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Politics

F.M. LAM SEES NO INDICATIONS OF A POSSIBLE CEASE FIRE IN 1970

Saigon, July 15, 1970--"We have found thus far no indications of a possible cease-fire in South Viet-Nam", Minister Lam said Tuesday in an interview with Viet-Nam Press.

"We do not know for sure whether and as to when a cease-fire would be possible in South Viet-Nam", Minister Lam added, referring to rumors alleging the eventuality of a cease-fire within this year in South Viet-Nam.

The RVN Foreign Minister laid stress on the fact that the Communists always put into practice the policy of a total revolution of continuity, or in other words "the present war will not end in line with what is described in manuals, otherwise, the Communists will resort to terrorism".

Minister Lam urged everyone to be ready for a clearcut stand against the Communists should a cease-fire happen, "thus helping oneself to find it his duty to set right all the mistakes in an effort to improve the society".

To the question on the move towards secret negotiations with North Viet-Nam by U.S. Foreign Minister William Rogers, Minister Lam said he was not informed of the move. However, he expressed his appreciation of such an initiative "which helps prompt peace for Viet-Nam".

The RVN Foreign Minister expressed his belief that if these secret negotiations give way to substantive success "the Republic of Viet-Nam will be informed for common consultations".

On this occasion, Minister Lam disclosed that in 1968 he had done his best in the capacity of a RVN senator to get in touch with the NVN mission in Paris in an effort to understand its stand but the NVN mission had frustrated his efforts.

As for the recent Asian tour by U.S. Foreign Minister Rogers, Minister Lam considered it as part of the United States' efforts in the search for a solution to the Viet-Nam war.

Minister Lam also appreciated any first hand visit to the RVN by newly-appointed U.S. Chief negotiator, Ambassador David Bruce, prior to the latter's embarking as the U.S. Chief negotiator's role at the Paris Peace Talks.

The RVN Foreign Minister believed that Ambassador Bruce "has no other mission than that entrusted to him by President Nixon - having direct talks with the RVN Chief Executive - when he comes to Viet-Nam".

FORMER PREMIER TRAN VAN HUONG AND SIX WOMEN RUN FOR SENATORIAL RE-ELECTION

Saigon, July 14, 1970--Among the 180 candidates running for the August 30 re-election of half the Senate are former Prime Minister Tran Van Huong and six women, ages ranging from 36 to 48, sources from the Central Electoral Committee reported.

The six women candidates include lawyers Nguyen Phuoc Dai, Senate first Vice President and Nguyen Thi Hien; Professor Le Thi Que, pharmacist Nguyen Thi Hai; businesswoman Nguyen Thi Lac, and private employee Tran Thi Mau.

Two of the women candidates belong to the same slate. Among the 16 others who share the remaining slates, Lawyer Nguyen Phuoc Dai is the only woman candidate who heads a ten-member slate grouping senators, professors, industrialists, an ex-mayor general and a former province chief.

University professors and high school teachers constitute the largest part of the candidates (44) for the August 30 senatorial re-election.

Also in large number which totals 22 are senators who a few months ago ballotted for the re-election. Seven of such senators declined the candidacy for the re-election.

Ranging third of the overall candidates' list are businessmen and businesswomen (21) and militarymen (21).

Civil servants come next with 20 candidates who precede the magistrates and lawyers (16), medical doctors and pharmacists (11), journalists (8), notables (4) and civil engineers (3).

Noteworthy is a Buddhist monk - Venerable Thich Thien Phat - who runs the senatorial re-election in the capacity of a notable.

Former Premier Tran Van Huong is among the notables who desires to figure in the Senate through the re-election.

The average age of the candidates is over 40. Three oldest candidates among them former Premier Tran Van Huong, are 67 years old and four youngest candidates are 30.

Of the 180 candidates, 73 are of North Viet-nam origin, 59 of South Viet-Nam and 39 of Central Viet-Nam, 6 of ethnic minorities and three of Khmer descent.

Of the 18 electoral slates, two are of the opposition parties and headed by Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Huy (National Progressive Movement) and Phan Ba Cam (Force of Vietnamese People); three - Social Humanist Party, Force of Great Solidarity and Revolutionary Dai Viet - are of the ruling Alliance.

