Meanwhile Cambodian government and charitable organizations also set up relief committees to send foodstuffs to the Vietnamese nationals.

At present, the RVN delegation continues to visit and comfort Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia and the concentration of Vietnamese nationals was the main issue being discussed by the RVN delegation and the Cambodian government.

Besides, Dr. Tran Nguon Phieu, Minister of Social Welfare, Thursday met with Cambodian Chief of State Cheng Heng and Prime Minister Lon Nol. No reports of the meeting were available as yet.

Mr. Pham Huy Ty and Dr. Do Trong Chu, Chief of Cabinet at the Foreign Affairs Ministry flew to Phnom Penh last Sunday April 26.

After reporting the progress of the meetings between the RVN delegation and the Cambodian government to the Foreign Minister, Mr. Ty will rejoin the delegation in Cambodia next Monday, May 4.

DR. PHIEU: "IT'S TIME TO CARRY OUT
REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE NATIONALS FROM CAMBODIA"

Saigon, May 6, 1970--Upon his arrival at Tan Son Nhat airport at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dr. Tran Nguon Phieu, Social Welfare Minister said, it's time for us to carry out the repatriation of Vietnamese nationals from Cambodia.

Dr. Phieu said the repatriation of Vietnamese nationals from Cambodia by ships and planes has been agreed upon by the Cambodian government and that the Cambodian government has shown a fairly decent attitude towards the Vietnamese in Phnom Penh. The Social Welfare Minister said he has not known as yet the situation of Vietnamese nationals in remote areas.

However he remarked that the overall situation has been greatly calmed down with the presence of the RVN delegation in Phnom Penh.

Dr. Phieu said he believed the re-establishment of Cambodian-Vietnamese friendship will progress steadily, and the situation of Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia will be settled soon.

The Social Welfare Minister said the number of Vietnamese nationals repatriated from Cambodia will depend on the security situation in Cambodia.

The Minister said he recently heard that the Cambodian government has solved the situation of over 5,000 Vietnamese nationals concentrated in Sway Rieng where Lt. Gen. Do Cao Tri, Commander of the II Corps and III Corps Tactical Zone recently visited during Operation Toan Thang 42, launched in Cambodia.

On the fate of Vietnamese nationals in Phnom Penh, he said 'they were concentrated for security reason and were well treated.'

Dr. Tran Nguon Phieu, as Chief of the RVN delegation arrived in Phnom Penh last April 26 to discuss with the Cambodian government on the Vietnamese national issues.

On hand to greet Dr. Tran Nguon Phieu at Tan Son Nhat airport Tuesday were Minister of State Phan Quang Dan, Mr. Cao Xuan An, Cabinet Director at the Social Welfare Ministry; Mr. Ho Quan Phuoc, representative of the Foreign Affairs Ministry; and high ranking officials of the Social Welfare Ministry.

PRES. THIEU SENDS MESSAGE ON LABOR DAY

Saigon, May 1, 1970--President Nguyen Van Thieu on the occasion of Labor Day, May 1, sent a message to the workers throughout the country.

The President said he hoped the living standards of the labor class will be constantly improved, but in order to better their life, workers must struggle against the Communists since under Communist regime workers are merely instruments.

Besides, under the Communist rule, there is no respect of human dignity or human basic rights such as freedom of union.

After recalling the government basic policies mapped out since the establishment of the second Republic including peace restoration, democracy building and social reform, President Thieu dealt with the two main difficulties which hamper the realization of these three basic objectives: Communist aggression and the under-developed situation of our country.

He said, to overcome these difficulties everyone must make all-out efforts in every branch of activity.

Concerning the labor class, these efforts should be made in three directions: to harmonize their own interests with those of other circles, to improve working methods and to have a high sense of duty.

The President finally urged the workers to clearly realize their position and role in the society so as to guarantee a life in freedom and prosperity, and to ensure the final victory of the national cause.

Military

DEFENSE MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON ARVN OPERATIONS ALONG CAMBODIAN BORDER

Saigon, April 30, 1970--The Defense Ministry Wednesday issued a statement on ARVN operations along the Vietnam-Cambodian border which reads in full as follows:

With a view to neutralize the North Vietnamese Communists' scheme of using the Cambodian territory as operation bases to infiltrate, shell and attack in the territory of the Republic of Viet-Nam, the ARVN has launched an operation on April 29, 1970 to destroy the enemy's bases along the border in the Parrot's Beak, southwest of Tay Ninh.

This operation is an indispensable and efficient measure to save the lives of the people and the lives of the soldiers of the ARVN as well as allied forces. Furthermore, this operation is also a necessary measure in the framework of the policy of

the RVN to gradually take more of the responsibility to defend its land and to replace American troops by Vietnamese troops.

In this operation the Joint General Staff of the ARVN has requested and has got the support of the American forces in combat support, logistics assistance and medical evacuation etc...

