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July 20, 1970

Politics

TROOP-CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES ASSERT DETERMINATION TO ATTAIN PEACE FOR VIET-NAM

Saigon, July 6, 1970--The Foreign Ministers of Viet-Nam's allied nations attending the Troop Contributing Countries' Ministerial Meeting held in Saigon July 5-6, Monday reiterated their countries' determination to attain a just and lasting peace which will ensure freedom and independence for the Vietnamese people.

In a final communique issued at the closing of the meeting, the allied nations' Foreign Ministers also acknowledged the progress achieved by the Republic of Viet-Nam in the economic, social and political fields and the improvement of the rural people's lot through the "Land-to-the-Tiller" program.

The Ministers acknowledged the steady improvement of the military situation owing to the rapid development both in the strength and in combat effectiveness of the Vietnamese Armed Forces and to the effective support given them by the Allied Forces.

The Ministers also noted the encouraging progress of the Republic of Viet-Nam's self-reliance program and affirmed that it is the success of this program which has made possible the decisions already announced about troop redeployments from Viet-Nam. The Ministers expressed once again their admiration for the courage and determination displayed by the government and the people of Viet-Nam in their struggle for freedom and for the defense of their national territory.

In a 1000-word joint communique, the Ministers expressed regret that North Viet-Nam had not shown willingness to negotiate in response to the significant and constructive proposals made by the RVN and the U.S. at the Paris Talks in an effort to reach a negotiated settlement. They particularly recalled the concrete program proposed by the governments of Viet-Nam and of the United States for mutual withdrawals of foreign troops, for a ceasefire under international supervision and for supervised elections in which all political elements could take part.

The joint communique mentioned the problems in Cambodia, Laos and the Republic of Korea and concluded that in view of the current situation in Southeast Asia and Korea, the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the Declaration on Peace and Progress in

Asia and the Pacific promulgated at the Summit Conference in Manila in October, 1966, and agreed to continue the close cooperation which has existed among the Troop Contributing Countries.

The Ministerial Meeting of Troop Contributing Countries opened Saturday morning at Hoan My conference hall with the attendance of the Foreign Ministers of New Zealand, Australia, the U.S., the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet-Nam.

The Ministers later held a closed-door meeting at 3 p.m. the same day.

F.M. LAM PRAISES RESULTS OF U.S. TROOPS REPLACEMENT IN VIET-NAM

Saigon, July 6, 1970--Foreign Affairs Minister Tran Van Lam, in his speech ending a closed-door session Sunday afternoon of the Viet-Nam Troop Contributor Meeting held at Majestic Hotel here said that the replacement of U.S. troops in Viet-Nam was successfully carried out and the Communists have not been able to take advantage of this transition period.

In his 9-page speech Minister Lam also said, the Communists have completely failed to mount any major attack on the territory of the Republic during the period the ARVN gradually assume the defense burden from the U.S. Forces of this country.

Minister Lam later dealt with achievements scored by the RVN in the military, economic and social fields. Besides, he appealed to the Allied countries to contribute to the military assistance to Cambodia along with the RVN so that the Cambodian people can build for themselves an effective defense system.

Touching on the Paris Peace Talks, Minister Lam said that there was no progress at the conference table as far as the Communists continue to use it for propaganda purpose.

He also reiterated the RVN government's peace initiatives which, since the beginning of the Paris Talks, have been rejected by the "other side."

Earlier, the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Australia, Thailand and the United States successively expressed their own countries' viewpoints on the Vietnamese situation.

The session ended at 6:45 p.m. Saturday with a joint communique on the delegations' viewpoints issued to the press.

U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS PRAISES RVN GREAT PROGRESS

Saigon, July 7, 1970--U.S. Secretary of State William P. Rogers Tuesday morning said, the U.S. asserts its support to a future regime of South Viet-Nam determined by Vietnamese people themselves.

