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Politics

NO UNCONDITIONAL CEASE-FIRE OR COALITION: PRES. THIEU

Vung Tau, July 22--President Nguyen Van Thieu said Tuesday morning that in so far as he is responsible for the leadership of the nation, the Republic of Viet-Nam can in no way accept as an alternative to the present war an unconditional cease-fire or coalition with the Communists.

President Thieu made the statement when he presided over the 4-70 graduation course of village and hamlet officials at the Vung Tau National Training Center.

A cease-fire is only acceptable, according to the RVN Chief Executive when it meets two conditions, an end to the war and no exploitation by the Communists.

Addressing over 3,500 trainees, the President made a meticulous analysis of the national situation at the present juncture and compared it to the situation three years ago to help the village and hamlet officials better understand their role in the anti-Communist struggle.

Dealing with the military situation, Pres. Thieu said, "Since the enemy is too weak, the war will fade out. Then the situation in rural areas will improve and every productive activity will increase."

The President was of the opinion that the Communists will engage in "measured" military operations in the hope of securing some parts of the country, but their actions are but an illusion before the nearly total control of the population by the government.

Pres. Thieu disclosed that a special development program is being launched aiming at restoring security in the rural areas. Hence, President Thieu urged the village and hamlet officials to actively purify their ranks and at the same time to destroy Red underground cadres to provide opportunity for the implementation of development projects.

Dealing with economic development projects for the coming year, President Thieu said, "The rural people will actually contribute their shares in the common development of their provinces in line with the self-help policy."

Earlier, Lt. Col. Nguyen Be, Commandant of the center and a student's representative reported to the President the results of the course.

Also present at the ceremony were Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem, Rural Development Minister Tran Thanh Phong, Information Minister Ngo Khac Tinh, Mr. Le Cong Chat, Interior Vice-Minister, Lt. Gen. Do Cao Tri, Third Corps Commander Lt. Gen Nguyen Van La, Assistant for Pacification Development and Maj. Gen. Cao Hao Hon, head of the "Phoenix" Center.

PRES. THIEU TOURS KIEN PHONG

Saigon, July, 16--President Nguyen Van Thieu Wednesday toured Cao Lanh, Kien Phong province to preside over a ceremony feting the Tay Bien victory held by the 44th Special Zone Command.

Addressing the audience at the event, President Thieu reviewed the brilliant military achievements of the RVN Armed Forces during the 1970 first semester.

"All these achievements", the RVN President said, "particularly those victories in Cambodia, have strengthened the people's confidence in the eradication of the enemy forces even at the other side of the border."

"However,"the President added, "not only the RVN Armed Forces can defeat the enemy, but people of all strata namely the Civil Self Defence forces can also destroy the enemy provided the people are determined in such an effort."

"Dealing with the peace issue in the future," President Thieu said, "our approach to peace will be shorter when the RVN Armed Forces become stronger and when our people are as well trained as combatants."

President Thieu emphasized that the peace for Viet-Nam cannot be restored overnight and the present war cannot be ended under any conditions but peace will prevail along with the growing of the RVN Armed Forces, from the strength of the entire people and from the anti-Communist determination of the national leader.

Consequently, the RVN President believed, the minimum number of indulged individuals surfeited with immature notion of peace will be abandoned by the people.

As a combatant, President said, he is determined to quench any move towards surrendering peace.

The RVN Chief Executive reaffirmed the only stand of the RVN--the rejection of any forms of coalition.

Earlier, Col Vo Huu Hanh, Commander of the 44th Special Zone, briefed the RVN President and audience on the military achievements scored by the 44th Special Zone combatants at the border area in the past three months. According to Col. Hanh, the 44th Special Zone combatants killed 1,271 enemy on the spot, seized 1,489 assorted weapons and destroyed 725 tons of ammunition, food and military gears.

Later, President Thieu cut the traditional ribbon inaugurating the war booty exhibit held at the Cao Lanh Administrative office. He then called on 500 Civil Self Defence group and inter-group leaders under military training at Tran Quoc training center.

The RVN President on this occasion, explained the role of the Civil Self Defence members at the present national juncture is to support the RVN Armed Forces in the defence of their native towns.