The units participating in the operation have received orders to strictly respect the lives and properties of the people, if any, in the area of operation. These units have also received orders to return to the territory of the RVN right after the completion of the operation in the spirit of the respect of the independence, neutrality and the territory of neighboring Cambodia.

MAJ. GEN. THANH KILLED IN CHOPPER CRASH

Saigon, May 3, 1970--Maj. Gen. Nguyen Viet Thanh Commander of the IV Corps and IV Corps Tactical Zone was killed Saturday in a helicopter crash while on an inspection of the battle area northeast of Moc Hoa, Kien Tuong province.

Born in 1931 in Long An province, Maj. Gen. Thanh joined the ARVN in 1951 and was promoted Major General June 19, 1968.

The Defense Ministry also issued a communique on the air tragedy which reads as follows:

At 1:31 p.m. Saturday a helicopter taking Maj. Gen. Nguyen Viet Thanh, IV Corps and IV CTZ Commander on an observation of an operation in Kien Tuong sector, collided in the air with another helicopter on a support mission for the operation. Both helicopters crashed and were destroyed.

Major General Thanh along with two servicemen died in the crash.

Crewsmen of both helicopters were killed in the accident except a gunner who was seriously wounded.

Foreign Relations

F.M. CLARIFIES MINISTER LAM'S STATEMENT

Saigon, May 4, 1970--The Foreign Ministry's Press and Information Directorate Monday issued a communique clarifying Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam's statement in an interview granted to an Italian newsman which appeared on the Italian daily Il Tempo and was reprinted by several Vietnamese dailies on May 2 and 3 from an AFP report.

The communique said to a question of newsman Giorgio Torchia on his impression about the French proposal on the Indo-China issue, Foreign Minister Lam said when proposing international negotiations to solve the Indo-Chinese war, France had hurriedly stated that the ultimate goal of these talks will be the neutralization of South Viet-Nam.

The Foreign Minister expressed the regret that such a proposal would not differ from the setting of the ploughshare in front of the buffalo.

According to Minister Lam no condition would be set before any invitation for conferences or negotiations. The problem of neutrality if pointed out, would only constitute a topic to be discussed later in the negotiation. Moreover everyone knows that at present when Communist North Viet-Nam is waging aggression against the Republic of Viet-Nam and dreaming of toppling down the constitutional government of South Viet-Nam by the force of arms, the RVN could not adopt a neutral position.

Foreign Minister Lam stressed that for the time being the key problem is that the Communists must end their aggression to enable the restoration of peace instead of raising the neutralization of South Viet-Nam as a measure to solve the war.

CHIEFS OF RVN PERMANENT MISSION IN CAMBODIA APPOINTED

Saigon, May 6, 1970--Messrs. Pham Huy Ty and Do Trong Chu were respectively appointed Chief and Deputy Chief of the RVN permanent mission in Cambodia, sources from the Foreign Ministry recently announced.

The RVN permanent mission was set up following an agreement between the governments of the RVN and Cambodia to protect the lives and properties of Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia.

RVN READY TO ATTEND ASIAN CONFERENCE ON CAMBODIA

Saigon, April 30, 1970--The Foreign Affairs Ministry Thursday issued a communique announcing that the RVN government is ready to attend a conference of Asian nations on Communist North Viet-Nam's aggression against Cambodia.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Adam Malik last April 21 proposed such a conference to settle diplomatically the above issue.

The RVN government remarked that the conference will be an opportunity for it to express its stand of respect for Cambodia's independence, neutrality and territorial integrity, and at the same time to stress the importance of peace restoration in that neighboring country, the communique said.

The Republic of Viet-Nam had denounced many times in the past the collusion of Prince Sihanouk with Communist North Viet-Nam which used the Cambodian territory as a spring-board to launch attacks against the Republic of Viet-Nam.

This RVN denouncement is confirmed by the present situation in Cambodia.

Therefore, the communique said, the RVN government is ready to attend a conference so as to contribute to the restoration of peace in Cambodia as well as to uphold the capability and goodwill for solidarity of peace-loving countries in Southeast Asia.

RVN HAILS JAPAN'S GOOD-WILL IN BETTERMENT OF VIETNAM-CAMBODIA RELATIONS

Saigon, April 30, 1970--Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam Wednesday praised Japanese Foreign Minister Kichi Aichi's good-will in the betterment of diplomatic relations between the RVN and Cambodia.

In a letter to Mr. Aichi, Foreign Minister Lam asked his Japanese counterpart to convey to the Japanese government his admiration and thanks over the Japanese successful intervention for a visit of the RVN delegation to Cambodia.

Mr. Lam expressed the hope that with the good-will shown by the Phnom Penh government, all obstacles will be overcome and diplomatic relations between the two countries will be improved.

Last April 27, Mr. Kichi Aichi declared that the Japanese government hoping for a quick normalization of diplomatic relations between the RVN and Cambodia was ready to assume any necessary and appropriate role leading to the betterment of these relations.

