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MEMORANDUM OF DUONG DINH THAO'S PRESS CONFERENCE

Paris VNA in Vietnamese to VNA Hanoi 0905 GMT 4 Sep 70 B (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

(Memorandum of Duong Dinh Thao's press conference following the 82d session of the Paris talks on Vietnam)

[Text] Paris, 3 September 1970 LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY--Opening his press conference, Comrade Duong Dinh Thao said: "While the Nixon administration continues to pursue its policy of prolonging and expanding the war of aggression to the whole of the Indochinese Peninsula, just as at the previous meetings, the U.S. delegate rehashed old arguments and alleged that the U.S. side was seeking a way to help the talks achieve some progress."

Mr Duong Dinh Thao read to newsmen some passages from Mr Nguyen Van Tien's prepared statement commenting on the U.S. delegate's statement. He also read excerpts from Mr Nguyen Van Tien's impromptu speech at today's meeting in which Mr Tien refuted the accusations of the U.S. and Saigon delegates who alleged that the South Vietnamese liberation armed forces "have attacked innocent people and assassinated small children."

Mr Nguyen Van Tien also unmasked the fiasco of the election campaign and the so-called democracy of the U.S.-puppet clique.

Mr Duong Dinh Thao also told newsmen, with supporting evidence, about the towering crimes perpetrated by the U.S.-puppet clique against our people, such as the Kon Horing massacre, and the shelling and attack by U.S. aircraft against Vietnamese fishermen in the open sea in Kien Giang Province. He also read a letter from an American GI to his family in which the letter recognized the war crimes committed by U.S. troops in South Vietnam.

Finally, Mr Duong Dinh Thao said: "We tell you the above facts today, because we want to point out to you that in the present war of aggression in South Vietnam, the Americans have perpetrated innumerable crimes on our territory. The fact constitutes a dishonor for the United States. That is why we believe that the United States can save its honor only by putting an end to its war of aggression, not by continuing it, as Mr Agnew pretended."

Later, Mr Duong Dinh Thao answered newsmen's questions.

Mrs Lenart (FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW): In his statement, Mr Nguyen Van Tien urged that truly free and democratic general elections be carried out; and to carry out such truly free and democratic elections, the South Vietnam Provisional Revolutionary Government proposed the formation of a provisional coalition government through negotiations conducted on an equal basis. When does your side plan to carry out these negotiations as the starting point?

Answer: Mr Nguyen Van Tien reminded us of this fact, because he wanted to point out that it is the most reasonable way to organize truly free and democratic general elections in South Vietnam. As to the question, "When will this provisional coalition government be set up?", it will be formed during the process of the carrying out of our patriotic war of resistance and also in the process of the struggle of other forces against the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen. Then, all patriotic forces will get together to discuss this problem. It is similar to the situation where, prior to the formation of the South Vietnam Provisional Revolutionary Government, we could not say beforehand that in June 1969, we will set up the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam.