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THIEU PRAISES INFANTRY DIVISION IN CENTRAL VIETNAM TRIP

Saigon Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 27 Jun 73 S

[Reportage from the 1st Military Region by a Radio Vietnam reporter on President Thieu's visit]

[Text] Continuing his inspection of central Vietnam, RVN President Nguyen Van Thieu left Hue for Lang Co by helicopter on the morning of 27 June, and from there the president and his entourage took a train for Da Nang. This section of rail line which had been consistently sabotaged by the communists is now rehabilitated, and the railway traffic between Hue and Da Nang has been restored since 1 April 1973. The train with President Nguyen Van Thieu aboard arrived in Da Nang at 1030 on 27 June. This fact has contributed to further strengthening the central Vietnamese people's confidence in the national rehabilitation and development tasks.

Leaving the 1st Military Region Command headquarters, President Nguyen Van Thieu and the government delegation used jeeps to visit a number of places and construction sites where the workers were implementing the development plan of Da Nang and its suburbs. The president drove through Vo Tanh, Trung Vuong, Bach Dang, Doc Lap, Ly Thuong Kiet, Phan Boi Chau, Nguyen Du, Le Loi, Nguyen Hoang, Dong Kinh, Nghia Thuc, Hung Vuong, Nguyen Tri Phuong and Thong Nhat streets. On Thong Nhat Street, the president stopped and inquired about the health of the workers who were cleaning the sewage system of the city.

The president and the delegation then headed for the headquarters of the 3d Infantry Division at Hoa Khanh, Quang Nam Province, where the president pinned a citation on the flag of the 3rd Infantry Division in a ceremony that took place at 1145 on 27 June. Brig Gen Nguyen Duy Hinh, commander of the 3rd Infantry Division, gave a briefing on the achievements of the 3rd Infantry Division in the area for the past year, and stressed the mature level of the division since its arrival in Quang Nam.

The heroic 3rd Infantry Division has destroyed the communist R-20 Battalion, and a company of the Dien Ban 82d Battalion. Developing their victories, the various units of the 3rd Infantry Division have annihilated the T-9 Platoon of the North Vietnamese communist 575th Missile Battalion. Especially in the movement for recovering the territories lost in August 1972, the combatants of the 3rd Infantry Division cooperated with the combatants of the 2nd Infantry Division and rangers to recover Ke Tan district, then Tuyen Phuoc district, Quang Tin Province, the (?Rock) and Lion bases, Xuyen Loc Hill, the Giai, Lap Son and Chau Son mountains--thus driving the North Vietnamese communist 711th Division toward the jungles and mountains.

On the Quang Nam-Quang Tin battlefield the combatants of the 3rd Infantry Division caused serious losses to the North Vietnamese communist 711th Division between 18 June 1972 and 15 February 1973. On the 44th front of the Viet Cong 5th Military Region, the communists suffered 5,253 killed and 156 captured. Twenty-five others responded to our open-arms appeal. Moreover 1,789 weapons including 100 rockets were seized, as well as 9 tanks, 5 Molotova trucks and a large quantity of ammunition.

To commend the 3rd Infantry Division for its achievements and maturity, President Nguyen Van Thieu pinned a citation on the division flag and awarded gallantry medals to the commander of the division and other regiment commanders.

On this occasion President Nguyen Van Thieu talked to the combatants of the 3rd Infantry Division: [recording] You brothers should remember that a year ago to the day the 3rd Infantry Division started to assume its responsibility over this territory south of Da Nang. I sincerely commend you comrades-in-arms at various echelons of the 3rd Infantry Division for your armed exploits and victories over the enemy in this area. Your illustrious achievements in Que Son and Tien Phuoc are known to everybody. I also commend you brother cadres at various echelons for your efforts in improving and perfecting your unit in the tactical, technical and spiritual fields and for your efforts in building your unit into an outstanding division.

Through the outstanding efforts of its leaders at various echelons and the conscientiousness and efforts of its troops the 3rd Infantry Division has become a good unit. If these efforts can be maintained the 3rd Infantry Division will become one of our army's outstanding units. You brothers must defeat the communists before peace can be restored. You must defeat them while they are sabotaging peace following the cease-fire. Your present duty is to consolidate peace by defeating the communists when they attempt to violate the cease-fire and sabotage peace.

The victories you have achieved can be consolidated by strength only. The peace that our people enjoy can only be consolidated by strength. No victory can last forever; if we want a victory to last forever it must be coupled with strength. No peace can be guaranteed by itself. Strength is needed to guarantee peace. Therefore, victories built on strength are needed to achieve peace, which must also be built and maintained by strength. Only our army's strength can maintain peace for our people. You brothers must maintain peace by the strength of your division in your area of responsibility.

