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LPA REVIEWS PAST WEEK'S DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY [Clandestine] in English to East Europe and the Far East 1508
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["In the Past Week"--LPA heading]

[Text] South Vietnam July 16 LPA--At the regular session of the central Two-Party Joint Military Commission on July 13 to review the implementation of the Paris joint communique in the past 30 days, Major General Hoang Anh Tuan, head of the military delegation of the RSV Provisional Revolutionary Government, severely denounced the Saigon administration for pursuing its scheme of prolonging hostilities, undermining the cease-fire, and refusing to return military and civilian persons still detailed by it. The major general specially condemned the Saigon administration for continually conducting large-scale nibbling operations against the liberated areas in Kontum, Can Tho, Rach Gia and Binh Long-Phuoc Long provinces. He advanced supplementary proposals to the previous ones of the PRGRSV's military delegation aimed at carrying out the cease-fire and preventing the recurrence of armed conflicts.

At the 16th plenary session of the consultative conference between the two South Vietnamese parties in Paris, Minister of State Nguyen Van Hieu severely criticized the Saigon administration for refusing to return all the captured and detained civilian personnel and violating the provisions on the cease-fire.

In face of the obdurate acts of nibbling at the liberated areas by Saigon troops, the People's Liberation Armed Forces duly punished Saigon land-grabbers along Highway 14, in Binh Long and Phuoc Long provinces, wiping out nearly 400 of them and seizing many firearms and a large quantity of ammunition.

In the period under review, the United States and its satellite countries intensified their military collusion with the Saigon administration. On July 10, on order from the U.S. defense secretary, General Weyand, commander of the U.S. Army in the Pacific, arrived in Saigon and General John Vogt, commander of the U.S. 7th Air Force in Thailand, also made a trip to Saigon. Two Taiwan warships also arrived in South Vietnam.

The struggle of the people against repression, looting and coercive forces as well as desertion in the Saigon army have strongly developed. In Ba Ria-Long Khanh Province, daily over 500 people break away from the Saigon administration's coercive machine, and return to their native places. Recently, 4,500 more people penned up in concentration camps and "strategic hamlets" in My Tho Province successfully forced the Saigon administration to let them return to their native villages. In Saigon, many Saigon soldiers, policemen and functionaries asked to be demobilized and gave up their work in order to escape from being ordered to conduct "pacification" operations and commit crimes against the people.

To protest against heavy taxes imposed by the Saigon administration, many shops, restaurants and bars closed down or gave back their licenses. Many enterprises resolutely refused to pay taxes.

On the afternoon of July 6, more than 200 dock workers in Thu Duc held an extraordinary meeting to demand the Saigon administration abolish the steward system, a form of ruthless exploitation of workers. On the same day, workers at the Carie firm and Ha Tien cement factory won initial successes in their struggle by forcing the director board of the said enterprises to accept the workers' demands for a wage-lift and reinstatement of laid-off representatives of the workers.

In the liberated areas, education, culture and public health services constantly developed. The people have seethingly boosted up production.

At the two South Vietnamese parties' consultative conference in Paris, the Saigon administration advanced a seemingly practical timetable for the settlement of South Vietnam's internal affairs, including the general elections. But everyone knows that as long as the Saigon administration refuses to observe the cease-fire and promulgate all democratic freedoms, and as long as its prisons detain hundreds of thousands of patriotic and peace-loving persons who endorse national reconciliation and concord, it will be impossible to hold genuinely free and democratic elections. The Saigon administration's timetable for the settlement of South Vietnam's internal affairs is therefore a means to deceive public opinion and not a proof of its desire to seriously solve South Vietnam's internal problems, including the problem of general elections.

Because the Saigon administration stubbornly maintains its deceitful policy, it impedes the settlement of South Vietnam's internal affairs and the holding of free and democratic general elections. The so-called general elections which Thieu wants to hold at once are the type of elections held on 3 October 1971 or the type recently held for village people's councils. These elections have been condemned by public opinion in almost all provinces in South Vietnam. This implies that Thieu wants to hold the general elections within the framework of the Saigon administration's constitution and laws. Whether this fact can insure genuinely free and democratic elections in accord with the Paris agreement on Vietnam is clear to everyone.

It is clear that Nguyen Van Thieu does not want the general elections and is willfully seeking to prevent the implementation of the Paris agreement and the finding of a correct solution to the internal problems of South Vietnam on the basis of insuring our people's right to self-determination.

Thieu's recent slanders will surely not contribute to a rapid and correct settlement of South Vietnam's internal affairs but will, on the contrary, expose his vile designs. Thieu will surely be unable to avoid strong criticism by public opinion and all strata of our people.

LPA REPORTS TRADE UNION DELEGATION'S ACTIVITIES IN ITALY

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[Text] South Vietnam July 17 LPA--At the invitation of the Italian General Confederation of Labour (CGIL), a delegation of the South Vietnam Liberation Federation of Trade Unions headed by Mr Dao Hai Long attended the 8th congress of the CGIL in Rome (Italy), according to our correspondent in Berlin.

All the 2,000 delegates to the congress unanimously adopted a resolution to step up their moral and material support to the fraternal Vietnamese people. The slogan "1 billion lire for Vietnam" has become the main theme of all activities in solidarity with and support to Vietnam across Italy. The participants delivered speeches stressing on the question of stepping up activities in solidarity with Vietnam and continuing to urge the Italian Government to recognize the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam.