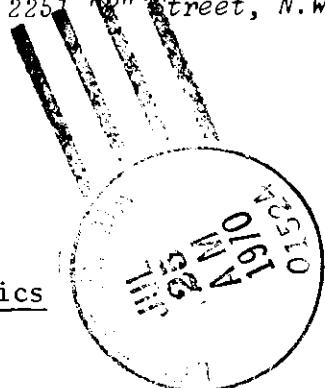


VIET-NAM BULLETIN

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Week of June 29 - July 5, 1970

Politics



PRES. THIEU PRAISES ARVN VICTORIES ON ARMED FORCES DAY

Saigon, June 19, 1970--On the occasion of Armed Forces Day (June 19), President Nguyen Van Thieu, in his Order of the day to combatants, warmly praised the tremendous military victories of the RVN Armed Forces in the past three months.

The military victories over the past three months, the RVN President said were the biggest following the 1968 decisive victory achieved by us and which made international opinions appreciative of the RVN Armed Forces.

Thanks to such military victories, the President stressed, from now on, the RVN regular and regional armed forces in the front lines, along with the popular armed forces which are growingly strengthened day by day at the rear, are determined not to let the enemy raise their head again and restore their strength.

The President added that as the Communists contend invasion and have not adopted a serious attitude at peace negotiation, the only alternative for us "is to rout the enemy out of the country."

"We must be stronger than our enemy in order to shorten the war and restore peace to our country", the President stressed.

To reach these objectives, President Thieu said starting July 1 the government will reorganize the RVN Armed Forces and the territorial security system to help reinforce the national defense and pave the way for the Post-war national development phase. A special Pacification-Development campaign will be launched for the 1970's second half and the reorganization without delay of the administrative machinery from central to local levels along with the improvement of the security branch will be also started, the President added.

Dealing with the living standard of over one million RVN combatants and their families, the President said he had asked for additional assistance from foreign friendly nations. He expressed the belief that the National Assembly will let him have larger powers in the economic and financial fields.

VICE PRES. KY: PHNOM PENH WOULD
NOT BE LOST TO COMMUNISTS

Saigon, June 19, 1970--Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky said Friday morning it's impossible that Phnom Penh be lost to the Communists and "with the cooperation of the Cambodian force we would be able to defend this Capital city of Cambodia."

At the opening ceremony of the war booty exhibit at Hoa Lu stadium on Armed Forces Day, June 19, Vice President Ky acknowledged that the Communists have intended to besiege and attack Phnom Penh. "In this case, we will help the Cambodian government defend that Capital City", he said.

Asked about the situation of Kompong Thom province, the Vice President made known without the RVN Armed Forces, this town would have been occupied by the enemy.

Vice President Ky made it clear that the RVN only gives military assistance to the Phnom Penh government, and for the time being we are helping Cambodia in training soldiers.

To a newsman's question, the Vice President said the presence of an anti-Communist regime in Cambodia is very beneficial to us. Hence we must help the Lon Nol government get on steadily.

Dealing with the withdrawal of U.S. Forces from Cambodia after June 30, Vice President Ky said, "we will carry out the support for our forces with our own means."

Meanwhile, the "Black Panther" Divison of Thailand may pull out from Viet-Nam to help Cambodia, he added.

Asked about the Armed Forces improvement, Vice President Ky disclosed that President Nguyen Van Thieu had conferred with him, Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem, Defense Minister Nguyen Van Vy and General Cao Van Vien, Chief of the RVNAF General Staff on this problem.

As for the Cabinet reshuffle, he advised newsmen to wait for President Thieu's announcement on that issue.

On this occasion, Vice President Ky also mentioned the possible appointment of Lt. Gen. Nguyen Duc Thang as RVN Ambassador to Cambodia, adding that it depends on President Thieu's decision and the approval of the National Assembly.

PRES. THIEU HAILS FRIENDLY COUNTRIES' AID TO VIET-NAM

Saigon, June 23, 1970--President Nguyen Van Thieu at the award ceremony on the occasion of the International Aid Day Monday afternoon said, the cooperation of friendly countries is a great encouragement for the Vietnamese people in their struggle for freedom.

