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LPA COMMENTARY SEES LITTLE DIFFERENCE IN FORD-NIXON POLICIES

Liberation Radio [Clandestine] in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0500 GMT 9 Jan 75 SG

[LPA commentary: "Adopting the Same Policy, They Will Certainly Suffer Similar Consequences"]

[Text] "There is little difference between the Ford and Nixon administrations," noted Father Berrigan in his answer to a 6 January interview in Boston. That is right. The similarities between the two administrations have been reflected not only in their internal and foreign policies, their deceitful allegations, and their threatening acts, but also in the procedures used in the implementation of the same policy. Regarding the Vietnam issue, the similarity consists in the continuation of the Vietnamization policy advocated by the outmoded Nixon doctrine which has encountered pitiful failures.

To continue the neocolonialist policy through nibbling and pacification activities, as the former Nixon administration did before, the present Ford administration, on the one hand, is striving to slander the PRGSRV and the DRV Government for violating the Paris agreement. On the other hand, it is repeatedly deceiving the U.S. people and Congress in order to obtain much more aid for the Nguyen Van Thieu clique and is encouraging it to clamor about its respect for the Paris agreement and protection of peace while stepping up the war and using more and more bombs and shells.

Following this procedure, as Nixon did before, Ford has many times erected a bogey in the U.S. Congress: The communists are going to launch an offensive in South Vietnam, and has used this pretext to rush in illegally more dollars and weapons to help the Nguyen Van Thieu clique.

Most recently, when the Phuoc Binh base--from which Nguyen Van Thieu launched many criminal operations--was wiped out by the PLAF with the support of our local compatriots, the Ford administration again raised the question of examining the Vietnam issue and the possibility of providing support to the U.S. dependent--the so-called Republic of Vietnam.

What is this problem of providing support? At a time when the aircraft carrier Coral Sea is looming off the South Vietnamese coast, despite repeated U.S. denials, UPI on 7 January reported U.S. diplomatic sources as saying that a U.S. naval task force consisting of 11 ships led by the aircraft carrier Enterprise had left Subic Bay in the Philippines for Vietnamese territorial waters.

Such is the situation. Yet, Ford ordered his press secretary to clamor falsely that he was observing the law and that he meant to respect a 1973 law passed by Congress forbidding the United States to perform any military action in any Indochinese countries, on the sea or from the coast of any of these countries. The same day, Ford proved to the U.S. Congress that he was more reasonable than Nixon by having the Defense Department spokesman make a fairly modest statement: Any consideration of a military action to be taken by the United States in South Vietnam must be subject to prior consultation with the U.S. Congress.

What was the Ford administration scheming to do through its statements aimed at deceiving the U.S. Congress and people coupled with its threatening acts against the Vietnamese people?

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World public opinion clearly realizes that the Ford administration is scheming to woo the U.S. Congress so that it will provide more dollars to the Nguyen Van Thieu clique while resorting to military force and a show of strength by its ships in order to boost the morale of the Nguyen Van Thieu clique and encourage it to continue to sabotage the Paris agreement. At the same time, it is preparing for new military adventures. The above facts suffice to further prove that Father Berrigan's remark is entirely correct.

As Ford has adopted the same policy followed by Nixon and is acting in the same manner, he will certainly suffer the same consequences. Is the Ford administration stubbornly continuing the neocolonialist policy against South Vietnam? Nixon himself pushed the Vietnam war to a climax only to sustain the heaviest setbacks, and this was also the basic cause of the ignominious end of his political career.

A divided U.S. society, an economic recession, and a serious inflation entailing soaring prices of every commodity is the heritage bequeathed by Nixon to Ford when he had to pack up and leave. What has Ford done to solve these difficult problems during the past 5 months of his presidency? A poll by the Louis Harris Institute in New York made public on 7 January showed that only 11 percent of the Americans believed that Ford can manage the U.S. economic problems--the worst poll on economic matters ever conducted for a U.S. president--which clearly proves the incompetence of the Ford administration.

Disregarding this situation, Ford is stubbornly clinging to his war policy regarding Vietnam, continues to illegally provide aid to the Nguyen Van Thieu clique, and is scheming a new adventurous military act. How can he prevent what little prestige he has from vanishing completely?