I thank you, brothers. [end recording]

Leaving the First Military Region at 1400 on 27 June, the RVN president and his entourage continued their visit to the 2d Military Region. Accompanying the president were the doctor minister without portfolio in charge of the program for reconstruction, reclamation and resettlement; the public health and social welfare secretary of state; the secretary of state for planning; the lieutenant general assisting and representing the chief of the RVN armed forces Joint General Staff; the lieutenant general commanding the 1st Corps; division commanders; and province chiefs and mayors of the 1st Military Region.

COVERAGE OF THIEU VISIT TO HIGHLANDS, KONTUM SPEECH

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[Text] After inspecting many places in the 1st Military Region and the coastal areas in the 2d Military Region, RVN President Nguyen Van Thieu reserved all of Thursday, 28 June, for examining the level of the communists' cease-fire violations and reviewing the implementation of the national rehabilitation and development program in Kontum, Phu Bon and Darlac provinces in the central highlands.

Following is a recorded detailed report sent in by the Vietnam Radio network correspondent from Ban Me Thuot: Continuing his inspection of the 2d Military Region, RVN President Nguyen Van Thieu flew from the coastal areas in southern central Vietnam to the highlands in central Vietnam and has reserved all of 28 June for visiting a number of villages and hamlets and resettlement centers in Kontum, Phu Bon and Darlac provinces.

In the third leg of this inspection, the president flew from Qui Nhon to Kontum and arrived there at 1000. The president was briefed by the brigadier general commanding the 236 Infantry Division on the communists' cease-fire violation efforts on this front. The president observed the Kontum compatriots' living activities, at a time when the communists were firing artillery on an area nearby. The president walked along (?Le Thanh Ton) Street and stopped off at Western and Oriental pharmacies, grocery stores, watchshops, and the fish, vegetable and fabric departments of the Kontum market to inquire about and talk with the compatriots. Leaving the Kontum market, the president visited the (?Ngoc Long) resettlement center, 4 kms southwest of Kontum. There, the president symbolically presented a number of representatives of highland compatriots with land ownership certificates. In his talks with the lowland compatriots and the highland compatriots in the (?Ngoc Long) resettlement center, the president urged the highland compatriots to be clear-sighted in the face of the wicked schemes of the colonialists and communists, who were trying to exploit the highland compatriots and use them as springboards to realize their ambitions.

The president said [recording]: Concerning the highland compatriots, since the foundation of the second republic, the policy of the national government has always been aimed at helping the ethnic minority compatriots rapidly catch up with the rate of progress of the lowland compatriots so that all our people--18.5 million lowland and highland compatriots--can participate in national development and in building a prosperous Vietnam. In more precise terms, [words indistinct] there is only a Vietnamese race and people, and a number of them live in the highlands, a number of others in the coastal areas, a number of them in Quang Tri and a number of others in the Ca Mau Delta. There is no distinction between these people, except for this fact: The ethnic minority compatriots' cultural level is lower than that of the lowland compatriots. This was not brought about by the national government, nor was this brought about by the lowland compatriots' oppressive measures against the ethnic minority compatriots. This was brought about by the French colonialists. The independent, democratic national government must correct this. This was maliciously brought about by the colonialists to harm the highland compatriots. This must now be corrected by all the Vietnamese people and this government. To this end, the government has promulgated many laws and decree-laws aimed at bringing about social injustice, at improving our people's living conditions and at forming cadres for the ethnic minority compatriots, as well as for the lowland compatriots. The government has allotted land to the highland compatriots and helped them to develop their agricultural and fishing activities in the same way as the lowland compatriots.

I have constantly encouraged the ethnic minority compatriots to exert efforts in the military, administrative, political and social fields. The agricultural, forestry and fishing highland cadres must try to improve their knowledge so as to catch up with the present rate of national progress. You, highland compatriots, will enjoy the fruit of your achievements. The lowland compatriots will not take property away from the highland compatriots as was the case with the former French colonialists.

In this land of Vietnam, there are only two categories of people who exploit the highland compatriots. Formerly they were the French colonialists and now they are the communists. Colonialism is still there, the old as well as the new. The foreign colonialists are always there. They have incited the highland compatriots to struggle by propagandizing that the lowlanders are better off than the highlanders or that the latter are ill-treated, and they have initiated one movement after another to egg you highland compatriots on. However, as you compatriots do not have enough time for cultivation and work to feed yourselves and care for your health, how can you have time to engage in a political struggle? Furthermore, you do not even know what you will struggle for. Formerly, faced with the French colonialists' oppression, you compatriots started the Fulro [belonging to the Rhade Montagnard tribe] struggle movement, but now there is no reason for any struggle at all. Nonetheless, the foreign colonialists still try to goad you on. Moreover, there are also the new colonialists. Although being Vietnamese, they are even more cruel than the foreigners. They are the communists coming here from North Vietnam and the communists of the liberation front in the South. They have been trying to mislead you compatriots by using various forms of deceitful propaganda. I request that you compatriots not listen to them. You should work diligently to earn a living. The government still maintains the policy that the highland compatriots must progress and be accorded special consideration over other compatriots.