At a brief press conference at the VIP lounge of Tan Son Nhat airport before leaving for Tokyo, Mr. Rogers emphasized that the U.S. has never had any intention of advocating a coalition government in the sense that many South Vietnamese leaders apparently interpret it - that is a takeover by the Communists of a duly-elected government.

He said, his talks during his three-day stay here with the RVN leaders have been "very useful."

According to the U.S. Secretary of State, there has been great progress in South Viet-Nam since his visit here a year ago. He said that 90 per cent of the country is secure and that the level of fighting has dropped off.

To a question on the Cambodian issue, Secretary Rogers mentioned his surprise meeting on Monday with Cambodia's new Foreign Minister Koun Wick, which resulted in a "quite encouraging" report.

The Lon Nol government had "almost unanimous support" from the young people plus support from religious and intellectual groups.

He also said Khmer Foreign Minister Wick told him that the future for Cambodia looked "fairly good," adding that he did not think it would be easy for the North Vietnamese to build an infrastructure in that country.

He concluded a non-Communist government can be viable in Cambodia without much difficulty.

U.S. Secretary of State William Rogers arrived in Saigon last Saturday to attend the Viet-Nam Troop Contributing Countries' Conference.

On hand to see Secretary Rogers off Tuesday at Tan Son Nhat airport were Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam, U.S. Ambassador to Viet-Nam Ellsworth Bunker and representatives of the diplomatic corps.

Prime Minister concurrently Foreign Minister of New Zealand, Keith Holyoake left Viet-Nam at 11 a.m. Monday and the Australian Foreign Minister returned home at 5 p.m. the same day.

ALLIED NATIONS' MINISTERIAL CONFAB CONDEMNS RED
AGGRESSION AGAINST CAMBODIA: McMAHON

Saigon, July 8, 1970--Australian Foreign Minister William McMahon Tuesday described the July 5-6 Troop Contributing Countries Ministerial Conference held here as "successful."

The Australian Foreign Minister said that the Conference provided another occasion for the Communists to realize that the Allied countries unanimously condemned the invasion of Cambodia by North Viet-Nam.

Minister McMahon who made the statement before he left Saigon, laid stress on the fact that through the two-day Conference, all the five countries--the U.S., the Republic of Korea, Thailand, New Zealand, and Australia--having contributed troops to the Viet-Nam war, agreed that the neutrality of Cambodia is as important as the continuation of a coordination action relevant to the safety and security in South Viet-Nam.

Earlier, Foreign Minister McMahon met with Cambodian Foreign Minister Kuon Wick who made known that Cambodia did not ask for a direct intervention of foreign troops. The Australian Foreign Minister revealed that Australia's assistance to Cambodia will be limited in "civilian aid nature" aside from a number of military vehicles and signal facilities.

On this occasion, Foreign Minister McMahon confirmed a previously-made announcement that Australia will soon pull out 800 out of its combat forces in South Viet-Nam. However the Australian Foreign Minister said that such a redeployment "does not affect the civilian aid program of Australia for the Republic of Viet-Nam."

Foreign Minister McMahon had toured Ba Xuyen province along with other Allied Foreign Ministers, on a first-hand observation of the progress of the Pacification Program in the locality.

He said, what he witnessed at Ba Xuyen had been anticipated through his conviction that the Pacification program in Viet-Nam "is making great progress" and that the success of the recent village elections evidenced the eradication of Communist infrastructure from the grass-root level in the Republic of Viet-Nam.

PRES. THIEU ENTERTAINS ALLIED DELEGATIONS

Saigon, July 6, 1970--President Nguyen Van Thieu Sunday evening gave a dinner at Independence Palace in honor of the five Foreign Affairs Ministers of Allied countries having troops fighting in Viet-Nam.

In his speech delivered on this occasion President Thieu praised the valuable contributions of the Allied countries in the fighting for freedom in Viet-Nam.

The President also dealt with the encouraging developments of the situation as well as the satisfactory achievements scored by the RVN people.

He said, thanks to the support of our friendly countries, the Communists have no hope to overthrow the constitutional government in South Viet-Nam.

He added, the present military victories are consolidating our confidence in the future for the realization of a just peace.

In his reply, New Zealand Prime Minister concurrently Foreign Minister Keith Holyoake, representing the Foreign Affairs Ministers of Allied countries, expressed his thanks for the warm welcome extended by the RVN government and people to the delegations.

Mr. Holyoake also praised the tremendous progress of the RVN at war time.

Also present at the event were Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky, Senate Chairman Nguyen Van Huyen, Lower House Speaker Nguyen Ba Luong, Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem, a number of Cabinet members and the Ambassadors of the United States, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand.

VICE PRESIDENT KY ON NATIONAL EVENTS

Saigon, July 6, 1970--Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky Saturday night challenged whoever may be able to provide proof of his "taking bribes, even a single cent from anyone."

In an interview reserved for the Vietnamese Publishers Association which hosted a dinner in his honor, Vice President Ky said that he volunteered to face a firing squad if proof of his corruption can be found.

The Vice President when answering a newsman's question referred to his integrity as an evidence of "self revolution" need for national leaders to promote an overall social revolution.

Vice President Ky made known that his wife "is a typical woman who never abuses her husband's functions nor exhorts the latter to malpractices."

To a question on President Richard Nixon's recent peace proposal, Vice President Ky said he did not think that the American Chief Executive pledged for a government of coalition as a solution to the Viet-Nam war.

However he is ready to accept the outcome of any free election whatever it may be if such an outcome results from the Vietnamese people's aspiration, the Vice President said.

Asked about the disabled veterans' issue, Vice President Ky contended an urgent settlement before the issue turns out to be larger and harder to be dealt with.

As to the austerity tax and law program, Vice President Ky laid stress on the fact that when the people accept more sacrifice for the survival of the nation the most important thing for national leaders is to instill confidence among the people.

Touching on the social revolution at war time the Vice President spelled out that "we must stage such a revolution if we want to come out victorious."

To the political approach for restoring peace in Viet-Nam based on "one man one vote principle," Vice President Ky said "what matters does not rest on who will undertake the organization of such an election but on how to secure a honest election so that the ballots cast accurately reflect the will of the majority of the South Vietnamese people.

The RVN Vice President ruled out the Communists' demand that a government of coalition with the participation of the Communists be formed prior to the organization of the elections.

Vice President Ky also made known that he will do his best in his capacity to help the Chief Executive settle all the national issues but he will resign if he could not do anything beneficial to the people who dredge for a living.

The Vice President expressed his anxiety when he answered a question on the students' issue, saying that Communist cadres will not fail to take advantage of the opportunity when the students' struggle shifted to the political arena.

Everyone longs for peace, but not a peace in slavery, Vice President Ky concluded.

PRES. THIEU PRESIDED OVER MILITARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING

Saigon, July 11, 1970--The Press Secretary at the President's office announced:

President Nguyen Van Thieu at 10 a.m. Friday presided over a military and administrative meeting at the RVNAF Joint General Staff Hqs, presenting to all corps and military region commanders, service and arms commanders, infantry division commanders, special zone commanders, commandants of the National War College, Thu Duc Military School, and Quang Trung Training Center, general office and office chiefs, joint general office chiefs, Polwar officers of corps arms and services, all city mayors and province chiefs throughout the country the following problems:

1) The reorganization of national defense, armed forces and territorial system, based on two decrees -- No. 614/A/TT/SL and 615/B/TT/SL signed and promulgated by the President of the Republic on July 1, 1970.

2) The explanation of details embodies in law 008/70 of July 9, 1970 stipulating the rights and interests of disabled veterans, war dead's dependents and veterans with much emphasis laid on the way of putting into effect the law in question and on the formula to settle the disabled veterans' issue at provincial and city levels.

3) Several other administrative problems were discussed.

Present at the meeting were the RVN Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky, Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem, the Defense Minister, the Lieutenant General Assistant to the Pacification and Development Command of RVNAF Chief of General Staff, and a number of Cabinet members.