President Thieu then toured the recently-pacified Phong My village where he was briefed on local pacification activities.

Accompanying President Thieu were Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem, Defence Minister Lt. Gen. Nguyen Van Vy, Rural Development Minister Maj. Gen. Tran Thanh Phong, Vice Interior Minister Le Cong Chat, Messrs. Dang Van Quang and Tran Van An, assistants to the President, Australian Ambassador Harry Lindray, British Ambassador John D. Moreton, IV Corps and IV Military Region Maj. Gen. Ngo Dzu and a member of high ranking officers.

F.M. LAM: RVN WILL PROTEST AGAINST INDIA'S INVITATION OF NGUYEN THI BINH

Saigon, July 23, 1970--Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam said Wednesday the RVN Government will send an official letter protesting against the Indian government's invitation of Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, Foreign Minister of the so-called South Viet-Nam Provisional Revolutionary Government to visit India.

Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam disclosed at a meeting with the press Wednesday morning that he had several times invited the Indian Consul General in Saigon to explain the above problem.

According to the Indian Consul General, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh was invited to visit India by the former Indian Foreign Minister who attended Ho Chi Minh's funeral in Hanoi last year.

The invitation of the former Indian Foreign Minister only of courteous character, was unexpectedly accepted by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, and the matter had caused much embarrassment to the present Indian Foreign Minister, Mr. Swaran Singh. And after many postponements, the visit of Mrs. Binh took place as promised.

Besides, according to Min. Lam, so far the RVN Foreign Ministry has not received any explanations yet from the Indian government on this "unfriendly" act but the Indian Consul General made an underhand elucidation that it is just an effort toward arrangements for another approach of ending the Viet-Nam war.

However, despite this, Minister Lam complained that such an invitation was in no way a fair gesture on the part of the Indian government, "which is detrimental to the friendly relations between the two countries."

Minister Lam made known he is scheduled to propose the RVN government to adopt a

solution which will be much more positive than passive protests as it did in previous months. However, the RVN Foreign Minister did not elaborate.

On this occasion, Minister Lam disclosed that the strong reactions against Thi Binh's visit to India in her capacity as foreign Minister of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the National Liberation Front by the Indian people and press "are very favorable for the protest of the RVN Foreign Ministry."

Minister Lam said, "at present, three delegations have raised voice against Thi Binh's visit--RVN, Laos and Cambodia."

RVN Consul General Pham Trong Nhan having the rank of a plenipotentiary Minister, left India for Nepal during Thi Binh's visit to India.

Even in New Delhi, the most favorable act, according to Min. Lam, was the spontaneous dissemination by the local residents of leaflets and pasting of posters denouncing Thi Binh as "Communist Spy."

To another question from a newsman, Min. Lam said there was no U.S. intervention in the invitation of Nguyen Thi Binh to tour India.

VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE ISSUES CLASSIFICATION

Saigon, July 24, 1970--The press directorate of the Vice President's office Thursday issued a clarification on Vice Pres. Nguyen Cao Ky's declarations concerning the U.S. redevelopment and the corruption problem, during his tour of the First Military Region, July 20-21.

On the first issue, after baring the Communist attempts to prolong the war, the Vice President was of the opinion that by mid 1971 there would be no more U.S. fightingmen in the Republic. Commenting on that eventuality the Vice President said; "It must be done, it'd better it will be so, why don't we still cling to the U.S. for 5 years now like a calf to his mother cow?" He added: "When the U.S. has withdrawn all its troops from Viet-Nam, there won't be political pressures coming from the U.S. internal difficulties caused by the naive U.S. anti-war groups."

Dealing with corruption practices that have harmed the national economy, Vice President Ky made the following remark: "There are a number of idle people who spend their time travelling from one place to another to enjoy themselves. They regularly get big incomes in the millions of piasters. They're millionaires and multi-millionaires. With such people at the super structure level, we can never realize a social revolution bringing justice to everyone."

On this occasion, the Vice President asserted that he made these statements not to criticize anybody or to conceal any scheme but only for the survival of the nation. He had also presented the same views in his past meetings with President Nguyen Van Thieu, the clarification added.