In his speech welcoming representatives of diplomatic corps, chiefs of aid agencies, combatants and technical specialists of friendly countries present at the ceremony, President Thieu on behalf of the Vietnamese people asserted that the Communists have been bitterly defeated militarily and the Vietnamese have realized the inhuman nature of the Communist aggressors.

An eloquent proof of this, he added, was the development of the Civil Self-Defense Force.

Moreover, the security restored in rural areas has permitted the election of village councils and hamlet chiefs as well as the carrying-out of democracy building at the infrastructure level.

According to the RVN President, such a progress could never be reached if the Vietnamese people did not receive support from their friendly countries, especially from the Allies whose army units are fighting in Viet-Nam.

President Thieu also expressed the hope that the RVN will receive more aid from allied countries in the social and economic fields for a large part of its national budget was reserved for defense.

President Thieu stressed the military assistance of allied countries has helped the Republic of Viet-Nam check Communist aggression and strengthen the national defense force. In the economic field, he added, if the RVN could receive an aid program similar to the Marshall Plan granted to Europe following World War I, it would make greater progress so as to be self-sufficient.

President Thieu also asked the representatives of the friendly countries to convey the deep gratitude of the RVN people and of himself to the government and people of friendly countries for their active assistance. He hoped the friendly ties among the friendly countries be closer day by day.

President Thieu then pinned 11 'Chuong My' medals first class and 8 others second class on the chiefs of friendly countries' aid missions.

Earlier, Information Minister Ngo Khac Tinh, Acting Foreign Affairs Minister, asked the foreign countries' representatives to convey the sincere thanks of the Vietnamese people to foreign countries' government and people for their contribution in the military as well as economic and social fields to help the RVN fight Communist aggression.

In his reply, Mr. Shin Sang Shul, ROK Ambassador to Viet-Nam and Dean of the diplomatic corps, recalled that the friendly countries aid is to help the RVN people build a strong and prosperous nation.

He also urged countries in the Free World to assist the RVN more actively and more efficiently so as to help it overcome the present difficulties.

Present at the event were Senate Chairman Nguyen Van Huyen, Lower House Speaker Nguyen Ba Luong, Supreme Court President Tran Minh Tiet, Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem, Inspectorate Chairman Ngo Xuan Tich, Cabinet members and a number of general officers.

Also attending the reception were representatives of the diplomatic corps and aid missions of friendly countries.

Military

MILITARY OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA HELP TEST RVNAF LOGISTIC CAPABILITY--BRIG. GEN. KHUYEN

Saigon, June 19, 1970--"The military operations in Cambodia help test the large-scale logistic capability of the RVNAF," said Brig. Gen. Dong Van Khuyen, Central Logistic Agency Director General while attending an exhibit of war booty from the Cambodian front held at Hoa Lu stadium.

Brig. Gen. Khuyen said the logistic capability of the RVNAF for Cambodian front "is very effective". Every day, he said, about 30 tons of ammunitions, foodstuffs, and military gear were provided to operational units in Cambodia.

According to Brig. Gen. Khuyen, the operational units in Cambodia were supplied with C-rations. However, Brig. Gen. Khuyen added, the operational units were allowed to buy fresh foods at the localities.

Brig. Gen. Khuyen also made known that the RVNAF logistic mission in Cambodian front was carried out with "our own means without any allied support in the transportation field."

USAF SECRETARY ON VNAF DEVELOPMENT

Saigon, June 21, 1970--The South Vietnamese Air Force is being expanded from 22 to 40 squadrons and more than 3,500 pilots and mechanics will be trained in the U.S. this year to enable the Republic of Viet-Nam to take over more defense responsibilities, says U.S. Air Force Secretary Robert C. Seamans.

In a speech delivered in Washington last June 17, Secretary Semans said:

"We are working closely with the Vietnamese Air Force. It has already grown to 22 squadrons and its attack sorties have increased more than 40 per cent in the last

year. This year over 3,500 pilots and aircraft mechanics will be trained in the U.S., but the real emphasis is being shifted to in-country training whenever possible. Nha Trang Air Base has been turned over to the Vietnamese and has become their air training center.

According to Secretary Seamans, preparations are underway to just about double the Vietnamese Air Force to 40 squadrons. The additional people have been recruited and are being trained now.