Military

U.S. TO BUILD 100,000 APARTMENTS FOR RVNAF COMBATANTS

Saigon, July 8, 1970--The President's office announced Tuesday:

At the July 4 meeting with President Nguyen Van Thieu, U.S. Secretary of State William Rogers handed over a personal letter of President Richard Nixon to the RVN President.

In his letter, the U.S. President acknowledged the timely character of the Troops Contributors confab in Saigon and praised the RVN people and Armed Forces achievements in the military and Pacification-Development fields. He also accepted President Thieu's May 4 request for an additional aid of foodstuffs and construction of dwellings for RVNAF troops and their dependents.

President Nixon by the way said he favored an assistance program according to which the RVNAF will be provided with additional canned food and with 100,000 apartments within a five-year period.

According to President Nixon, MACV was instructed to cooperate with the RVNAF Joint General Staff in this undertaking.

Last December 1969, the RVNAF Joint General Staff asked MACV's intervention in the supply of 47,000 tons of canned food such as fish, meat, cooking oil, etc...(based on the rate of 43 kilos of canned food a soldier per annum), and in the construction of 202,000 apartments at an estimated cost of 14,302,000,000 VNP or 121,200,000 U.S. dollars, within a six-to-ten-year-period.

In his letter President Nixon stated that the U.S. will send preserved food to the Vietnamese soldiers, and will provide construction materials for the building of 100,000 apartments within a five-year period, at an approximate cost of 100,000,000 U.S. dollars.

ARMY SECRETARY RESOR REPORTS SUBSTANTIAL VIETNAMIZATION PROGRESS

Saigon, July 8, 1970--The U.S. Army's Civilian Secretary reports 'substantial progress' in the joint U.S.-South Vietnamese program under which the RVN undertakes increasing responsibility for its own defense while American troops withdraw from Southeast Asia.

Concluding a nine-day inspection trip to South Viet-Nam, Army Secretary Stanley R. Resor told a July 7 Saigon press briefing that Vietnamization progress to date has been encouraging but a 'difficult period lies ahead' as the U.S. strives to meet its goal of withdrawing an additional 150,000 troops by May 1, 1971.

The Secretary pointed out that during the past year the U.S. has reduced its ground combat strength in Viet-Nam by 21 per cent by returning home 115,000 servicemen.

At the same time, Mr. Resor noted, the South Vietnamese Armed Forces (ARVN) have assumed responsibility for several tactical areas in which American units previously operated: substantially all of the Mekong Delta; the Capital military district; most of the Central Highlands, most of Binh Duong Province, and most of the area bordering the DMZ.

"In the first six months of 1970," Mr. Resor reported, "U.S. casualties have been reduced to less than one-half of what they were in the first six months of 1969."

"We have encouraged and helped the South Vietnamese to expand their Armed Forces from 700,000 in April 1968 to over 1,000,000 today--an increase of over 40 per cent in two years," Mr. Resor reported.

The operations in Cambodia, Mr. Resor observed, have given greater self confidence to the South Vietnamese Army. Although it would be premature to assess the final results of the joint operations in Cambodia, he pointed out, "there is no doubt that the vast quantities of equipment and supplies the enemy lost will have an impact on the level of activity in the Southern portion of the RVN for some months to come."

Foreign Relations

CAMBODIAN F.M. PAYS BRIEF VISIT TO SAIGON

Saigon, July 8, 1970--Cambodian Foreign Minister Koun Wick Monday paid a brief visit to Saigon.

In a communique released Wednesday, the Foreign Ministry made known that on the occasion of the Viet-Nam's Troop Contributing Ministerial Meeting in Saigon July 5-6, U.S. Foreign Minister William Rogers had held discussions with RVN Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam and got the latter's agreement to invite Cambodian Foreign Minister Kuon Wick to pay a brief visit to Saigon.

According to the communique the visit was a rare opportunity to enable the Cambodian Foreign Minister to meet and discuss at the same time the Khmer situation with his six counterparts from allied nations.

Foreign Minister Kuon Wick left Saigon the same day, the communique said.

Education

DR. VIEN ON IMPROVEMENT OF RVN EDUCATION

Saigon, July 8, 1970--Dr. Nguyen Luu Vien, Deputy Prime Minister concurrently Education Minister Tuesday said the improvements of the RVN education are in line with those of the developing countries in the world.

Dr. Vien, made the above statement before emplaning for home at Orly international airport after attending the 32nd session of the International Education Conference held in Geneva by the UNESCO's International Education Bureau.

To a VP correspondent's question, Dr. Vien made known he had presented the RVN efforts in the education branch to 100 participating countries at the conference.

He said the RVN government intended to link Education with Culture, so as to benefit from the centuries-old cultural heritage of the nation.

Dealing with the educational improvements Dr. Vien said the program of community school and comprehensive high schools is being implemented in Viet-Nam.

The Vietnamese university education he continued lays stress on technology, and a draft-law on the University autonomy is being considered by the Lower House.

The RVN Deputy Prime Minister on this occasion emphasized that the difficulties encountered by the RVN, including shortage of schools and teachers, are the same as those met by other developing countries.

The 32nd session of the International Education Conference was held in Geneva July 1-7, 1970.

Included in the RVN delegation were Messrs. Tran Luu Cung, Vice Education Minister, Tran Van Tan, Deputy Rector of Saigon University and Dean of the Faculty of Pedagogy, Nguyen Van Buong, Deputy Cabinet Director at the Education Ministry, Pham Tan Kiet, Director of Research and Planning at the Education Ministry, Nguyen Quoc Dinh, and Nguyen Dinh Hung, RVN permanent representative and deputy representative to UNESCO.

Miscellaneous

PRIME MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE ON CON SON REFORMATORY CENTER

Saigon, July 11, 1970--The Prime Minister's office Friday announced:

On the occasion of an observation tour of Con Son Reformatory Center by a U.S. lawmakers delegation, foreign newspapers mentioned the treatment of prisoners on the island, especially those at detention camp Number 4.

The Prime Minister immediately sent a delegation of the Interior Ministry to make an investigation on Con Son Island.

If the points raised by these foreign press proved to be true, the RVN government will order immediate improvement with the abolition of such detention camps called "tiger cages."

The RVN government officially confirmed once again that the government always advocates good treatment of prisoners, civilian as well as military detainees and always respects international agreements especially the Geneva agreements.

The RVN government is always ready to welcome any international delegations who want to make on-the-spot observations of the Con Son Reformatory Center.

62 NORTH VIETNAMESE POW'S RELEASED IN SAIGON

Saigon, July 7, 1970--Sixty two disabled Communist prisoners and 24 North Vietnamese fishermen were released at a ceremony held Tuesday morning at Bach Dang Quay.

Major General Tran Van Trung, Director of the ARVN Central Polwar Agency on behalf of the RVN government asserted that the release was made only for humanitarian reasons without any pre-condition set forth by the RVN government vis-a-vis the POWs themselves or the Hanoi authorities.

Maj. Gen. Trung reiterated that North Viet-Nam had several times refused to receive the POWs set free by the RVN government and did not acknowledge that they had sent its troops to the South. Nevertheless, he continued, the RVN government was determined to help these POWs and fishermen rejoin their families.

Maj. Gen. Trung also said in the future if there is no objection from the Hanoi authorities, the RVN government will release a large number of North Vietnamese infiltrators detained in the South.

The released POWs former NVA cadres were captured on the South Vietnamese battlefields.

The fishermen, living at coastal areas South of North Viet-Nam, carried off to South Viet-Nam by a typhoon enjoyed a special status and lived in freedom in South Viet-Nam.

The RVN delegate at the Paris peace talks had informed the Communist side of this decision and the above POWs and fishermen will be carried next July 11 by Vietnamese Navy ships to an area about one kilometer South of the 17th parallel. The released then will be transferred on a Red Cross motor boat to land at Xom Cua Tung (North Viet-Nam).

Document

FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING ON VIET-NAM OF TROOP CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES

(Saigon, July 5 and 6, 1970)

Saigon, July 6, 1970--The Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand, H.E. Sir Keith Holyoake, the Minister for External Affairs of Australia, H.E. William McMahon, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Kyu Hah Choi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, H.E. Thanat Khoman, the Secretary of State of the U.S.A., H.E. William P. Rogers and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Viet-Nam, H.E. Tran Van Lam met in Saigon on July 5 and 6, 1970 at the invitation of the government of the Republic of Viet-Nam.

The meeting was held to allow the Ministers of the Troop Contributing Countries to review developments in Viet-Nam since their last consultations and to consider ways in which the allies could continue to work together to bring about an end to the fighting and a peaceful solution to the problems created by the North Vietnamese aggressors. The Ministers also were enabled to see at first hand examples of the progress being made by the government of Viet-Nam in restoring security to and promoting the well-being of its population. The meeting also permitted the Ministers to consider aspects of the security situation in Asia in general.

VIET-NAM

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Viet-Nam reported the progress achieved by the RVN in the economic, social and political fields over the past twelve months. He cited the steady growth of democratic institutions and elected bodies, and the provisions made in the law for the operation of political parties and the right to legal opposition. He hoped that various measures being introduced by the government of the Republic of Viet-Nam to curb inflation and to increase national production would soon help the country overcome its difficulties and reach its objective of self-reliance.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the RVN also informed the Ministers of the new land reform program of the government of the RVN.

The Minister expressed the firm conviction that the success of this "Land-to-the-Tiller" program would greatly contribute to the improvement of the rural people's lot, to the strengthening of their confidence in the regime and, consequently, to the progress of pacification.

The Minister noted with appreciation the contribution of the United States government to this program.

The Ministers congratulated the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the RVN on the foregoing matters particularly on its sweeping land reform program. They expressed confidence that the various measures taken by the government of the RVN would be effective in alleviating the economic and social problems caused by the war, and in providing a foundation for further long-range developments of the country. The Minister assured the government of their desire to render all appropriate assistance and cooperation toward the solution of these problems.

The Ministers acknowledged the steady improvement of the military situation owing to the rapid development both in strength and in combat effectiveness of the RVNAF. They believe that these developments will serve to convince North Viet-Nam of the futility of its plan to dominate South Viet-Nam by force of arms.

The Ministers noted the encouraging progress of the RVN's self-reliance program and affirmed that it is the success of this program which has made possible the decisions already announced about troop redeployments from Viet-Nam. The Ministers expressed once again their admiration for the courage and determination displayed by the government and the people of Viet-Nam in their struggle for freedom and for the defense of their national territory.

The Ministers followed with great interest the report on the progress of the pacification and rural reconstruction program and on the social change which is taking place in the countryside through this program. They were favorably impressed by the rapid improvement of the security situation and the enthusiastic participation of the rural people in the elections of the hamlet, village and province councils.

They expressed regret that North Viet-Nam had not shown willingness to negotiate in response to the significant and constructive proposals made by the RVN and the U.S. at the Paris Talks in an effort to reach a negotiated settlement. They particularly recalled the concrete program proposed by the governments of Viet-Nam and the U.S. for mutual withdrawals of foreign troops, for a ceasefire under international supervision and for supervised elections in which all political elements could take part. In fact, Viet-Nam and the U.S. have indicated readiness to negotiate on all issues except the right of self-determination of the people of South Viet-Nam. The Ministers also reaffirmed their previous agreement that all the nations which are making available armed forces to help defend the RVN must participate in the settlement of the conflict.