NATIONAL PROGRESSIST MOVEMENT CHAIRMAN
MEETS THE PRESS

Saigon, July 25, 1970--The primary objective for all the nationalists of South Viet-Nam is to defend the non-Communist southern half by all means possible.

Professor Nguyen Van Bong, chairman of the National Progressist Movement (NPM), made the statement in a meeting with the press Friday morning at the NPM office, here.

"Such a primary objective, at the present juncture, is not impracticable", Prof. Bong said, adding that, "in the face of the present military achievements by the RVN armed forces South Viet-Nam could restore peace."

The most effective solution to the Viet-Nam war, according to Prof. Bong, is the organization of a free election with the participation of the Communists.

The NPM chairman express his belief that South Viet-Nam will come out winner of such an election if "at present, we know how to strengthen our ranks."

"The strengthening of our ranks," the NPM chairman said, "requires a change in our national defence policy, improvement of our society and stabilization in the political field."

Touching on the "neutralization of South Viet-Nam within a neutralized Indochina" solution recently advocated by representative Le Quy Chung, Prof. Bong said such a solution "actually provokes confusion."

The problem, as the Professor put it, "is to understand what is neutrality."

From the diplomatic viewpoint, Prof. Bong said, neutrality only means non-alignment, but in fact it sets out relations among countries, Communist or non-Communist."

From the political viewpoint, the Professor went on, "The neutral countries tend to adopt a pro-western democratic regime, within the sphere of influence of the free world, and aloof from the communist bloc."

In the case of the Republic of Viet-Nam, "It's hard to be neutral in a neutral Indochina because North Viet-Nam never adheres to neutrality."

According to Prof. Bong, neutrality is only possible when neighboring countries, consent "to let ourselves be neutral" or when "we are strong enough to defend ourselves."

To illustrate his viewpoint, Prof. Bong referred to the fragile neutrality of Cambodia under Sihanouk's days.

The NPM chairman insisted on saying that, "Cambodia has thus far made proof of adherence to a neutrality which tips over the western style."

Neutrality solution to the Viet-Nam war under the present circumstances is impracticable, and those who advocate it are irresponsible people who want to be "popular"

with their unrealistic proposals.

"Advocation for neutrality," Prof. Bong said, "leads to nowhere but brings about confusion among the population."

POLICE TO ENSURE PUBLIC
ORDER AT ANY PRICE: COL. HAI

Saigon, July 16, 1970--Police will put into effect national legislation strictly, at any price in the forthcoming days to ensure security, order and guarantee for the people's property and livelihood.

National Police Director General Col. Tran Van Hai made the announcement Wednesday afternoon in a meeting with Saigon Police authorities at the National Police Directorate General.

Police Tran Van Hai said the population has raised voice at violations of national legislation by troublemongers who have endangered the public security and order in the Capital City these last few months.

All the disturbances which were set off during the past few months Police Hai said, had connections with what was described in the recently captured communist "Decision No. 18":

--Inflicting failure to the Americanization of the present war and to the Pacification and Development programme.

--Taking over the rural areas

--Pushing forward the uprising movement in cities

--Expanding the organization of people's communities, and

--Boosting the production for troops's better supplies.

Besides, Police Director General Hai avowed that during the past four months security was still worsened by robbery, banditry, extortion, intimidation, although security agents had done their best to curb down these violations of public order.

Colonel Hai disclosed that profiteers of the recent disturbances in Saigon city had capitalized on certain communities activities to collect VN\$5000 in cash at least from each family in Cholon and at commercial areas in Saigon.

Illegal construction and squatting on public and private lands were increasingly initiated with the attempt to particularly squeeze for ransoms ranging from VN\$50,000 to VN\$200,000 by landholders concerned, Col. Hai said.

Further, demonstrations and seminars advocating an immediate peace or the overthrow of the government, followed by acts of violence such as setting fire on vehicles, throwing gasoline bombs at security agents also aggravated by the situation, Col Hai added.

All these disturbances, according to the Police boss, had disappointed the Capital inhabitants who taxed the security agent of "ineffectiveness in the maintenance of public security and order".

