

IV. 16 Nov 70

NORTH VIETNAM

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U.S. RECONNAISSANCE PLANE DOWNED OVER DRV

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1435 GMT 13 Nov 70 B

[Text] At noon on 13 November 1970, the U.S. aggressors sent a number of jet planes to intrude into the airspace of Ha Tinh Province. The Ha Tinh army and people, upholding their vigilance and combat efficiency, shot down on the spot an enemy reconnaissance jet plane.

As of 13 November 1970, the North Vietnamese army and people have shot down 3,364 planes of the U.S. bandits.

Foreign Ministry Statement

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 1647 GMT 14 Nov 70 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 14--The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam today issued the following statement on the declaration of U.S. Defence Secretary Melvin Laird:

"On November 13, 1970, the U.S. imperialists sent combat planes to encroach upon the airspace over Ha Tinh Province for spying and provocative activities. The armed forces and people in Ha Tinh, with high vigilance and fighting skill, shot down on the spot a U.S. R.F.-4 plane.

"The same day, U.S. Defence Secretary Melvin Laird insolently declared that the Vietnamese people's struggle against the U.S. acts of encroachment on the sovereignty and territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam 'were incompatible with the tacit agreement', and the U.S. would 'remain ready to take appropriate action in response' to 'protect the lives of U.S. servicemen,' etc.

"The government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has time and again clearly stated: The cessation of the bombing and shelling by the U.S. on the whole of the territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam is unconditional, and there is absolutely no 'tacit agreement' between the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and United States. The sending of aircraft by the U.S. to intrude into the airspace of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam is an infringement on the independence and sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and is a brazen provocation against the Vietnamese people.

"This is a violation of all principles of international law, and odious challenge to justice and peace-loving public opinion all over the world. The Vietnamese people are resolved to oppose and duly punish all encroachments by the U.S. imperialists upon the sovereignty and territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. This is the sacred right to self-defence of the Vietnamese people as well as of all other nations in the world. Clearly the above-cited statement of U.S. Defence Secretary Melvin Laird aims at smokescreening the war acts of the U.S. imperialists against the D.R.V.N. and at the same time paving the way for the continuation and multiplication of these war acts.

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OT - The D.R.V.N. Government sternly condemns and strongly denounces to public opinion the above-mentioned acts of the U.S. aggressors and demands that the U.S. Government end all these acts immediately. The U.S. Government must bear full responsibility for the consequences arising from their war acts".

DRV Paris Delegation Spokesman's Statement

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0534 GMT 15 Nov 70 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 15--The spokesman of the delegation of the government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam to the Paris conference on Viet Nam yesterday issued the following statement on U.S. Defence Secretary's sword-rattling:

"On November 13, 1970, one U.S. aircraft was shot down on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam while it was violating the DRVN air space, encroaching upon its sovereignty and security.

"The same day, U.S. Defence Secretary Melvin Laird declared that the United States would remain ready to take appropriate action in response to attacks on our unarmed aircraft over North Viet Nam, to all major military incursions across the Demilitarized Zone, and to the shelling of South Vietnamese towns'. Mr. Laird gratuitously affirmed that such actions would constitute a 'violation' of the so-called 'understanding' reached at the moment of the cessation of bombardments against North Viet Nam 2 years ago.

"The delegation of the government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam to the Paris conference on Viet Nam severely condemns the violation of the DRVN air space by U.S. aircraft. It energetically condemns and rejects these gratuitous affirmations and menaces by the American defence secretary.

"The cessation of bombardments that the United States had to carry out in North Viet Nam was unconditional (unconditional). This is what the government of the DRVN clearly affirmed in its November 2, 1968 statement and Minister Xuan Thuy, chief of the delegation of the DRVN Government to the Paris conference on Viet Nam, has many a time pointed out in his statements. In such statements it has been explicitly said that absolutely there is no such an 'understanding'.

"The November 13, 1970 statement by American Defense Secretary M. Laird constitutes a new evidence that the Nixon administration has not given up its acts of provocation against the DRVN, and lays bare its intention of undertaking new adventures infringing upon the sovereignty and security of the DRVN.

"The government of the United States must bear full responsibility for its hostile acts against the DRVN, an independent and sovereign country".

QUAN DOI NHAN DAN Article

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0550 GMT 15 Nov 70 B

(We Are Resolved To Counter U.S. Aggressive Moves, says paper)

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 15--Under this title, the army daily QUAN DOI NHAN DAN today ran an article hitting out at U.S. Defence Secretary M. Laird's statement that the U.S. was "ready to take appropriate actions" in response to the firing at U.S. planes flying over North Viet Nam, which followed the downing of an intruding U.S. plane over Ha Tinh Province (DRVN) on November 13.

The paper said:

"M. Laird's language cannot frighten the Vietnamese people in any way. It only further exposes the obdurate and aggressive features of the U.S., and deepens the Vietnamese people's hatred.