VIETNAMESE NAVY RECEIVES 273 MORE U.S. CRAFTS

Saigon, June 23, 1970--The Vietnamese Navy received Tuesday morning 273 crafts from the U.S. Navy.

The turn-over ceremony which took place at the naval shipyard where presided over by Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Nguyen Van Vy and U.S. Navy Secretary John H. Chafee.

This transfer of crafts, regarded as the most important ever made, raised the Vietnamese Navy to the 9th rank in the list of world Navy forces.

On this occasion, Secretary Chafee said the turn-over marked a phase in which responsibility has been transferred to the Vietnamese Navy in the patrol on Vietnamese rivers and territorial waters.

In his speech, Minister Vy said the transfer of U.S. crafts will provide the Vietnamese Navy and the RVN Armed Forces with more means in the anti-Communist fight which enables Viet-Nam to defend herself and give support to her neighbors.

Minister Vy and Secretary Chafee later signed the transfer documents while the American sailors gave place in the crafts to their Vietnamese counterparts.

Two Vietnamese and American officers who distinguished themselves in operation Tran Hung Dao 4 in Ca Mau were awarded medals.

Within the Vietnamese Navy development and modernization program, the U.S. Navy has since 1968 turned over to the Vietnamese Navy 525 assorted crafts.

All Vietnamese seamen manning these crafts have received 12-week training courses at the U.S. Navy Craft Direction School in Saigon.

The new contingent of crafts raised to over 1,000 the number of warships and river crafts possessed by the Vietnamese Navy with its strength of 40,000 men.

Foreign Relations

F.M. LAM GIVES INTERVIEW ON N.Z. TELEVISION

Saigon, June 19, 1970--Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam Friday afternoon granted an interview to the New Zealand TV station on various issues relating to the Republic of Viet-Nam, Cambodia and the ASPAC conference.

Besides, Minister Lam will lay a wreath at Wellington war monument Saturday morning (June 20) as a tribute to the New Zealand combatants who had made their supreme sacrifice for the defense of freedom in the anti-Communist fight in South Viet-Nam.

Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam is attending the ministerial conference of Asia-Pacific Council (ASPAC) held in Wellington, New Zealand.

ASPAC CONFAB HAILS RVN ACHIEVEMENTS

June 21, 1970--Following is the full paragraph 7 of the Joint Communique from ASPAC, Wellington, concerning Viet-Nam and Indochina:

In reviewing the situation in the Indochina area the Ministers noted that the level of hostilities had diminished in Viet-Nam but expressed their grave concern at the stepping up of hostilities in Laos and Cambodia.

The Ministers noted with satisfaction the continuing progress achieved by the government of the Republic of Viet-Nam particularly in the fields of pacification, rural reconstruction and land reform. They were also encouraged by the successful efforts of the government and the people of the Republic of Viet-Nam in strengthening the country's security and in assuming increasing responsibility for their self-defense.

They expressed the disappointment that the search for negotiated solution of the Viet-Nam conflict had not so far succeeded and urged that new efforts be made to get substantial negotiations under way to work out a just and lasting settlement.

The Ministers reaffirmed their deep sympathy for the Republic of Viet-Nam, the Kingdom of Laos and Cambodia in their efforts to preserve their independence and freedom.

The Ministers suggested that each ASPAC member might consider what assistance it would be able to give to Laos and Cambodia. They expressed the view that the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and strict neutrality of Cambodia and Laos should be respected in accordance with international agreements applicable to these two countries and the provisions of the United Nations Charter.

They agreed that, when hostilities had ceased, there would be an urgent need for a substantial external contribution to the rehabilitation of the whole Indochina area.

Economics & Finance

2 MORE CASES OF ILLEGAL TRANSFER UNCOVERED

Saigon, June 20, 1970--Customs Director General Duong Thieu Sinh Saturday told newsmen that his Directorate General had just uncovered the illegal transfer by two foreign firms in Viet-Nam and the illegally-transferred fund amounted to 50 million U.S. dollars.

The records of Eiffel and Ismael companies have been seized by responsible authorities and a special Investigation Committee is now working actively to early bring the case before Court.

Mr. Sinh also made known that the Finance Ministry is concentrating all its efforts on the eradication of illegal transfer committed by big foreign companies since in so doing the government will solve the problem of failure in collecting foreign currency which seriously harms the national finance.