Colonel Hai made known, however, that amid this period of disturbance in the Capital, elements having tie-ups with the Communists were apprehended, but many of them who were even found guilty by the tribunals were released, so were leaders of riot-triggered demonstrations.

Such a fact, according to Col. Hai led to the misunderstanding that even policemen had mitigated the troublemongers, and such a misunderstanding had affected the national police prestige.

The National Police boss said, "We can in no way fold the arms to let the people on the rush hours be barred from normal circulation and riots grow wild thus seriously affecting the population's livelihood."

"The national police branch in this war-torn country cannot accept any longer a lawless situation, "Col. Hai insisted adding that "if the RVN legislation should prevail, security agents have the duty to vigorously push ahead the maintenance of public order particularly in the Capital City."

Addressing the Saigon police ranking officers, Col. Hai said: "We must ensure public security and order at any price and while performing our duty we are authorized to use firearms for self-defense."

The National Police Director General also made known that from now on, security agents will first prove their good will by calling on demonstrators in three times to disperse prior to using anti-riot measures to arrest the instigators of the demonstrations.

On this occasion, Saigon Police Director Trang Si Tan said that policemen will photograph and film and tape-record all the riots and demonstrations and arrest all the demonstration instigators--all these measures serving as evidences for trial.

Police Director Tan warned that all the gatherings must be authorized in advance.

VICE PRESIDENT KY ON PARIS PEACE TALKS

Saigon, July 21, 1970--Vice Pres. Nguyen Cao Ky Monday said the progress of Paris peace talks depends on the Communist good-will and in the days to come on the situation in South Viet-Nam as well as Cambodia, Laos and Thailand.

Speaking at the I Corps Command Hdqs., the Vice President was of the opinion that the appointment of Ambassador David Bruce at the Paris conference was nothing but an act aiming at relieving the pressure caused by anti-war groups in the United States. He doubted that it could bring about any immediate progress or concrete result.

Dealing with Allied operations in Cambodia, Vice Pres. Ky said the offensive against Red sanctuaries brought about a decrease in enemy activities and greatly eased

Red pressure against South Viet-Nam.

He said the Communists attempted to overthrow the Lon-Nol regime. "If they succeeded", he continued, "we'll have to face a Red Cambodia and such an eventuality is really frightful. Therefore we must do everything within our capability to frustrate their attempts."

The Vice President also asserted that the RVNAF will not be bogged down in Cambodia, and means of communication by land, sea and air are made available to the supply of RVNAF combatants.

The Vice President laid stress on the opportunity of a tripartite military alliance among Thailand, the RVN and Cambodia, in a common endeavor to fight the Communists.

On this occasion, the Vice President dismissed news reports alleging the discord between the Chief Executive and himself on a military alliance.

Vice President Ky emphasized that he never dealt with the formation of a military alliance but a military cooperation among Thailand, Cambodia and Viet-Nam.

Further, the Vice President predicted that the enemy, despite its heavy losses and setbacks, will however do its best for the last chance to restore its strength in an effort to prolong the war for a few more years.

Touching on the pull-out of troops by the United States, the Vice President considered it an unavoidable fact. He said such a redeployment by the United States is as evident as "we can in no way stick to our allies forever."

Vice President Ky was critical anew of the American aid policy which he said, "has generated injustice and corruption" in this war-torn part of the world.

The Vice President said until the Americans set right their aid policy, Viet-Nam will be hard to restore independence and initiate a special policy for herself.

Vice President Ky disclosed that the RVN Ministers of Economy and Finance admitted that the RVN economy "is of no future" inasmuch as it depends too much on the American aid.

Present at the talk were Lieutenant General Hoang Xuan Lam, Commander of I Corps and I Military Region, Maj. Gen. Ngo Quang Truong, Commander of First Division and Brig. Gen. Nguyen Van Toan, Commander of Second Division and a number of ranking officers of the I Military Region.

In the afternoon, Vice Pres. Ky toured RVNAF units operating in Quang Tin and Quang Nam provinces.

Foreign Relations

P.M. KHIEM TO VISIT ROK

Saigon, July 16, 1970,--The Prime Minister's Office Thursday announced:

At the invitation of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Tran Thien Khiem, Prime Minister of the Republic of Viet-Nam, will pay an official visit to the Republic of Korea from Aug. 4 to Aug. 7, 1970. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Khiem and other high government officials.

During the visit, the Prime Ministers of the two countries will have an exchange of views and discussion on the recent situation in Asia and the Pacific region including Viet-Nam as well as on various matters of mutual interest.

Prime Minister Khiem's visit to Korea is expected to contribute further to the strengthening of friendly ties between the two countries.

P.M. KHIEM TO VISIT ROC

Saigon, July 20, 1970,--At the invitation of the Chairman of the Executive Yuan of the Republic of China and Mrs. Chia Kan Yen, Gen. Tran Thien Khiem, Prime Minister of the Republic of Viet-Nam, will pay an official visit to the Republic of China from Aug. 11 to Aug. 14, 1970. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Khiem and other high ranking government officials.

A communique issued Monday by the Prime Minister's Office said, during the visit, the Chairman of the Executive Yuan of the Republic of China and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Viet-Nam will have an exchange of views and discussion on the recent situation in Asia and the Pacific region including Viet-Nam, as well as on various matters of mutual interest. Prime Minister Khiem's visit to the Republic of China is expected to contribute further to the strengthening of friendly ties between the two countries.

NEW CAMBODIAN AMBASSADOR TO VIET-NAM PRESENTS CREDENTIAL TO PRES. THIEU

Saigon, July 24, 1970,--Mr. Thoutch Vutthi, new Cambodian Ambassador to Viet-Nam, Thursday morning presented his credentials to President Nguyen Van Thieu at a ceremony at Independence Palace.

In his speech, Ambassador Thoutch Vutthi express his happiness at the resumption of the friendly relations between the two peoples which was severed for a long time.

The new Cambodian Ambassador also conveyed the Cambodian people's gratitude to the RVN for her support in the defence of Cambodia's independence, neutrality and territorial integrity.

In his reply, President Thieu said the presence of the new Cambodian Ambassador to Viet-Nam is a substantial evidence of the restoration of the friendship between two peoples who have close relations in geography and history.

President Thieu also mentioned the Communist aggression against Cambodia at the present time. According to the President, the Communists are suffering heavy setbacks in South Viet-Nam and all their aggression schemes will be doomed to failure.

President Thieu also hoped that the resumption of diplomatic relations between Viet-Nam and Cambodia will open the door for cooperation in other fields in the future.

Present at the ceremony were Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam, Mr. Nguyen Phu Duc, Presidential Assistant, Maj. Gen. Nguyen Van Kiem, Military Cabinet Chief at the President's office and an official of the Cambodian Embassy.

TURKISH LEGISLATORS IN SAIGON

Saigon, July 16, 1970,--An 8-member delegation of Turkish legislators led by Mr. Kalaycioglu arrived in Saigon Wednesday afternoon for a week-long visit to the Republic of Viet-Nam, authoritative sources said.

At Tan Son Nhat international airport, a Turkish legislator said the Turkish representatives hoped to get lessons drawn from anti-Communist struggle of the Vietnamese people.

The Turkish lawmaker visiting delegation included Messrs. Ozer, Olcmen, Kubilay Imer, Necati Cakiroglu, Rasim Cinisli, Hasan Korkmazcan, Samed Guldogan, and Vedat Onsal, among them were representatives of the Turkish Konya province, a sister town with the RVN Tay Ninh province.

During their stay in Viet-Nam the Turkish legislators are scheduled to meet with the RVN leaders and called at the National Assembly, the Foreign Ministry, some provinces and military training centers.

INDIAN COMMUNITY IN VIET-NAM SEND PROTEST

Saigon, July 25, 1970,--The Indian community in Viet-Nam Friday sent to the Foreign Ministry of India a telegram requesting the Indian government to strictly maintain its neutral and non-alignment policy.

The telegram said, "The visit to India of Nguyen Thi Binh Foreign Minister of the so-called Provisional Revolutionary Government of the South Viet-Nam National Liberation Front has roused growing anger of the Vietnamese press and people against Indians living in South Viet-Nam."

