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THO LETTER TO URBAN PEOPLE ON ANTI-U.S. DAY

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[Letter from lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, chairman of the NFLSV Central Committee Presidium, to Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh people on the occasion of the nationwide anti-U.S. day, 19 March]

[Text] Dear Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh compatriots: This year the nationwide anti-U.S. day, 19 March, comes to us at a moment when the Ky Dau spring general offensive and simultaneous uprising drive of our southern troops and people--enjoying the warm support and encouragement from our brothers and friends the world over, including the United States--is developing strongly and winning new and great victories, driving the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the country-selling Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet authorities into a state of unprecedentedly critical decline.

Nineteen years ago, for the first time in Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh and also the first time anywhere in our country, our compatriots from all walks of life in Ben Nghe and Dong Nai arose before the enemy's rifle muzzles, strongly developed their political and military power, and forced the U.S. interventionists' warships to ignominiously leave our country. This was the glorious defeat inflicted by our compatriots upon the U.S. aggressors on the very first day they set foot on our territory, and the Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh compatriots received the honor of implementing the fatherland's first order to defeat the enemy at the threshold of the native land. The Vietnamese people are very proud of this tradition of heroic and staunch struggle.

However, with their stubborn and warlike nature, the U.S. imperialists have not given up their ambition of invading our Vietnam and turning South Vietnam into a neocolony and a military base in order to conquer our country, rule our people, and prepare for attacks against other countries in Indochina and Southeast Asia. Thus, in the past 19 years, advancing from intervention to aggression and from waging a special war to waging a local war, the U.S. imperialists have committed many crimes in our country.

But in face of the power of the militant solidarity and steadfastness of all our people and of 14 million southern people, and in face of the great and precious aid of our brothers and friends the world over, including the United States, the complete defeat of the U.S. aggressors and country-selling puppet authorities is now evident.

Dear Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh compatriots: In the past 14 years, through continuous attacks and uprisings, our southern troops and people have scored unprecedentedly brilliant performances. The U.S.-puppets have sustained unprecedentedly heavy defeats. The southern liberation revolution has shifted to a new historic phase unique in the past 1,000 years.

In the military field, the PLAF have attacked all enemy units and inflicted upon them a loss of at least 50 percent of their military strength. The number of American soldiers killed in 1968 was almost equal to the total of their dead in the past 7 years, between 1961 and 1967. Our troops and people have continually kept the initiative on all battlefields, thus driving the enemy into a passive and defensive state and a state of being encircled and isolated, and inflicting heavy losses upon him not only in the rear bases and border areas, but also in his raids against the liberated areas.

Abrams' clear-and-hold strategy and remote defense strategy have basically gone bankrupt. The so-called new tactics of the U.S.-puppets--such as that of using flotillas on the Nam Bo delta rivers, that of using B-52's to wantonly drop bombs, thousands of tons of bombs a day on populated areas, especially the areas bordering Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh, and so forth--have been unable to stop the advance of the PLAF which have dealt thunderous punitive blows at the enemy throughout the south.

Meanwhile, our northern troops and people have demolished the so-called prestige of the U.S. Air Force and Navy, downing over 3,200 of their modern aircraft. The U.S. imperialists have been forced to end unconditionally their war of destruction against the northern part of our country and to sit down and talk with the NFLSV at the Paris conference.

Since the day the 1969 spring general offensive and simultaneous uprisings broke out, almost all of the enemy's regiment, division, brigade, and army corps headquarters, docks, airfields, and warehouses have been attacked. The U.S.-puppets have suffered heavy losses in military strength and war means. In 10 days, 45,000 enemy troops, including 23,000 U.S. troops, were annihilated or captured.

Being forced to deploy his troops to ward off attacks, the enemy has been confused and embarrassed. He has been further weakened. His plot to dispute people and land with the NFLSV--manifesting itself in the accelerated pacification and Phoenix plans--has begun going bankrupt in an ignominious way.

In the political field, our people's concerted uprisings have liberated 1,000 additional hamlets, inhabited by 2 million people, and have wrested back the mastership right. The revolutionary administration has been established in many villages, districts, and provinces. The NFLSV prestige has developed day by day, deeply rooted among our people of all walks of life everywhere, mobilizing thousands of additional people to arise, take up weapons, kill the enemy, or serve in combat.

The loyal, courageous combatants of the Dong Nai and Ben Nghe land have, on several occasions, overrun the leading U.S.-puppet organs, including the U.S. Embassy and the puppet army's so-called Joint General Staff headquarters.

Since the Mau Than Tet general offensive and concerted uprisings, various strata of the Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh people have participated more enthusiastically and in larger numbers in the great liberation struggle of all the people, for independence, freedom, a decent livelihood, and other vital interests. Hundreds of thousands of brother and sister workers, laborers, youths, and high school and college students have taken to the streets, taking up weapons to directly engage in combat or perform combat-serving tasks, such as providing food for the combatants, caring for sick or wounded combatants, moving weapons, and so forth. Waging a multiform political, proselyting, and armed struggle, our compatriots have continuously attacked the enemy, frightening the country-grabbers and country-sellers right in their main dens.

