

NHAN DAN COMMENTATOR ELABORATES
THE SELF-DETERMINATION THEME

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Hanoi VNA September 28--The Daily Nhan Dan today carried an article by "The Commentator" under the title "The Inviolable Right To Self-Determination" The article reads in full as follows:

Together with the withdrawal of all American troops, the realization of the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination is another basic and key problem aimed at ending the war and peacefully solving the South Viet-Nam question.

On this problem, U.S. President Nixon on several occasions asserted: "There is only one matter that is not subject to negotiation, and that is the right of the South Vietnamese to determine their own future." This high-sounding statement cannot dim out or conceal the systematic flouting by the U.S. imperialists of the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination over the past 16 years. Everybody knows that it is the U.S. who has undermined the 1954 Geneva Agreements, torpedoed the general election which would have been held in 1956 as provided for by those agreements, brought its henchmen to power in Saigon and imposed the latter's rule on the South Vietnamese people, intervened in and invaded South Viet-Nam, brought in more than half a million U.S. troops to protect its henchmen and oppose the South Vietnamese people's struggle for self-determination.

Since Nixon assumed office, he has gone all out to oppose the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people. With regard to the demand raised at the Paris Conference for a political solution to the South Viet-Nam question, the U.S. President advocated maintenance of the Thieu-Ky-Khieu puppet administration, urged a general election organized by the latter, and obstinately opposed the formation of a coalition government in South Viet-Nam.

Why Nixon tries to maintain Thieu-Ky-Khieu is easy to understand: they are the most faithful henchmen of the U.S. imperialists. For many years now, as loyal servants of their mother country--the United States--this clique have subserviently carried out the U.S. policy of war provocation, aggression and colonisation, ruthlessly terrorized and oppressed the people, built up an extremely brutal dictatorial and police regime, and frantically opposed the South Vietnamese people's aspirations for peace, independence, democracy, neutrality and national reunification. They have sold out the country and the people, sold out their souls and bodies to the U.S. Their existence depends on the U.S. aggressors, so they are clinging to the U.S.

expeditionary army. They live on war, so they are very afraid of peace. Together with the U.S. aggressors, Thieu-Ky-Khiem have committed innumerable savage massacres and sown so much suffering and mourning to the Vietnamese people. The Vietnamese people hate them and are resolved to overthrow them. The whole progressive mankind despises and hates them.

For all his efforts to doll (sic) up Thieu-Ky-Khiem, Nixon can never cover up the ugly features of his henchmen. Nixon called them "ally" and even described Thieu as "one of the four of five most capable politicians in the world". But in the eyes of the people in the United States and other countries, Thieu-Ky-Khiem are but a pack of "loyal running dogs" "sons or adopted sons" of the U.S. Nixon has done his best to peddle Thieu-Ky-Khiem's good will for peace", but to any honest man they are just a group of war-like and blood-thirsty fascists who have openly proclaimed Hitler their idol. Nixon claimed that Thieu-Ky-Khiem is an "elected government," but everybody knows that they are created, fed, and protected by the U.S., that they were not elected by the people, but put in power by the U.S. through rigged elections. Now Nixon wants another faked election to maintain Thieu-Ky-Khiem. But how can a "general election" be "free and democratic" when it is organized by the Thieu-Ky-Khiem fascists at the gunpoints, bayonets and truncheons of more than one million troops of the U.S. and its satellites and the Saigon puppet army and the Saigon policemen and plain-clothes agents. So long as the U.S. troops continue to occupy South Viet-Nam there can be no right to self-determination for the South Vietnamese people. If the South Vietnamese people are to exercise their right to self-determination, the U.S. must withdraw completely and conditionally (as received) and in a short period of time all its troops and troops of its satellites from South Viet-Nam.

In short, Nixon's stand on the so-called "right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people" is precisely aimed at opposing that right. All contentions pleading for that reactionary stand are aimed at maintaining Thieu-Ky-Khiem as an instrument for oppressing the people, realizing U.S. neo-colonialism in South Viet-Nam and dividing Viet-Nam permanently. That the U.S. is stubbornly trying to maintain the Thieu-Ky-Khiem is a big obstacle to the peaceful settlement of the South Viet-Nam question. Nixon's stand has been sharply condemned by American public opinion. Senator Fulbright said on Dec. 10, 1969 that Thieu's "claim to legitimacy is based on rigged elections and on an American-sponsored rather than an authentic Vietnamese constitution."

