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'PUPPETS' DISCUSS AMNESTY FOR ARMY DESERTERS

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[Text] Hanoi--The Saigon puppet administration is discussing a so-called amnesty for the tens of thousands of soldiers who defected from the (puppet) army this year, according to an AP dispatch on 5 October.

The same source revealed that desertions jumped at Tet, with many men stranded at home and others unwilling to return to their units because of the fighting. Many still have not returned some 8 months later.

The apparent reasoning behind the amnesty measures is to attract deserters, the agency noted. Due to the serious troop shortage and the sagging morale of their soldiers, the U.S. imperialists have to resort now to brazen measures in order to force them to go to the battlefield.

AP quoted the Boston GLOBE as saying that rear-echelon soldiers in the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam have been threatened with transfer to forward areas for failure to salute. The paper added that the division's directive included this sentence: An individual already stationed in a forward area, such as a brigade training area, who is cited for failure to salute, will be sent further forward.