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IX. HANOI DERIDES U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWAL ANNOUNCEMENT
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Following the so-called "new peace initiative" the Nixon administration has over the past few days much ballyhooed about "troops withdrawal".

Nixon on October 12 announced that 40,000 more American troops will be withdrawn from South Viet-Nam by Christmas. U.S. Secretary of State William Rogers who appeared with Defense Secretary Melvin Laird on the previous day on television pretended "by and large the U.S. combat role in Viet-Nam would be over next May".

At a press conference on October 12 Laird also boasted that the Nixon administration intended "to end military conscription in the United States by June 30, 1973" due to "the success of the Vietnamization program".

All this is aimed at covering the Nixon administration's obdurate and warlike stand, misleading the American electors and soothing the growing opposition from the American people, especially at the time when anti-war organizations in the United States are preparing for a huge demonstration on October 31 to demand an end to the U.S. war.

As a matter of fact, the Nixon administration still refuses to withdraw rapidly and unconditionally all U.S. troops from South Viet-Nam. It still schemes to maintain indefinitely a large number of American troops in South Viet-Nam while continuing to use puppet troops to "change the colour of the skin of the dead body" to pursue its war of aggression. Even after the recently announced troops withdrawal, there would still be in South Viet-Nam about 284,000 American troops next May. Commenting on the announcement of "end to the military draft in 1973", Reuter on October 12 noted that this is aimed at "helping the Republicans in Congressional elections next month."