Due to the reactionary stand of Nixon which has been categorically rejected by the Vietnamese people and strongly protested by world public opinion, the discussion of a political solution to the South Viet-Nam question at the Paris Conference has failed to make headway.

In sharp contrast with the U.S. stand, the stand of the South Viet-Nam National Front for Liberation and the R.S.V.N. P.R.G. on the right of self-determination of the South Vietnamese people is very correct, fair, reasonable and conformable with the practical situation. The S.V.N.N. F. L. is the leader of the South Vietnamese people who are valiantly resisting the U.S. aggression to defend their sacred national rights. In their sacred resistance, through their sacrifices of blood, the South Viet-Nam people have step by step realized their right to self determination, established their power from the grass-roots to the central level and elected the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam, their authentic representative. Nevertheless, with their good will and serious attitude, the head of the delegation of the S.V.N.N.F.L. -- now the delegation of the R.S.V.N. P.R.G. -- on March 8, 1969 made public the 10-point overall solution, pointing out among other things: The people of South Viet-Nam settle themselves their own affairs without foreign interference, they decide themselves the political regime of South Viet-Nam through free and democratic general elections. Through free and democratic general elections, a constituent assembly will be set up, a constitution worked out, and a coalition government of South Viet-Nam established, symbolizing national concord and the broad union of all social strata.

Luring the transitional period from the restoration of peace to the general election, the political forces representing the various social strata and political tendencies of South Viet-Nam which stand for peace, independence and neutrality, will enter into talks to set up a provisional coalition government based on the principle of equality, democracy and mutual respect. This provisional coalition government shall help free and democratic general elections and implement agreements reached upon among the parties concerned.

This correct position of the R.S.V.N. P.R.G. has won sympathy and support from broad sections of world public opinion. Yet the Nixon administration, stubbornly clinging to its neo-colonialist policy, has not actively responded to these proposals.

With a view to creating favourable conditions for the Paris Conference to make progress, at the recent 84th session on September 17, Minister Nguyen Thi Einh, head of the delegation of the P.R.G. R.S.V.N., elaborated a number of points in the ten-point overall solution. Regarding the realization of the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, Minister Nguyen Thi Einh, while reiterating the correct stand of the P.R.G., strongly denounced the extremely war-mongering, fascist and cruel nature of the Thieu-Ky-Khieu clique. She pointed out that to achieve real peace in South Viet-Nam, an administration standing for peace, independence, neutrality and democracy without Thieu-Ky-Khieu

should be set up in Saigon. The P.R.G. S.V.N. is ready to talk with such an administration on a political solution for the South Viet-Nam problem to stop the war and restore peace. During the transitional period from the restoration of peace to general election, in order to realize the right to self determination of the South Vietnamese people and carry out a really free and democratic general election, there must be abroad provisional coalition government. Minister Nguyen Thi Binh pointed out: The provisional coalition government will have three components: persons of the F.R.G.R.S.V.N., persons of the Saigon administration, really standing for peace, independence, neutrality and democracy, and persons of various political and religious forces and tendencies standing for peace, independence, neutrality and democracy. The provisional coalition government will organize really free and democratic general election and at the same time carry out a policy of national concord, ensure democratic freedoms, ensure the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people and pursue a foreign policy of peace and neutrality during the transitional period from the restoration of peace to the general election.

Thus, the P.R.G. R.S.V.N. has expounded its correct, reasonable, logical, clear and comprehensive stand. That stand meets the demand of world public opinion for a political solution to the South Viet-Nam problem. It also meets the aspirations of the South Vietnamese people and world's people who want to see measures appropriate to the realities of the situation in South Viet-Nam.

Comparing that stand of the F.R.G. to the colonialist and obdurate stand of the U.S. government, which was taken up again in the U.S. Delegate David Bruce's speech at the 25th session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam on September 24, people have seen very clearly who is right and who is wrong, who wants a peaceful settlement of the South Viet-Nam problem and who while speaking of peace tries to prolong the war and realize neo-colonialism in South Viet-Nam.

The Nixon administration must bear full responsibility if it obdurately maintains Thieu-Ky-Nhiem to prolong the war and oppose the right to self determination of the South Vietnamese people.