SUPREME COURT: LAW ESTABLISHING FIELD COURTS IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Saigon, April 30, 1970--The Supreme Court at its plenary session Wednesday declared 'unconstitutional' the Decree law No. 11/62 dated May 21, 1962 establishing Field Courts and the Writ of Summons No. 1265 dated April 13, 1970 by the Defense Minister.

After 10 hours of deliberations, the Supreme Court at 10 p.m. Wednesday accepted the incidental pleas dated April 20, 1970 of the defense counsel in Student Mam's case.

It also declared 'unconstitutional' Article 3, 4, 5, 9 & 12 of Decree Law No. 11/62 establishing Field Courts, which are against Article 3, 76, 78 and 7 par. 6 of the Constitution.

Also declared 'unconstitutional' was the Writ of Summons No. 1265 dated April 13, 1970 by Defense Minister, because it was based on a report of the Directorate of National Police which was not in conformity with Article 7 par. 4 of the Constitution, according to which "evidence secured through torturing and intimidation is valueless."

The Supreme Court, after handing down the verdict which will appear on the RVN official Journal, postponed the trial of Tran Ngoc Chau case until May 5.

About 100 students including 10 students temporarily released on bail present at the session expressed their gladness over the verdict handed down by the Supreme Court.

At 9:30 p.m., a number of other students riding on their motorbikes circled the Supreme Court to support the students inside the Court House. They were prevented from entering the building by the Riot Police who threw 3 smoke grenades.

SUPREME COURT DECLARES UNCONSTITUTIONALITY OF GOVERNMENT DECISION TO PROSECUTE REP. CHAU

Saigon, May 6, 1970--The Supreme Court Tuesday night declared the decision on the prosecution of Rep. Tran Ngoc Chau was unconstitutional since it violated Article 37, par. 2 of the Constitution; it was based neither on the *flagrante delicto* principle nor the approval of three-fourths of the Representatives at a plenary session of the Lower House.

The Court also admitted the unconstitutionality of articles 3, 4, 5, 9, 12, and 13, paragraph 1 of decree-law 11/62 dated May 21, 1962 establishing the Military Field Court since they were against articles 3, 76, 78 and 7, clause 6 of the Constitution.

Concerning Rep. Chau's defense counsel's request for the abrogation of the sentence handed down on March 5, 1970 by the Military Field Court and the imprisonment

WAR PRODUCES UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT DIVIDENDS FOR RVN

Sagion, April 30, 1970--More than a quarter century of nearly uninterrupted warfare has produced an unexpected dividend for the Republic of Viet-Nam -- development of material and human resources which should prove invaluable to the nation's future economic growth.

That is the conclusion of Japan's federation of economic organizations after a year-long study of South Viet-Nam's development potential.

A report filed by the Federation's managing director, Tetsuya Senga, and co-author Magadasa Miyawaki reaffirmed statements issued during an April 12 to 24 visit by a seven-man team of economic experts.

Mr. Senga urged timely collaboration with South Viet-Nam in economic development projects, and said his organization also would present detailed proposals for such aid to the Japanese government and the private business sector.

One major national asset directly attributable to the war, the report says, is South Viet-Nam's modern communications network of roads, seaports and airports.

A massive rebuilding and resurfacing program has given the Repulbic some 12,000 kilometers of all-weather highways and an additional 8,000 kilometers of improved rural roads.

Saigon's modernized port facilities in 1969 handled more than 5,500 ships bearing 7.8 million metric tons of cargo. Major rebuilding programs at Da Nang, Qui Nhon and Nha Trang give the Republic a potential for rapid expansion of import-export cargo handling.

In addition, the large and sophisticated military port facilities at Cam Ranh Bay eventually will convert to civilian use.

Saigon's Tan Son Nhut airport reputedly is the busiest air facility in the world. Smaller facilities at Can Tho, Nha Trang, and other provincial capitals give South Viet-Nam an aerial traffic capability unusual for a developing nation.

Rail facilities in South Viet-Nam are highly vulnerable to war damages and the ravages of nature. Nevertheless, by the end of 1969, South Viet-Nam had restored traffic on 675 kilometers of track -- about 53 per cent of the nation's rail system - and reconstruction continues.

Additional development assets cited by the Japanese report include:

-- A reservoir of industrial and mechanical skills acquired by Vietnamese youth in the armed forces, representing a base of skilled workers for future industrialization.

-- Rich resources of arable land, timber and fisheries.

-- Abundant water for irrigation and hydroelectric power.

-- A highly blessed 'topography and geographical location, endowed with the best conditions for the growth of modern seaside industrial zones.'

South Viet-Nam's ports could also contribute to the development of Laos and inland areas of Cambodia and Thailand, the report notes.

Mr. Senga also predicted future joint Vietnamese-Japanese investment opportunities in a broad range of enterprises, including fishery, forestry and agriculture, manufacture of boats and fishing nets, and processing and marketing fish and shellfish.

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