According to the telegram, the local press has called for demonstrations to force Indians go home and close their shops. Hence, all Indian nationals in South Viet-Nam express their deep concern over the consequences that may arise against them throughout South Viet-Nam and request the Indian government not to take any hasty decision and strictly maintain a neutral and non-alignment policy.

Meanwhile, sources from the RVN Foreign Ministry reported that the Indians in Viet-Nam are scheduled to hold demonstrations at the Indian Consulate General and the headquarters of the International Central Commission (ICC) to express their indignation at Nguyen Thi Binh's visit to India.

The Indian community in Viet-Nam, with Mr. Matahni as chairman will hold on the next few days a press conference to present its attitude toward this problem.

N.Z. SUPPORTS RVN JUST CAUSE: CLARK TITMAN

Saigon, July 21, 1970--New Zealand-Viet-Nam Friendship Association Chairman (N.Z.-VNFA) Clark Titman said Tuesday "Hanoi should know that the allied forces will not withdraw from Viet-Nam until the Viet-Nam war comes to an end."

Chairman Titman made the statement at a meeting with the press at Majestic Hotel here when he was asked whether New Zealand is prepared to pull out its troops from Viet-Nam.

The Chairman of the New Zealand-Viet-Nam Friendship Association came to Viet-Nam last Sunday for a several-day visit to the Republic at the invitation of the Viet-Nam Council on Foreign Relations.

To another question, the well-known anti-Communists NZ-VN-FA Chairman made known that the people of New Zealand "never support a war of aggression". To illustrate his point, Mr. Titman referred to the historical attitude of New Zealand toward the Second World War.

The people of New Zealand only support the beleaguered countries which fight for self-defense, he affirmed.

"This also explains the presence of NZ troops in South Viet-Nam", he said.

The visiting NZVNFA Chairman, on this occasion disclosed that all the NZ troops fighting in Viet-Nam are volunteers.

They have not been subjected to any pressures, he added.

In the past few days, Mr. Titman had met with many Vietnamese of various social strata, including students. He remarked that the Vietnamese people "are very hospitable".

He was received by Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem and Minister of Information Ngo Khac Tinh.

He was also scheduled to confer with opposition groups in order to better understand their aspirations.

On his way home he will make a stopover in Cambodia.

Culture

MINISTER OF STATE TRUYEN ON CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Saigon, July 25, 1970,--Minister of State for Cultural Affairs Mai Tho Truyen said Friday evening the construction of the National Library will be completed in ten months and he will ask friendly cultural agencies to contribute in the construction. 60 million piasters were reserved by the government for this undertaking.

Guest speaker of the weekly televised "People Want To Know" program initiated by Viet-Nam press, Minister of State Truyen made known that his office is realizing the letters codification for the three parts of Viet-Nam and drafting a dictionary of the Vietnamese language.

Meanwhile, according to Minister Truyen, a 100 member committee is translating classical literary works into modern Vietnamese. Seven of the translated books were printed.

The Minister of State for Cultural Affairs said a National Archives office is under

construction. He also disclosed that the budget reserved for cultural affairs doesn't even reach one per cent of the national budget.

To a question, Minister Truyen said to help any writers or poets who could not publish their works themselves, the office of the Minister of State for Cultural Affairs will buy the copyrights and publish their writings or help them in the publication.

Dealing with the recent cultural exhibit in Paris, France, Minister Truyen made known that the results exceeded our expectations. Over 700 books, 73 musical tapes, 80 records and 30 cassette tapes were brought to Paris for the exhibit.

Document

TRANSCRIPT OF PRES. THIEU'S REMARKS TO THE PRESS AT NEAK LUONG, CAMBODIA (JULY 17, 1970)

Following is the detailed transcript of President Nguyen Van Thieu's remarks to some foreign press at Neak Luong, after the meeting with H.E. Cheng Heng, Head of State of Cambodia, H.E. Lon Nol, Prime Minister, H.E. Sirik Matak, Deputy Prime Minister and other high ranking Cambodian officials last July 17:

Asked about a military alliance between Viet-Nam, Cambodia, Thailand and Laos, the President said:

"A military alliance between the foregoing four countries is not feasible now. First of all, Laos is a neutral country and the Laotian government has never requested military aid from the Republic of Viet-Nam. The Laotians still want to keep their neutrality, and they want everybody to respect it. The Republic of Viet-Nam has signed the 1962 Geneva Agreement recognizing the neutrality of Laos, and the Republic of Viet-Nam has many times reaffirmed its respect for the neutrality of that country."