He added the Finance Ministry will strictly control the fund transfer of foreign firms to prevent them from cheating the government by cunningly arranging illegal transfers to foreign countries.

The Customs Director General disclosed that investigation on the transfer of profits of many foreign companies, especially the branch-offices in Viet-Nam of French businessmen will be taken since these firms have not invested capital in Viet-Nam but used money from intermediate banks to do business.

Such an action has abused the investment laws and caused great loss to the RVN interests.

On this occasion, Mr. Sinh appealed for close cooperation of the people in providing documents denouncing illegal transfers by foreign firms.

Education

OVERSEAS STUDENTS AUTHORIZED TO RETURN
HOME DURING VACATION

Saigon, June 20, 1970--Overseas students will be authorized to return to Viet-Nam with their own means and later go abroad again to continue their studies, sources for the Education Ministry announced Saturday.

According to the sources, the government will grant special permissions in 1970 for overseas students to return home to visit their families during the summer or winter vacation.

This permission will be only granted once to each student within this year.

The students will have to fly direct home without any stop-over in other countries.

Air tickets for their round trip will be booked by their parents at home, the same sources said.

V.N. OVERSEAS STUDENTS ATTEND SUMMER CAMP IN SAIGON

Saigon, June 22, 1970--Nearly 70 Vietnamese overseas students who recently returned home for the 1970 Summer camp Monday morning attended a presentation ceremony at the National Pedagogy School on Thanh Thai Street, Saigon.

All the 70 are university students pursuing their studies in the United States.

Dr. Nguyen Danh Dan, Education Vice Minister, who presided over the ceremony said despite difficulties the government is facing, it always shows deep concern over the future of the nation, and the students overseas--the privileged elements paving the way for the building of such a future.

On this occasion, Mr. Dan appealed to the students to make all-out efforts in their studies so as to be more useful to the Fatherland.

Earlier, the Director of Overseas Study said to help overseas students, who have been living far from home for so long be well informed of events at home, the 1970 Summer camp will offer them the opportunity to see into the national aspects and to continue keeping their terms at the various enterprises at home in accordance with their specialization field.

During the June 22-August 30 Summer camp, the students will visit their families, and sustain practical work at enterprises, and attend several seminars.

Information

INFO. MIN. TINH GIVES TALK ON "MASS INFORMATION"

Saigon, June 22, 1970--Mr. Ngo Khac Tinh, Information Minister concurrently Secretary General of the Mass Information Committee Monday morning gave a talk at Thong Nhat theater on "the importance of the mass information mission at the present national juncture."

On this occasion, Minister Tinh made a description of the present national situation. According to him, the Communists are attacking us in military, political and military proselytizing fields.

Since the 1968 Tet event, the Communists have failed in the military field. As for the military proselytizing field, the Communists have obtained no results. Besides they completely failed in the diplomatic as well as military field in Laos, and especially in Cambodia.

The Minister added, therefore the Communists have switched their activities on the political struggle and set forth four phases to invade South Viet-Nam: struggling for independence, using legal means for illegal struggle, establishing a false neutrality and finally communizing the South.

Mr. Tinh said the Communist struggle for independence is only a label to deceive the nationalists especially extremist elements. Referring to the establishment of a neutral regime in South Viet-Nam, Min. Tinh said, after recalling historical experiences of Laos and Cambodia, the nature of the Communist neutrality is far different from a genuine one stipulated by the international law. For that reason, neutrality cannot be adopted in the Republic of Viet-Nam.

The Information Minister then dealt with the significance, purposes and process of the Mass Information organization. He said the main objectives of the Mass information project, to support and cooperate with psywar activities, uphold the government's efforts to disseminate the national just cause and give confidence to the people and push forward the struggle of the people to the final victory.

Minister Tinh said, President Nguyen Van Thieu had considered the mass information work as one of the three essential objectives of the nation. He called for nearly 5 million mass information cadres including military and civil servants, cadres and CSD members throughout the country to realize their basic role and duties and fulfil their anti-Communist political struggle.

Minister Tinh announced that the Information Ministry will hold early next month a basic training course for mass information cadres at various government agencies.