"As for the Vietnamese side, there is only one answer: to timely and accurately counter all piratical acts of the aggressors. To defend the independence and security of the country is the Vietnamese people's sacred and legitimate right to self-defence. All U.S. acts of violation against the DRVN airspace, territorial waters and territory are crimes of aggression, and must be duly punished. This has always been the Vietnamese people's will and iron-like determination."

The paper made known that only in October last U.S. aircraft made about 1,540 sorties on 910 occasions over almost all the provinces and cities in North Viet Nam. B-52 bombers, the paper said, in 22 days running, dropped thousands of tons of bombs over western Vinh Linh (north of the Demilitarized Zone) while tactical aircraft let loose some 2,900 demolition bombs and 85,000 steel-pellet bombs over various areas in Quang Binh Province, and Vinh Linh, also in North Viet Nam. It further denounced the U.S. war intensification and expansion in South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, and said:

"It is evident that in their confusion and defeat the U.S. aggressors are making desperate efforts and stepping up acts of war. No matter how obstinate the aggressors are, they can never secure a "position of strength." The North Vietnamese's armed forces and people are resolved, together with their compatriots in South Viet Nam and their brothers in Laos and Cambodia, to render more heavy blows to the U.S. aggressors, and will persist in their struggle till final victory is won".

Further Details

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1115 GMT 15 Nov 70 S

[QUAN DOI NHAN DAN article: "We Are Resolved To Counter U.S. Aggressive Moves"]

[Text] According to AP, the U.S. jet reconnaissance plane which was downed by the armed forces and people of Ha Tinh on 13 November was an F-4. The 2 pilots might be dead. A number of U.S. and British radio stations have reported this fact. [Words indistinct] had openly infringed upon the security and territorial integrity of the northern part of our country and were appropriately punished. And what about the reactions of the White House and the Pentagon? Only a few hours after this U.S. aircraft was downed, U.S. Defense Secretary Laird threatened the Vietnamese people by saying that the United States is ready to adopt appropriate action, and that the United States is ready to resume the bombings of the North Vietnamese air-defense positions should North Vietnam continue to attack U.S. reconnaissance planes. AP on 13 November reported.

Laird's language cannot frighten the Vietnamese people in any way. It only further exposes the obdurate and aggressive features of the Americans and deepens the Vietnamese people's hatred. As for the Vietnamese people, their one and only answer is: "To promptly and accurately counter all piratical acts of the aggressors". To defend the independence and security of the country is the Vietnamese people's sacred and

legitimate right of self-defense. All U.S. violations of DRV airspace, territorial waters and territory are crimes of aggression and must be duly punished. This has always been the Vietnamese people's will and iron-like determination. The fact that U.S. reconnaissance aircraft have continued to infringe upon North Vietnamese airspace and the recent threat of Defense Secretary Laird are all part of the recent schemes and acts of the U.S. imperialists who are stubbornly intensifying and expanding their aggressive war against Indochinese countries. With respect to North Vietnam, in October (?they sent) troops to carry out mopping up operations [words indistinct] and to commit bloody crimes against the Khmer people. Since 26 October, on their U.S. bosses' order, 6,000 Saigon puppet troops, with air and artillery support, entered the southeastern part of Cambodia to carry out mopping up operations in the Parrot's Beak area, Svay Rieng Province, and in the Fishhook area, Kompong Cham Province. Apart from the 40-million-dollar aid to Cambodia, the Americans are also planning to give an additional 120 million dollars to the Lon Nol clique by mid-1971, according to UPI on 6 November.

In Laos, the Americans are launching large-scale military operations. The enemy has also admitted that southern Laos has been the most severely hit in the history of the Indochina war, according to UPI on 5 November. In only 4 weeks, beginning 8 October, B-52's made some 900 sorties while jet fighters made thousands of sorties, dropping more than 60,000 tons of bombs on many targets in southern Laos.

Top U.S. military commanders such as Air Secretary Seamans and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Moorer recently arrived in South Vietnam [words indistinct] to prepare for new adventurous acts. It is obvious that in their confusion and defeat the U.S. aggressors are making desperate efforts and stepping up criminal acts of war. However obstinate the aggressors may be, though, they can never find out a way-out in a position of strength. Ever vigilant and ready for combat, the people and armed forces of the north are resolutely siding with their kith-and-kin southern compatriots, and with the Laotian and Cambodian peoples to deal hard blows at the enemy, and to step up their anti-U.S. national salvation struggle till final victory."

NHAN DAN Article

Hanoi in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0100 GMT 15 Nov 70 S

[15 November NHAN DAN article: "The Bandits Have Been Punished"]

[Text] On 13 November, a group of U.S. aircraft violated the airspace of the northern part of our country. Upholding vigilance and fighting well, the troops and people in Ha Tinh Province downed a reconnaissance jet aircraft of the U.S. aggressors. This is a new military exploit for the Ha Tinh troops and people. It once again shows our people's determination to insure their security and to counter all violations by the U.S. aggressors.

The bandits have been punished. But they still prove truculent. Following the downing of the above aircraft over Ea Hinh, U.S. Secretary of Defence Laird stated that he would "take appropriate action" in response to the firing at U.S. reconnaissance planes. According to AP, Laird brazenly threatened to have aircraft bomb our anti-aircraft defense positions. This insolent threat is based on the law of banditry, which is that the Americans have the right to send planes to reconnoiter and provoke the DRV, while our people must abstain from firing at U.S. aircraft.

The U.S. defense secretary's threat is an old argument which, together with the fallacious U.S. argument on the so-called "secret agreement" which was reached when the United States stopped the bombing of North Vietnam, has been rejected by the Vietnamese people. This threat is also a plot of the Nixon administration to prepare for the intensification of military activities against the northern part of our country. We again repeat what we have often said: As long as the U.S. aggressors invade Vietnam, our people will continue to fight them, and as long as U.S. aircraft and warships violate the DRV, our people will continue to fire at these piratical aircraft and warships.

NHAN DAN VIEWS U.S. ELECTIONS AS DEFEAT FOR NIXON

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0544 GMT 15 Nov 70 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 15--"Time does not side with Nixon," said an article carried by the Hanoi daily NHAN DAN today, which analyzed the sad situation of Nixon and his republican party following the November 3 mid-term elections in the United States.

The article likened the situation of the Republican Party at present to one of an "army headquarters after a stunning defeat," with everybody trying to blame everybody else. It said: "An internal crisis has split the U.S. Government following Nixon's order to his troops to invade Cambodia in the middle of this year. Now, another crisis, no less acute, has loomed up in the Nixon administration and the Republican Party".

The article said the November 3 elections have shed light upon three major aspects of the U.S. political life.

Firstly, Nixon and his Republican Party has no support from any majority in the U.S., and the so-called "silent majority" so noisily publicized by Nixon is but a myth. On the other hand, the absolute majority of the American people, through the November 3 elections, have shown their opposition to the U.S. war in Viet Nam and to Nixon's policy of prolonging and expanding it.

Secondly, great changes have taken place in the mind of large sections of the American people who now ponder more carefully, more practically over the biggest problems of their country.

Thirdly, Nixon's time is greatly limited now that his position in the White House has become very precarious.

The article said:

"Nixon the hawk has always itched all over in his borrowed dove feather. In the invasion of Cambodia not long ago he, however, showed his blood-shot eyes and, now, taking off his gloves in a threat to his opponents, has also shown his grips. How can Americans, then, place their trust on a president who, instead of taking honest actions to satisfy them in their most urgent needs, only resorts to bellicose, perfidious, deceitful moves?"

It pointed out: "It is clear that all the major difficulties facing Nixon now have stemmed from his prolonging the war in Indochina. This war, the more it lasts, will continue affecting adversely the life of the United States economically, politically, socially and morally. Nixon will have to pay dearer for each day of the war, and the price will rise, not in arithmetic progression, but in geometric progression".

DEFENSE MINISTER RECEIVES SOVIET FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0600 GMT 15 Nov 70 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 15--General Vo Nguyen Giap, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the VNWP, DRVN vice-premier and minister of national defence, has warmly received the visiting delegation of the USSR-Viet Nam Friendship Society which is led by A.G. Lebedev, first deputy minister of higher and secondary special education of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.

Also present at the reception and cordial talk were Nguyen Khanh Toan, alternate member of the VNWPCC and vice-president of the Viet Nam-USSR Friendship Association, and Soviet Ambassador I. Cherbakov.

ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC DELEGATION ARRIVES

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 1549 GMT 15 Nov 70 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 15--A government economic delegation of the Rumanian Socialist Republic led by Gheorghe Radulescu, standing presidium member of the Rumanian Communist Party Central Committee and vice-chairman of the Rumanian Council of Ministers, arrived here today for a friendship visit and to negotiate and sign agreements on Rumania's economic and military aid to Viet Nam for 1971, at the DRVN Government's invitation.

The delegation includes R. Constantinescu, vice-president of the commission for economic scientific and technical co-operation; Constantin Babeanu, Rumanian ambassador to DRVN; and others.

It was welcomed at the airport by Le Thanh Nghi, Political Bureau member of the Viet Nam Workers Party Central Committee, DRVN vice-premier; Ngo Minh Loan, alternate member of the VNWPCC, minister of food and foodstuffs; Hoang Van Tien, vice-minister for foreign affairs; Hoang Van Diem, vice-chairman of the board of economy of the Premier's office; Major-General Tran Sam, vice-minister of national defence; Tran Duy Hung, chairman of the Hanoi administrative committee; and other highranking officials.

Present was Truong Cong Dong, acting head of the RSVN special representation in the DRVN.

Wang Yu Ping, Chinese ambassador to the DRVN was also present.