An all-military slate including the RVNAF servicemen and ex-servicemen, is considered as the electoral list "supporting the government".

Two other slates which political observers take for "supporters of the Buddhist An Quang faction" are headed, one by representative Dr. Nguyen Dai Bang, and one by former Foreign Minister, Lawyer Vu Van Mau.

P.M. KHIEM ON MASS INFORMATION IMPETUS

Saigon, July 13, 1970--National cadres when performing the mass information mission only steadily communicate their knowledge to all walks of life, thus helping the masses actively take part in community development projects.

Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem made the statement Monday afternoon at a ceremony opening the Information Seminar held at An Dong Information Center.

"Although it was long expected, the Premier said, the mass information initiatives have come in due time and helped us frustrate the Communists' aggressive attempts through the political approach".

According to the Prime Minister the mass information seminars "help strengthen our thought and stand for a mutual coordination for defeating the Communists and developing our society".

From the Communist viewpoint, the Premier said, "war is a bloodshed political struggle, peace is a bloodless political struggle, and as a result the Viet-Nam war is not a common war which can be, settled on the battlefield alone".

P.M. Khiem called on all national cadres to actively participate in the mass information activities with a view to boosting the morale of the population thus helping the masses positively embark on political projects for the national reconstruction.

On this occasion, P.M. Khiem insisted on the failure of the Communist aggressors.

Referring to the announcement of a 30-year plan by NVN Communist leader Le Duan, P.M. Khiem said "This is just a delay in debt payment so as to exert more sacrifice and contribution from the people".

Meanwhile, in South Viet-Nam, the Premier said, through short range projects, "we are stepping forward slowly but firmly, laying strong foundations for a sound democracy and the strengthening of a durable regime".

Earlier, Information Minister Ngo Khac Tinh in his opening speech said, the mass information launching program consists of 16 consecutive seminars for four months, which primarily center on the consolidation of the technical experience of boosting the

morale of the population and on the development of achievements in the information field for future projects.

Present at the Monday ceremony were Deputy Prime Minister concurrently Education Minister Nguyen Luu Vien, government ranking officials and several senators and representatives.

90 PER CENT OF SVN POPULATION LIVING IN SECURE HAMLETS - GEN. HON

Saigon, July 14, 1970--About 16 million South Vietnamese inhabitant or ninety per cent of the SVN population are living in secure hamlets.

Major General Cao Hao Hon, Director of the Pacification and Development Coordination Center said recently when he reviewed the 1970 pacification and development achievements.

The RVNAF "is expected to reduce 50 to 75 per cent of its ground action and artillery support at areas under pacification and zones of security when the Regional and Popular forces reach the 500,000 mark and the Civil Self-Defense strength reaches the 3,600,000 mark with half of the CSD force sustaining special training" General Hon said.

"We are doing our best to lift the curfews and ensure security on major lines of communication throughout the country" the General added.

General Hon also disclosed that 95 per cent of the villages and hamlets throughout the Republic placed under the government control have elected village councils and hamlet chiefs.

Also during the first six months of 1970, 18,000 more Communist elements of all categories rallied the national side, thus bringing the total number of Communist returnees to 185,000 since early 1963, the General said.

Meanwhile, according to General Hon, only 217,000 out of one million and a half in-country refugees are remaining at resettlement centers.

However, the problem of refugees has been growing into a matter of deep concern for the government, the Director of the Pacification and Development Coordination Center said, since the Vietnamese nationals from Cambodia have flown in a mass, reaching some 200,000 thus far.

General Hon laid stress on the fact that thanks to the three-month special pacification program launched in July 1970, the rural population is expected to boost economic projects in the provinces, thus ensuring a better prospect of the living conditions at rural areas.

The government development efforts, which are growing successful, will help strengthen the RVN regime and facilitate the withdrawal of the U.S. troops, ensuring a stronger position ever known for the national victory over the Communists, the General concluded.

140,430 VIETNAMESE NATIONALS REPATRIATED FROM CAMBODIA

Saigon, July 15, 1970--As of July 14, a total of 21,383 families numbering 140,430 Vietnamese nationals repatriated from Cambodia, have been recorded, sources from the Inter-Ministerial Relief Committee said.