In conclusion, Minister Tinh concurrently Secretary General of the Mass Information Committee once more urged all the military, civil servants and cadres to make greater efforts to defeat the Communists in the political struggle, thus helping shorten the war and especially bring to the entire people a firm confidence in the final victory of the Republic of Viet-Nam.

Also attending the talk were high ranking officials of the Central Mass Information Committee and the Information Ministry, members of the Pacification-Development Coordinating Center and Mass Information cadres at various government agencies.

Following the talk, Minister Tinh satisfactorily answered all questions raised by the audience relating to the resettlement of Vietnamese nationals repatriated from Cambodia, the use and distribution of the manpower resources, the national policies and other issues.

SPEECH DELIVERED BY FOREIGN MINISTER TRAN VAN LAM
AT THE ASPAC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
IN WELLINGTON-NEW ZEALAND
(June 18, 1970)

Mr. Chairman
Your Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates:

I am very gratified to listen to statements of our distinguished colleagues. It is very beneficial to our delegation. We have learned a great deal from your brilliant analysis.

In turn, I should like to submit my humble contribution to the discussion, stressing naturally the situation in Viet-Nam which is the centre of turmoil in the Indo-chinese peninsula. Needless to say that the situation is fraught with danger and the present time is too serious for window-dressing talks.

Most of us here present, with the exception of one or two, just met recently in Djakarta, trying to find ways and means to safeguard the independence and neutrality of Cambodia. We are all very gratified with this first Asian initiative for the purpose of dealing with an Asian problem. The whole spirit of the meeting was so aptly put by the distinguished Foreign Minister of Thailand in the formula "Asians for Asia" and I do not have anything to add to the comments already made by other speakers.

One month just elapsed since Djakarta, and by Communist design, the war now has been spilling all over Cambodia and Southern Laos. It is curious to note that a peculiar brand of logic seems to develop in the same time in the western press, especially the left-leaning western press. The front pages were full of headlines "allied invasion" or "allied escalation", as if Cambodia and Laos are not adjoining Viet-Nam but situated on the other side of the planet and not having anything to do with the Viet-Nam war.

The plain truth is that for the Communists it is the same war, as it always has been, with three different theatres. If there is to be effective blocking of Communist aggression, we cannot afford to fight the enemy in one theatre and allow him to have free hand in another. This is no way to victory.

And yet our operations in Cambodia are branded by the western press as "escalation" while Communist attacks against the government of Premier Lon Nol during the three full weeks before our operations against Communist sanctuaries where deliberately played down.

I humbly submit that the Communists are trying now to occupy large chunks of territory in Laos and Cambodia because the Viet-Nam theatre has become too hard for them and therefore they have every advantage to expand in the two softer theatres, Laos and Cambodia, for better bargaining power at the conference table in any eventual settlement by negotiations.

The twelve-month period since the council last met in Kawana has been very eventful indeed. In South Viet-Nam itself progress has been achieved in every field it has become increasingly difficult for the Communists to operate.

Our most important task of the year was unquestionably preparation and redeployment for the gradual replacement of allied troops.

For that purpose the level of the South Vietnamese Armed Forces and para-military forces has been raised up to the one million mark which represents an increase of 250,000 over the strength of 1968. The reequipment program in light automatic individual weapons had been completed at the end of the year.

Furthermore, in order to relieve the regular forces of their static defense functions, the people's self-defense corps has been organized throughout the country in every hamlet and village controlled by the government. The PSDC now numbers more than 3,200,000 members of which 1,327,502 have received military training and 400,000 are equipped with weapons.

The Regional and Popular Forces together with the people's self-defense corps have taken over much of the security burden at the district and village level, and have contributed to the success of the accelerated pacification program.

As of now 920 of the villages and hamlets have elected their own councils to perform the normal acts of local administration with their own local budget, to launch local development programs of their own choice with subsidy from the government. Meanwhile with the implementation of the allied troops' replacement program, 110,000 American troops have already left during the course of the year with 150,000 more expected to leave before the middle of next year.

Not only were the Communists unable to take advantage of this redeployment of troops among the allies - they had to take also severe casualties, 200,000 killed with 70,000 weapons lost. In 1969, 40,000 Communists defected to the government as against 18,000 in 1968. The counter insurgency Phoenix program had created havoc in the rank of the Communist infrastructure and it is estimated that at least 20,000 of the Communist cadres have been neutralized.

