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NFLSV ISSUES 12-HOUR CHRISTMAS CEASE-FIRE

Liberation Radio (Clandestine) in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 1000 GMT  
7 December 1965--S

(NFLSV Central Committee communique)

(Text) Christmas will come this year at a time when the U.S. imperialists have introduced into South Vietnam nearly 200,000 U.S. and satellite troops together with all types of weapons and war equipment; used even the strategic B-52 aircraft, the Seventh Fleet, and lethal poisonous chemicals, and gas, and so forth; and frenziedly intensified and enlarged the aggressive war against our country. The U.S. imperialists and their henchmen have daily trampled on the freedom of belief of our compatriots, shelled churches, pagodas, and holy sees, massacred believers of various religions, and even used these sacred places as bases to open fire on our compatriots and kill them. (Obviously), but for the Americans and their henchmen, who have conducted an aggressive war, our compatriots would have peacefully enjoyed themselves (during Christmas) (few words indistinct) and been able to enjoy their rights from the spiritual, religious belief, sentimental, (few words indistinct) viewpoint. Therefore, our people and the liberation armed forces have defeated and will defeat resolutely all aggressive plots of the U.S. imperialists and puppet authorities in order to liberate the south and unify the fatherland.

However, out of regard for our compatriots' desire, in pursuance of its own policy of respect for freedom of belief, in view of the situation and religious belief of Catholic compatriots, including soldiers in the armed forces of the southern puppet government, and because of the friendship between our people and the U.S. people, the NFLSV decides that the South Vietnam Liberation Armed Forces will stop attacks throughout South Vietnam during Christmas night from 1800 hours on 24 December 1965 to 0600 hours on 25 December 1965, Indochina time--that is, from 1900 hours on 24 December 1965 to 0700 hours on 25 December 1965, Saigon puppet government time--so that Catholic soldiers in the armed forces of the Saigon puppet government, the United States, South Korea, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, and so forth may go to churches to attend Mass and celebrate Christmas Eve.

It is necessary for Catholic soldiers in the southern government armed forces as well as Catholic soldiers in the United States, Australian, South Korean, and New Zealand armed forces, and others to strictly comply with the specific regulations set forth by the South Vietnam Liberation Armed Forces Command in execution of the aforementioned decision of the NFLSV.

(Editor's note: The same broadcast carries a similar communique from the South Vietnam Liberation Armed Forces Command, which also specifies regulations governing the NFLSV's Christmas night cease-fire, as follows: "Catholic soldiers in the United States, Australian, New Zealand, Filipino, and Korean armed forces, and others, as well as Vietnamese Catholic soldiers in the southern puppet government armed forces are allowed to go to church to attend Mass (during Christmas night and to enjoy Christmas) on condition that they carry no weapons or means of spying.