About 48,480 Vietnamese nationals are living at 11 various refugee camps in Phnom Penh; the same sources said.

In addition, the Central Relief Committee recently received a total of 131,441 VNP and 2,274 U.S. dollars including 91,000 VNP from the Viet-Nam Import and Export Union, 19,240 VNP from the Dean of the Faculty of Law, 8,701 VNP from personnel of the Rural Development Ministry and 2,313 U.S. dollars from personnel of the Vietnamese Embassy in the Philippines.

Military

MAJ. GEN. DZU ON CAMBODIAN OPERATIONS

Can Tho, July 14, 1970--Maj. Gen. Ngo Dzu, IV Corps and IV Military Region Commander Monday said "it is necessary to maintain a minimum strength of RVNAF units in Cambodia so as to effectively ensure security for the IV MR Pacification Development efforts in the Mekong Delta".

At a meeting with newsmen, Maj. Gen. Dzu disclosed that a number of reserve troops were put under the command of Brig. Gen. Tran Ba Di, 9th Infantry Division Commander, adding that no large-scale operation was launched by the IV Military Region Command on Cambodian soil at the moment.

The IV MR Commander made known that the military situation in Phnom Penh was reportedly calm.

Dealing with the military victories scored by the IV Military Region in Cambodian operations, Maj. Gen. Dzu said RVNAF units had inflicted very heavy losses to the enemy, among them were several enemy supply bases completely destroyed.

He also laid stress on the high fighting spirit of the RVN troops involved in these operations.

Maj. Gen. Dzu on this occasion, said the main effort of the IV Military Region was to push forward with the special Pacification Development program now underway.

Foreign Relations

NEW ZEALAND LEGISLATORS VISIT VIET-NAM

Saigon, July 15, 1970--Six members of the New Zealand Parliament are visiting Viet-Nam from July 16 to 22. The delegation containing three members of the Government National Party and three members of the Opposition Labour Party, is led by Sir Leslie Munro. Sir Leslie is a former President of the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Security Council. Other members of the delegation are, from the National Party, Mr. L.F. Sloane and Mr. J.G. Chewings, and, from the Labour Party, Mr. J.L. Hunt, Mr. G. Christie, and Mr. P. Reweti, sources from the New Zealand Embassy in Saigon said Wednesday.

Before their arrival in Viet-Nam the New Zealand Parliamentarians visited Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. During their stay they will be meeting members of the New Zealand military units operating in Phuoc Tuy Province and aid teams in Binh Dinh province. They also expect to call on President Nguyen Van Thieu, Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky, The Chairmen of the Senate and the Lower House, the Prime Minister, Minister of State Phan Quang Dan, the Ministers of Economics, Foreign Affairs, Public Health and Land Reform, Agriculture and Fishery Development.

From Saigon the delegation is flying by Royal New Zealand Air Force plane to Phnom Penh and then to Singapore, the same sources added.

ROC V.P. CALLS AT RVN STAND AT EXPO '70

Saigon, July 15, 1970--Mr. C.K. Yeh, Vice President of the Republic of China, Thursday headed a delegation to visit the stand of the Republic of Viet-Nam at Expo '70 in Osaka (Japan).

The ROC Vice President and his 70-member delegation successively toured the stand's three areas covering Viet-Nam's achievements in the past, present and future.

Before leaving the stand Mr. Yeh signed in the souvenir book.

The RVN stand at the World's Exposition was the first one to receive the visit of the ROC Vice President following the ROC Day (July 10) at Expo '70.

Education

CONDITIONS FOR STUDENTS' 1970-1971 ADVANCED
OVERSEAS STUDY UNDER CONSIDERATION

Saigon, July 14, 1970--Students who desire to make advanced studies abroad for the 1970-1971 academic year are urged to complete their dossiers with all required papers, sources from the Education Ministry urged.

The requisites must include the application for or admittance certificate to a university abroad and attestation by taxation offices proving that the student's parents have paid all the taxes due to the government.

Candidates are encouraged to choose the Pacific countries and Western Europe as their 1970-1971 academic year destinations. As for study branches, students may embark on all domains the nation needs them to enter such as Pedagogy, Technology, Agriculture, Fishery. Restrictions are imposed on Pharmacy, Medicine and Dentistry and particularly Arts and Law are not included within the overseas study range for the 1970-1971 term.

Candidates must be 19 years old (born in 1951) at the maximum. Post graduate candidates are granted the minimum years required to secure a University degree, the age condition being always 19 years old.

However all the above-said norms are only of general information nature, the final decisions relevant to official norms for the issue must be approved by the National Assembly and the government, the sources stated.

Only candidates who will pass a living language (English or French) test are eligible for advanced overseas study, according to the same sources.

SEMINAR FOR VIETNAMESE EDUCATORS HELD

Carbondale, Illinois, July 15, 1970--A group of 13 Vietnamese educators from South Viet-Nam is participating in a three-week seminar organized by the Southern Illinois University under the theme "The Role of the Administrator".

The seminar, sponsored by the Agency for International Development (AID), aimed at introducing some "new viewpoints" of American educational experts, and comparing American-Vietnamese educational systems to see what adaptations can be utilized in the normal colleges.

Ten of the group are with normal schools in various zones in Viet-Nam: Mr. Nguyen Huu Phuoc, Director and Mr. Vu Ngoc Dai, Censor, Saigon Normal School, Mr. Pham Cong Ninh, Director and Mr. Dao Cong Nhu, Censor Vinh Long N.S., Mr. Tran Van Man, Director and Mr. Le Minh Tam, Censor Qui Nhon N.S., Mr. Dinh Van Do, Director and Mr. Luu Duc Khanh, Censor Long An N.S., Mr. Le Xuan Dich, Director and Mr. Pierre Marle Briuh,

Censor Ban Me Thuot N.S. The other three are Messrs. Tran Huu Vang, Director, Pedagogical Affairs, Cao Minh Khai, Censor, In-Service Educational Center, and Truong Van Duc, Director Elementary and Community Education.

The seminar which has began July 8 will last until July 24. According to the program released by the seminar office, the group will have a chance to participate in post-seminar trip to Taipei, Taiwan on the way home.

On Thursday, July 16 they had a discussion on "Opportunity is for Teacher Education in President Nguyen Van Thieu's October 6, 1969 Message to the General Assembly of South Viet-Nam" given by Dr. Donald Darnell, former Advisor to the Qui Nhon Normal School and now Assistant Professor of Elementary Education in Southern Illinois University, Edwardville.

HOA HAO BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY TO OPEN SOON

Saigon, July 11, 1970--Mr. Le Phuoc Sang, Rector of the An Giang Hoa Hao Buddhist University Friday said the University's teaching staff included mostly of public university professors, holders of doctorate degrees.

According to Mr. Sang, the complete list of the teachers will be announced in the near future, however, a number of lecturers and instructors are ready to assume their posts at the newly founded institution of higher learning.

The An Giang University is scheduled to open next October.

Miscellaneous

DR. LIVIO ECCARDI: RVN MUST STRUGGLE HARDER TO REACH PEACE IN HONOR

Saigon, July 11, 1970--Dr. Livio Eccardi, "Ambassador for World Peace 1970" from Puerto Rico, said Friday that the Republic of Viet-Nam must struggle harder to have a peace in honor.

During an interview granted to VP, Dr. Livio Eccardi, as "Ambassador for World Peace 1970", condemned war cruelty which caused death and misery to the world's people and hindered the progress of mankind.

Asked about a peace solution for Viet-Nam, Dr. Eccardi said when he visited Hong Kong months ago, he had failed in getting permission to enter Red China for meeting with Chu En Lai.

However he had sent Chu En Lai a letter making plain his viewpoint on the world

peace and asking Chu En Lai to end the war and give up his dream of conquering the world. But Dr. Eccardi received no response from Chu En Lai.

Referring to his activities in Viet-Nam, Dr. Eccardi said during his July 6-11 stay here, he met with Senate Chairman Nguyen Van Huyen.

Besides, as Vice President of International Junior Chamber - Puerto Rico, Dr. Livio Eccardi met with Messrs. Quach Thoai Huan, President of the International Junior Chamber-Viet-Nam; Duong Van Thanh, President of Junior Chamber-Saigon; Duong Van Tuan, President of Junior Chamber-Cholon.