The Communist capacity to inflict politically meaningful strokes against the government and population has been drastically reduced. Their activities were confined largely to hit and run attacks against isolated out-posts and increased terrorism campaign against civilian population.

What we are doing now in Viet-Nam is very systematic mobilization of the masses with a relentless intensity of effort, probably never attempted before by a non-Communist society.

This mobilization of the people aims at a double purpose:

1. To choke out the existing Communist apparatus and to deny them the possibility of fresh recruitment.
2. To commit the population to the defense of their own development projects in which they put their own money and labour.

The new "Land-to-the-Tiller" law will distribute 2,500,000 acres of rice land free to the peasants during the course of the next five years and thus will eradicate any major cause of social exploitation in the countryside.

The sharing in the development of the country and in its defense by nearly all its citizens shows how utterly committed we are against Communism.

The arming of so many people (1-10 of the total population including women and children) is clearly a government's act of faith in the people. No unpopular regime would dare to trust its people with so many guns.

On the political front, I deeply regret to report that no progress whatsoever has been made in the Paris talks which now enters its third year. Not talking about substantive matters even small step such as exchange or unilateral release of prisoners of war rejected outright by Hanoi.

President Thieu's generous offer on July 11th, 1969 of general elections in which the NLF not only could participate but also could be represented in the electoral commission to insure equal opportunities was also rejected.

The Communists did not move one inch from their former position of demanding the liquidation of the legally elected government and its replacement by a coalition government which they would control from behind.

The death of Ho Chi Minh in September 1969 did not bring about any change in the long-term Communist policy vis-a-vis South Viet-Nam and Indochina.

Despite some uneasiness about collective leadership in Hanoi at the very beginning, now it looks like Le Duan, first secretary of the party and author of the blueprint to take over South Viet-Nam from within has emerged as first among the equals.

With the exception of some minor differences about the appropriate strategy to be used in South Viet-Nam, the Hanoi leaders seem to be virtually unanimous in their objectives of communising the whole of Indochina.

The essay on the war by General Vo Nguyen Giap published in Hanoi in December, 1969, together with the speech of Le Duan in February 1970 seems to indicate the return to the strategy of protracted warfare, at least until the completion of the withdrawal of allied forces.

Meanwhile, considering the fact that the withdrawal of allied forces is already taken for granted and no longer has any bargaining power, the Hanoi leaders are concentrating on two objectives:

1. To rouse up public opinion especially, in the United States for a precipitate withdrawal. Only the timing of the withdrawal still has some interest for them.
2. To consolidate the line of supply through Laos and through Cambodia for the final onslaught.

It is under this light that the intensified drive against the Royal Laotian government last February and the subsequent five-point proposal of the Pathet Lao have to be understood. The drive and the peace proposal did not have any other objective than luring the Royal Laotian government into asking for a stop in the allied bombing

of the Ho Chi Minh trail as a precondition for talks. Here again the old scenario which opened the way to the Paris talks was repeated, this time without much success.

The coup d'etat overthrowing Prince Sihanouk, the subsequent closing of the line of supply through Sihanoukville, the operations of allied units have forced the North Vietnamese to change completely their strategy.

The closing of Sihanoukville hit vitally at the supply of offensive weapons especially rockets and mortar shells used by the Communists in Corps III and Corps IV in South Viet-Nam.

It is not sheer coincidence that Communist attacks by rockets and mortars have been reduced to almost nil after the destruction of the Cambodian sanctuaries (in May the whole of the IV Corps not one single round of 122mm rocket and only 2 rounds of 107mm rockets as against the monthly average of 25 rounds of 122mm and 100 rounds of 107mm.)

The government of Premier Lon Nol is no longer in immediate danger but Cambodia will have to face the prospects of a long protracted war. Cambodian villagers are being induced to join the United National Khmer Front of Prince Sihanouk at Vietnamese Communist's gunpoint. The Communist aim is to control eastern Cambodia and to link it up with the tail of the Ho Chi Minh trail in Laos, this has been recently completed with the capture of Atopeu, Saravane and the Bolevens plateaux.

