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SOUTH VIETNAM

VNA REPORTS ON ARVN LAND-GRABBING OPERATIONS

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Hanoi VNA in English 0244 GMT 17 Jul 73 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 17--On the morning of July 11, Saigon troops stationed in Quang Tri, taking advantage of the stormy weather launched a land-grabbing raid in Thanh Hoi area under the control of the PRG, according to LPA. The liberation forces in Quang Tri served timely warning to the land-grabbers and called on them to return to their positions. As the latter refused to heed the warning, the liberation forces opened fire and wiped out many of them and seized many evidence materials.

On July 4, Saigon forces sent a commando group to intrude into Vinh Hoa northwest of Thanh Hoi also controlled by the PRG. These intruders were also duly punished.

LPA further reported that in the central Vietnam highlands, Saigon forces in Kontum Province on July 11 fired more than 600 artillery rounds on the liberated areas of Trung Nghia, Ngoc Bay, Ngo Thanh and Chu Ret. At the same time, two civil guard battalions encroached upon Plei Kao, southwest of Kontum town. The liberation forces intercepted the raiders, wiping out many of them and putting the rest to flight.

In Gia Lai Province, on July 9, the Saigon administration sent the Border Battalion Number 80 from Chu Nghe to nibble at areas from 3 to 6 km to the west and the south. They illegally occupied many positions in the areas under the PRG control.

LPA REPORTS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN LIBERATED ZONES

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY [Clandestine] in English to East Europe and the Far East 1542 GMT 16 Jul 73 B

[Text] South Vietnam July 16 LPA--Binh Long-Phuoc Long: The Provincial People's Revolutionary Youth Committee July 8, held a ceremony in Loc Ninh to close a training course for cadres of youth and pioneers.

Tra Vinh: From early February to late June 1973, the information and education bureau in Tra Vinh Province published over 60,000 copies of the Paris agreement, its protocols and the June 13 joint communique in Vietnamese and Khmer.

Ben Tre: Last month, the information and education department of the province printed and distributed nearly 200,000 copies of the Paris agreement, its protocols, the joint communique and two statements of the PRGRSV. The people in the provincial capital and townships contributed to the fund for peace hundreds of millions of piasters (Saigon currency).

Gia Dinh: In the last days of June 1973, the people in the liberated areas in Villages N and T (Cu Chi district) planted rice-seedlings on more than 100 hectares of land.

Long An: The people in Chau Thanh, Tan Tru and Can Duc districts intensively completed the sowing and rice seedling planting on their lands. Up to early July 1973, the peasants in the said districts cultivated some 2,000 hectares of early rice land, thus increasing the acreage of cultivated lands with early rice by 20 percent in comparison with last year. Thousands of families in Ben Luc, Thu Thua, Duc Hoa and Duc Hue districts left Saigon detention camps and returned to their native villages to resume production. With the help of the revolutionary administration and the people in the liberated areas, the peasants in Village A (Ben Luc district) brought under cultivation 600 hectares of fallow lands and planted 600 hectares of other croplands.

FRENCH MINESWEEPER TELLS FRI TO LEAVE TEST AREA

Hong Kong AFP in English 0344 GMT 18 Jul 73 B--FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Wellington, New Zealand, July 18 (AFP)--A French minesweeper has demanded in writing that the ketch Fri, sailing near Mururoa Atoll to protest against the planned French nuclear tests in the Pacific, leave the French-declared 72-mile danger zone, the New Zealand TIMES newspaper reported today.

The TIMES said the Fri, now 28 miles northwest of the tiny speck in the ocean, replied that it intended to remain in what it considered "international waters".

The Association of French Against the Bomb reported from Paris that the Fri was approached an hour later by a French cruiser and that protesters on board the ketch surrounded the four French demonstrators among them to prevent their being hauled off the ship by French sailors. The association said it was in constant contact with the Fri.

It was generally held in New Zealand that the French blast was imminent.

Earlier reports said that the Fri had been given a formal order to leave the danger zone. The note was signed by the commander in chief of French Pacific test centre.

A New Zealand Press Association representative on board the protest frigate HMNZS Otago, after speaking on radio to the Fri, reports that a French minesweeper shadowed the Fri for two and a half hours at a distance of a quarter mile. The minesweeper signalled the Fri to stop and then three French sailors in a dingy approached it, one of them boarding with the admiral's letter.

Fri's skipper American David Moodie says there was nothing antagonistic about the French approach. The French sailor was offered a cup of tea by 20-year-old pregnant Petchouli Yates whose New Zealand husband Peter Yates is also on board, but the offer was declined. The French sailors then left without any reply from the Fri.

About two hours later the French minesweeper returned and was handed a written reply from Moodie stating that the Fri intended remaining in international waters.

In a later radio conversation with Otago the Fri reported that the larger French naval vessel was still on the horizon. Fri's radio operator New Zealander Peter Martin said "we don't know what's going to happen but we are pessimistic."

FRENCH NAVAL PARTY BOARDS PROTEST SCHOONER

Hong Kong AFP in English 0400 GMT 18 Jul 73 B--FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Wellington, Jul 18 (AFP)--A French naval party has boarded the private protest schooner Fri, off Mururoa Atoll with instructions from the French admiral to tow the vessel out of the security zone.