The Ministers expressed special concern about the enemy's inhumanity with regard to prisoners of war. They noted that the governments of the U.S. and Viet-Nam have sought repeatedly to open productive talks on POWs at the Paris meetings, but the other side has rebuffed all such efforts. They expressed their support for the RVN's initiative in undertaking to repatriate sick and wounded POWs to North Viet-Nam. They condemned North Viet-Nam's continued refusal to identify all POWs, to allow them all to correspond regularly with their families, and to allow impartial inspection of POW facilities, as required by the Geneva Convention on POWs. The Ministers renewed the undertakings of their governments to insure full compliance by their forces with the Geneva Conventions.

The Ministers reiterated their countries' determination to attain a just and lasting peace which would assure the freedom and independence of the Vietnamese people.

CAMBODIA

The Ministers noted that the North Vietnamese efforts to consolidate their sanctuaries in Cambodia into a large single and military immune base area within a short distance of major Vietnamese population centers had posed new threats to the ability of South Viet-Nam to defend itself. They accordingly expressed satisfaction with the success achieved in the recent allied operations against North Vietnamese forces and supply centers in these sanctuaries. They affirmed that these operations did not represent any intention to expand the Viet-Nam war but were taken as a measure to defend the Allied forces and to improve security in Viet-Nam.

The Ministers expressed their respect and full support for the Cambodian government's desire for peace and the preservation of its independence, strict neutrality, and territorial integrity within its present borders.

They noted with concern the refusal of North Viet-Nam to comply with the Cambodian government's request that it withdraw its troops from Cambodia and stop its attacks on Cambodian forces. They suggested that free nations examine what assistance they could give to Cambodia in response to its requests. They noted that the only threat to Cambodia's neutrality and the only interest in expanding the conflict came from the other side.

The Ministers called upon the members of the 1954 Geneva Conference to ensure the independence, neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia.

The Ministers welcomed the Indonesian initiative in convening the Djakarta Conference on Cambodia and thought that such Asian initiatives to solve Asian problems should be supported and encouraged.

The Ministers took note with satisfaction of the friendly relations between Cambodia and the RVN and Thailand. They also appreciated the goodwill of the Cambodian government in its pledge to ensure security to the Vietnamese living in Cambodia and to protect their property.

LAOS

The Ministers noted with deep concern that North Viet-Nam continued to commit armed attacks against the Armed Forces of the Royal government of Laos and to use Laotian territory for infiltrating troops and supplies into the RVN and Cambodia and for instigating insurgency in Thailand. They called for a return to the Geneva Agreements of 1954 and 1962 as the solution to the Laotian issue and urged all who had not yet done so to agree to the consultations called for under Article 4 for the 1962 Agreement.

KOREA

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea gave an account of the security situation in the Korean peninsula, referring to recent acts of provocation and aggression by the North Korean Communists. The Minister drew attention to the indiscriminate and inhumane nature of acts such as the seizure of a Korean passenger airplane and a Korean Navy broadcasting vessel and the recent attempt to set a high-powered bomb at the Memorial Gate of the National Cemetery in Seoul.

The Ministers took note of the militant policy pursued by the North Korean Communists and reiterated their previous agreement that such acts are a matter of grave concern and threaten the peace and security of the Korean peninsula and the area surrounding it. The Ministers strongly urged that the North Korean Communists immediately return the detained crew members and passengers to their homes in the South, together with the seized aircraft and vessel.

The Ministers reaffirmed their support for the Republic of Korea in resisting aggressive acts of the North Korean Communists. The Ministers welcomed the intention of the government of the Republic of Korea to keep them and other interested governments informed of any future developments through their Ambassadors in Seoul.

Finally, in view of the current situation in Southeast Asia and Korea, the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the declaration of Peace and Progress in Asia and the Pacific promulgated at the Summit Conference in Manila in October 1966, and agreed to continue the close cooperation which has existed among the Troop Contributing Countries.

The Ministers agreed that they would consult about the time and place of the next meeting.

The Ministers expressed gratitude to the government and people of the RVN for their generous hospitality and warm welcome. They also expressed their appreciation for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

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