On Wednesday night, Dr. Eccardi presented his viewpoint on peace at a dinner lecture at "Cercle Hippique", Nguyen Du Street, with members of the Junior Chamber-Vietnam in attendance.

Dr. Livio Eccardi is scheduled to meet with Msgr. Nguyen Van Binh, Bishop of Saigon, before leaving Viet-Nam Saturday.

Dr. Livio Eccardi expressed his hope that he will return to Saigon in the near future to witness the new life in peace of the Vietnamese people.

Before arriving in Viet-Nam, Dr. Eccardi had stopped over in Mexico, Japan and Hong Kong.

After visiting Viet-Nam, he will visit Laos, India and Europe.

Dr. Eccardi said during his meeting with Pope Paul VI - 1969, the Pontiff warmly welcomed his peace viewpoint and encouraged him to give such talks on peace and fraternity of mankind in countries over the world.

Special Feature

HANOI ACCEPTANCE OF POW REPATRIATION IS RARE AGREEMENT IN PARIS

Saigon, July 13, 1970--The Paris talks on Viet-Nam have produced few areas of agreement since the configuration of the conference table was determined some 18 months ago.

Hanoi's acceptance of Saigon's offer to repatriate 62 sick and wounded North Vietnamese war prisoners therefore, came as a surprise. The agreement was reached at the Paris talks and it was on a subject about which the Communists have maintained a particularly intransigent attitude.

The repatriation was proposed by South Viet-Nam during the June 4th session of the Paris meetings. At that session, the Saigon delegate stated his country's willingness to return all disabled or ill North Vietnamese soldiers - 343 of them - held captive in the South.

As has been their practice whenever the Allies approached the subject of war prisoners, the Communists gave no response.

One week later, in a communique released simultaneously in Saigon and in Paris. South Viet-Nam announced that a group of 62 disabled war prisoners would be put ashore inside the DMZ on July 11, together with 24 North Vietnamese fishermen who had been interned after being captured in South Vietnamese territorial waters.

RVN Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam called for a cease-fire in the vicinity of the proposed repatriation site.

North Viet-Nam publicly accepted the repatriation offer on June 25, agreeing to the cease-fire, but stipulating that the freed captives be permitted to complete the final ship-to-shore leg of their journey 'completely alone', without escort or formal transfer ceremony.

Accepting Hanoi's conditions, South Viet-Nam announced at the July 9 Session the geographical limits of the cease-fire area and confirmed that "all other details, particularly the place, date and means of transporation remain unchanged".

Although the July 11 prisoner transfer marked the first tacit acceptance of repatriates by Hanoi, it was not the first return of captives by the Saigon government.

Between 1966 and 1968 Saigon unilaterally repatriated four groups of prisoners, sending them across the Ben Hai river bridge inside the DMZ. The bridge has since been destroyed by the North Vietnamese.

F.M. Lam says South Viet-Nam hopes its latest action would prompt a reciprocal move by Hanoi. More than 3,000 South Vietnamese and 1,600 U.S. servicemen are listed as 'missing' many of them presumed to be captives of the Communists.

South Viet-Nam holds more than 35,000 Communist troops in prisoner of war camps, including 7,780 'confirmed North Vietnamese soldiers'. Repeated Saigon offers to exchange sick and wounded prisoners have been ignored or rebuffed by Hanoi.

Prisoner camps operated by South Viet-Nam are open to inspection by international humanitarian organization powers and news media, in compliance with the provisions of the neutral 1949 Geneva Convention on the treatment of prisoners of war.

Saigon also has repeatedly endeavored to honor another provision of the Geneva Convention by offering to Hanoi rosters of North Vietnamese troops held captive in the South.

However, Hanoi not only has refused to accept prisoners lists, it has rebuffed all efforts by the Allies, neutral powers and international humanitarian agencies to obtain rosters of Allied prisoners. It has also refused to permit inspection of its prisoner of war camps.

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In addition to VIET-NAM BULLETIN, the Embassy of Viet-Nam also publishes a Vietnamese-language weekly called TROI NAM. Readers who are interested in receiving this publication are kindly advised to fill in the opposite mailing form reserved for TROI NAM.

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