In the glorious struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their lackeys over the past 15 years, many outstanding, loyal sons of the heroic Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh people, such as Nguyen Thi Dieu, Duong Tu Giang, Nguyen Van Troi, Tran Van Dang, Pham Van Hai, Le Thi Rieng, and Tran Van Kieu, have courageously sacrificed themselves for the great cause. Thousands of others, such as Le Quang Vinh, Le Hong Cu, Vo Thi Thang, and Phung Ngoc Anh, are continuing their indomitable struggle in enemy prisons.

At present, disregarding enemy bondage and every frenzied, fascist maneuver of the U.S. imperialists and the country-selling Thieu-Ky-Huong clique, millions of our compatriots are courageously surging forward, holding aloft the just-cause banner, and, together with all the people, resolutely fighting to regain independence, freedom, a decent livelihood, and peace.

The more the enemy intensifies his repression and terrorism, the higher the fire of our people's hatred for him will rise, and the more numerous and firm will be the fighting ranks of the various strata of Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh people.

Dear Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh compatriots: The U.S. imperialist aggressors and the residual Thieu-Ky-Huong traitorous Vietnamese clique have been facing the danger of unavoidable, complete defeat. But, due to their stubborn and bellicose nature, they are frenziedly writhing, resorting to every cruel, crafty trick in an effort to prolong their aggressive war and to maintain their neocolonialist policy.

In order to defend their last dens, the U.S.-puppets are maneuvering many military forces into this area, establishing belts and closely woven defense networks, sweeping surrounding areas and suburbs, conducting internal police operations, and using even B-52 Stratofortress planes to daily and indiscriminately drop tens of thousands of tons of bombs on densely populated areas adjacent to the Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh area.

They have intensively restored and consolidated the ruling control machinery, organized the so-called civil defense, developed the ranks of intelligence agents and spies, promulgated extremely fascist laws and regulations, and, at the same time, stepped up the psychological warfare and open-arms campaigns and incessantly repeated their old, deceitful, false-peace-advocating, and hypocritical arguments. They have brazenly terrorized and repressed the peace-demanding and patriotic movements of compatriots of all walks of life, high school and college students, Buddhists, monks, and nuns. They have sought to cover up their crimes and shameful failures and to falsely accuse, distort, and malign the revolution.

Our Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh compatriots are workers, high school and university students, intellectuals, employees, businessmen, industrialists, persons engaging in religious and social activities, and goodwilled puppet administrative personnel and servicemen. Let them widely unite their actions, close their ranks, and achieve solidarity in accelerating the struggle to overthrow the country-selling and people-harming Thieu-Ky-Huong clique and form a peace cabinet that can seriously negotiate with the NFLSV, end the U.S. imperialists' war of aggression, and restore peace.

Let us struggle to demand that the price of rice and the cost of living be lowered, that the people's lives be insured, that democratic freedoms be achieved, that the general mobilization and civil self-defense organizations be abrogated, that the national sovereignty be protected, that all U.S. and satellite troops and war materiel be unconditionally withdrawn from South Vietnam, and that all U.S. and satellite military bases be abolished. Let us struggle to demand that the South Vietnamese people be left to settle themselves their own internal affairs in accordance with the NFLSV's political platform and without foreign interference, that an enlarged democratic national coalition administration be set up, and that an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral, and prosperous South Vietnam be achieved.

To make their movement develop more strongly, firmly, and widely, to make their spirit boil up and their forces become increasingly more powerful, compatriots must quickly organize themselves into mass organizations, join the revolutionary organizations, and unite these organizations into a broad and invincible front.

Compatriots must participate in the building and development of guerrilla and armed self-defense forces and step up the movement to annihilate pacification agents and villains, punish spies, destroy civilian defense organizations, eliminate all forms of oppression, wipe out the puppet administration machinery, liberate streets and wards, regain the mastership right, and advance, in cooperation with all the southern troops and compatriots, toward wresting back the entire power for the people.

Dear Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh compatriots: Animated by strong hatred for the country-grabbing U.S. aggressors and the country-selling Thieu-Ky-Huong clique, let our heroic Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh city--which has the invincible strength of millions of people who have arisen--promise, to sister Hue and Hanoi, to the compatriots in the south and throughout the country, and to brothers and friends the world over, that: with the cooperation and encouragement of the entire south and the entire country, as well as of brothers and friends the world over, Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh--which defeated the U.S. imperialists in the first battle--is now determined to defeat them in the last battle.

Heroic Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh is determined to be worthy of the title "brass fortress of the fatherland, of the heroic south," worthy of our nation, worthy of the solicitude of brothers and friends the world over, and worthy of being called the Ho Chi Minh city. Determination-to-win greetings.

Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho.

COMMENTARY ON NIXON'S WAR ESCALATION REPORTED

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[Text] Hanoi VNA March 20--Commenting on Nixon's threats (following slanders repeated by the representatives of the US and the Saigon puppet administration at the eighth plenary session of the Paris conference on Vietnam) that actions will take place in