

STATEMENT
OF THE DRVN FOREIGN MINISTRY ON THE US
IMPERIALIST AGGRESSORS' EXTREMELY
SERIOUS WAR ESCALATION

12/19/72

From 19.15 hrs of December 18 to the morning of today, December 19, 1972, the US imperialists sent hundreds of plane sorties, including B.52 strategic bombers, for repeated attacks on many areas of Ha Noi capital city, Hai Phong city and the provinces of Ha Tay, Ha Bac, Vinh Phu, Yen Bai, Nam Ha, Quang Ninh etc..., perpetrating extremely heinous crimes. The armed forces and people in Ha Noi, Hai Phong and the other localities mentioned above, highly vigilant and fighting very well, made firm riposte, shooting down many aircraft and wiping out or capturing a number of US pilots.

These intensified and enlarged attacks against North Viet Nam constitute an extremely serious step of war escalation and an utterly insolent challenge to the peace- and justice-loving peoples in the world, including the American people.

It is universal knowledge that the US government on October 20, 1972 agreed with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam on the text of an agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Viet Nam. But, right after that the US government committed a breach of faith by refusing to sign this agreement and taking a series of acts in blatant violation of the provisions already agreed upon, such as by hastily introducing tens of thousands of tons of weapons and war means and tens of thousands of disguised military advisors into South Viet Nam and hecticly stepping up the war of extermination on both parts of Viet Nam.

Most recently, in private meetings with the DRVN side, the US side demanded the modification of many points in the contents of the agreement. On the other hand, the US has prompted the puppet Thieu administration to make public these completely absurd demands in an attempt to scrap whatever has been agreed upon and pave the way for sabotaging the implementation of the agreement. Yet, on December 12 1972, the US gave a false interpretation of the truth. Playing thief-crying - «stop-thief», it shifted the blame on the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

It is as clear as day-light that each of the new steps taken by the US imperialists to escalate the war is premeditated and planned to prolong and intensify their war of aggression and secure a position of strength in negotiation. These rabid acts of the US however cannot improve its critical situation in South Viet Nam. On the contrary, they will only show more

clearly the deceitful character of its professions of "desire" for peace and "seriousness" in negotiation.

So, the Nixon administration is trying to force on the Vietnamese people, by means of bombs and shells, a solution to the Viet Nam issue on US terms. This, of course, is only a vain attempt.

The Vietnamese people, staunch and indomitable, will punish the US imperialists duly for each of their acts of war escalation, and will make a complete failure of their attempt to negotiate from a position of strength and foil all their crafty moves at the conference table.

The Vietnamese want peace, peace in independence and freedom. As long as the US imperialists obstinately try to prolong and step up the war, the people in the whole of Viet Nam, millions as one man, will resolutely overcome all hardships and sacrifices and exert themselves to materialize the Testament of the beloved President Ho Chi Minh by persisting in and stepping up their struggle against US aggression for national salvation till complete victory.

The DRVN Government severely condemns and strongly denounces to world public opinion the rabid act of war escalation of the US imperialist aggressors, and resolutely demands that the Nixon administration stop its war of aggression against Viet Nam, give up its policy of "Vietnamizing the war", and stop its bombing, mining, blockade and all other war acts against the DRVN.

The Nixon administration must bear full responsibility for all serious consequences of its criminal acts.

The Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government earnestly call upon the peoples and governments of the brother socialist countries and the peace- and justice-loving countries in the world, international organisations, the American people and the peoples throughout the world to stay in time the bloody hands of the US imperialist aggressors, demand the Nixon administration to sign at once the agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Viet Nam reached on October 20, 1972 and increase their support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's struggle in all fields, military, political and diplomatic, till complete victory.

Ha Noi, December 19, 1972.