The problem is that to stay idle doing nothing but lodging criticism is not enough. If we have a plot of land, but we stay idle doing nothing but criticizing and lashing out with insults against others, there will be no rice for us even if we wait for 8 years. Now, if we work in our fields we will have rice to eat in 3 months. There will never be rice for us even if we stand there and hurl insults for 80 years. Because of this, we must strive to progress and study. I request that you compatriots achieve unity between the lowlanders and the highlanders, carry out the common national policy, implement plans designed for the progress of the highlands and turn a deaf ear to the instigations by the foreigners, the old and new colonialists, and communist cadres.

(?In this country), there are also some politicians who have been unable to do anything right. They have often made one impertinent, nonsensical statement after another, but they have never given you compatriots a pill, a plot of land or a shirt. When you compatriots fled from the enemy, did these fellows come here and help you? No, they had hidden themselves away somewhere in Saigon or fled to France or the United States. However, upon their return, they declared themselves to be the third force with a stand of peaceful coexistence and turned to talk in a country-selling tone. [words indistinct] These elements will sell this country to the communists and you compatriots will relapse into your miserable life. [end recording]

Dealing with the communists' cease-fire violations, President Thieu said that he had ordered the commanders and army units to respect the agreement and joint communique regarding the on-the-spot cease-fire, and to stand ready to react strongly to the communist violations; and he said that not an inch of land would be yielded or offered to the North Vietnamese communist aggressors. President Thieu stated:

[recording] This is my warning to the communists: Because they have continued shelling areas around Kontum to massacre our compatriots, I have ordered our armed forces to counterattack properly and vigorously. For every blow the communists give us, we will give 10 counterblows. If they fire one bullet, we will fire 10 or 100 bullets. We will not open fire as long as they abstain from doing so. We will behave kindly, provided that they behave kindly first. We have not violated the cease-fire order, but the communists have violated it. We have not gone deep into the mountain areas or crossed the border to grab land and win the people, but the communists have sought to win the people and occupy the areas where soil is fertile and hamlets or villages exist. Any foreigner who said that we had violated the cease-fire on our RVN territory was like one who was blind and deaf, and was stupid because he knew nothing. Even though a foreigner chimed in with the communists' allegations and even though he was like one blind and deaf in this Vietnamese country, he should know, see and hear about the communists' violations. We have been fighting against aggression for several dozen years. We did not start the war. Because the communists hit us, we must hit them back. In reality, we have been counterattacking against the aggressors, but have not waged the war. [end recording]

President Thieu left Kontum at 1220 and arrived at the Phu Bon provincial town at 1300. He was briefed on the local activities and took a noon rest there. After visiting [words indistinct] some 33 kilometers northeast of the city, he took a helicopter to visit [words indistinct] some 35 kilometers northeast of Bamethuot. He left this place at 1700 after making the sign of the cross in front of an altar ruined by the communists in their encroachment operations between 28 January and 24 February 1973. He paid a long visit to the compatriots at a resettlement center in Jak village, Darlac Province.

This was the third day of President Thieu's inspection tour, during which has reviewed on the spot the gravity of the communists' cease-fire violations and the implementation of the program of economic restoration and national development. In the past 2 days, he visited Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Da Nang, Bong Son and Tam Quan. In the third day of his tour, he was accompanied by the secretary of state in charge of land reclamation and hamlet building, the minister of social welfare, the minister of ethnic development, the lieutenant general assistant to the Chief on the General Staff of the RVN armed forces and the brigadier general commander of the second army corps of the second military region.

LPA COMMENTARY HAILS JUST STRUGGLE OF KOREAN PEOPLE

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["A Support to the Just Struggle of Korean People (LPA commentary)"--LPA heading]

[Text] South Vietnam June 28 LPA--Twenty-three years have elapsed since the U.S. imperialists launched the war of aggression against Korea, and 20 years since they were defeated and forced to accept the cease-fire and the restoration of peace in Korea and recognized in de facto the existence of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the completely liberated half of Korea. Nevertheless, since then, the U.S. imperialists have refused to give up their design of aggression against Korea.