On the military alliance between the Republic of Viet-Nam, Cambodia and Thailand, the President said:

"I do not believe that a military alliance between the foregoing three countries is a very urgent matter that needs to be achieved now. Moreover, I do not consider such an alliance as a really necessary one. What is more urgent and practical at the present time is the assistance to be given immediately to Cambodia by other nations, like sending combat troops, or assistance under various forms designed to help Cambodia to be strong enough to face the present situation, and even more important - to prevent the Communists from taking advantage of time to retake the initiative that they have lost and to make the situation become worse.

The assistance to Cambodia from the free world countries is not solely military, but it can cover many other fields. The important thing is that the free world countries must share the task and responsibility of helping Cambodia properly so that the Cambodians can gradually build a strong army and shoulder the defense of their own land."

On the question of Thailand sending combat troops to Cambodia, the President said:

"Even though Thailand has sent combat troops to help the Republic of Viet-Nam, I hope Thailand will soon send troops to Cambodia because the Cambodian situation will affect Thailand in the present and in the future.

In the case of Thailand or many other countries sending combat troops to Cambodia, the coordination of military actions on the Cambodian soil can be achieved as it is in Viet-Nam, by way of establishing a military liaison staff of each country at the Cambodian military general command. Thus, there is no need to sign a military alliance between those countries."

Asked if he believes that there is progress at the Paris peace talks and whether he has any new initiatives, the President said:

"I see no prospects because the Communists strongly maintain their two absurd conditions, that are the total unconditional withdrawal of allied forces, and the overthrow of the constitutional and legal government of the Republic of Viet-Nam.

After President Nixon's latest statements, the Communists one again rejected all our proposals. They said they would continue to use their armed forces in Viet-Nam, Cambodia and Laos to achieve a military victory. They also said that the appointment of Ambassador David Bruce as head of the American delegation to the Paris talks is an insignification matter not worthy of attention."

About new peace initiatives, the President said:

"The Republic of Viet-Nam has no new peace initiative while Secretary Rogers was in Saigon on July 4th for the allied nation's conference, we discussed the previous peace initiatives in order to review the Communist stand, and we agreed that they still remain stubborn."

The President recalled that the Republic of Viet-Nam had several times proposed to the Communists to discuss about cease-fire.

The President believes that it is a very constructive and concrete initiative leading to the end of the war, but the Communists still are not willing to discuss seriously.

Asked whether the Republic of Viet-Nam will continue to aid Cambodia, the President said:

"The Republic of Viet-Nam has done and is doing all it can within its modest means. Naturally, Cambodia needs not only a greater military assistance but also assistance in many other fields, such as economic, social, etc...the Republic of Viet-Nam alone is not able to help Cambodia in an effective manner. For that reason, the other free world countries, above all, the Asian countries, have the responsibility to help Cambodia to the utmost as the allied countries have helped the Republic of Viet-Nam."

Lastly asked to comment on the situation in Viet-Nam following the Cambodian operations, on the overall situation and the future of Indochina, the President said:

"First the reason why the Cambodian people and government are determined to oppose Communist aggression is that they know that the communists seek to dominate the Cambodian

people. For that reason, they had to overthrow their previous pro-Communist government, and now are determined to oppose the Communist aggression to protect their country.

Second, the Cambodian government's determination and the big victories of the Viet-Nam and allied troops in Cambodia have weakened the Communists in both Viet-Nam and Cambodia.

If the free world nations help Cambodia to the utmost in every way, then the Communists can no longer have hope for a victory in Cambodia.

Third, in summary, if the Indochina countries are determined to repel Communism, and if they receive active assistance from the free world, then the Communist imperialists will realize that they cannot take over these countries nor expand further their aggression. I believe that peace may not come by way of a signed agreement, but that the war will end in those countries because the Communists can no longer win in any way."

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