It is believed that the capture of the Bolevens plateaux was a great shock to the Royal Laotian government. No doubt, this area is strategically very important not only for Laos but for all neighbouring countries.

A permanent Communist sanctuary in this rice producing area would mean permanent threat of infiltration and liberation war for Viet-Nam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand.

In this conjuncture, the press reported an initiative of the United Nations Secretary General for a conference of some 15 nations in which the Pathet Lao, the Sihanouk's government in exile and the so-called Provisional Revolutionary government of South Viet-Nam would participate.

It is too early to have any comment on this initiative. However, if the press report was believed to be correct, a dangerous precedent may emerge in the conduct of international affairs:

While most of the fighting was done by the North Vietnamese, the local organization set up and controlled by them, become qualified to seat at the same table with the respective legally constituted governments.

If this state of affairs was allowed to take place, the aim at which the technique of liberation war was devised, would have been achieved and no free country adjoining a Communist state would remain safe.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, the neutrality and the independence of Cambodia and Laos are being mercilessly crushed.

Until now the biggest deterrent to an all-out North Vietnamese offensive has been the uncertainty about what American reaction may be.

During the past two years, self-styled political liberals were eroding Western society and had undermined our Eastern allies to such an extent that the war was being fought not in Viet-Nam but on the streets and in the university campuses.

As the weary American public and its legislators are against new commitment in Laos and Cambodia, Hanoi is edging towards control of these two countries.

We fully subscribe to the theory that if the fight against Communist insurgency is to be successful, it has to be fought by the natives.

But in the same time emergency assistance of all kinds, should be given to these two countries to help them survive the initial onslaught.

We cannot sit tight and watch our two neighbours swallowed up slowly by Communist North Viet-Nam.

If the right of small nations, which would like to stay independence and remain neutral, was to be upheld, the blatant aggression of North Viet-Nam against Laos and Cambodia should be denounced to the world.

Action should be taken by all peace-loving peoples to help the people of Laos and Cambodia to stay neutral.

The sanctuaries in Cambodia are so vital to the Communist war effort that, according to a very reliable diplomatic source, Hanoi could have accepted the government of General Lon Nol if this government agreed to let Hanoi use the border sanctuaries and Sihanoukville as in the past.

I would like to bring to your attention the very important fact that the sanctuaries in Cambodia and in Laos have enabled Hanoi to adopt a strategy of guerrilla warfare inside South Viet-Nam and combined with conventional attacks on our borders.

The existence of these sanctuaries is the very cause of the stalemate situation in South Viet-Nam today and furthermore they would certainly become the main springboards for renewed North Vietnamese aggression.

I should like to repeat here again that we do not entertain any territorial design in Cambodia.

Our military operations in Cambodia have only two main objectives: 1. To destroy the Communist sanctuaries for our own security and, 2. to help the Cambodian people defend their neutrality.

I am very glad also to report the normalization of relations between Cambodia and Viet-Nam and the close cooperation between our two countries in the economic and technical fields and especially in the question of protection of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia.

The operations in Cambodia, the resettlement of Vietnamese refugees have heavily taxed our limited resources, and we still have difficult problems in Viet-Nam which remains the center of the contest.

I would appreciate any assistance from our friends to relieve the sufferings of our refugees.

We very much hope that our concerted diplomatic effort will succeed in bringing peace and neutrality to Cambodia.

But in the meantime if we don't take any concrete action, I am afraid that there will be no more neutrality in Cambodia to defend.

Mr. Chairman, Since its inception four years ago, ASPAC has been the target of denigration by the countries of the socialist camp. We have been so often accused of imperialistic and military design.

Our record of achievement shows clearly that we are against no one, all the projects adopted by the Council are aiming at promoting better understanding and closer economic cooperation between our people. We have never deviated from our primary purpose and we firmly believe that through our efforts we will succeed in building up a spirit of confidence and harmony among all the countries of the area including the non-members of our Council.

In only four years, three ASPAC projects have already reached their operational stage and are dispensing services for the mutual benefit of member countries. It is a great achievement considering the short length of time and the divergences in the economic and cultural background of our people.

But all our successes and achievements would not mean anything without a harmonious and peaceful environment. This is the reason why, while we are striving for progress and development, the question of security is still foremost in our minds.

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