



U.S. THIEU REACTION TO 'PUNISHMENT' TERMED UNJUSTIFIABLE

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[Commentary "Unjustifiable and Ridiculous Reaction From Washington and Saigon"]

[Text] A hue and cry has been raised by both Washington and Saigon in face of the due punishment meted out by the South Vietnam liberation armed forces to the Saigonese land-grabbers in their staging bases.

Despite the vague statements from U.S. authorities, newspaper reports instead show that the Ford administration has resorted to intimidation as regards the Vietnamese people, while trying hard to distort real happenings to South Vietnam and slander the DRV and the PRG.

Ann 11-ship U.S. Navy task force led by the aircraft carrier Enterprise has been sent toward Vietnam. An emergency meeting has been called between the U.S. President and his top security advisers. Meanwhile, a statement has been made, describing the PLAF punishment as a peace sabotage of a grave nature and giving cause for concern to the President.

Meanwhile, Nguyen Van Thieu shed crocodile tears and called for observance of a 3-day mourning period for those people he has put to death himself. Thieu (words indistinct) ordered many warplanes to bomb Loc Ninh town under PRG control. In the next breath, he asked publicly for increased U.S. military aid to push ahead his war efforts.

The hullabaloo being made by Washington and Saigon can in no way deceive public opinion. Nor can it con the Vietnamese people. Their reaction is unjustifiable and ridiculous to the extreme. The DRV Government and the PRGSRV have time and again expressed their determination to implement seriously the Paris agreement because the agreement is a victory for the Vietnamese people and responds to their legitimate and fundamental aspirations.

Nevertheless, the Vietnamese people cannot remain idle in the face of the serious and systematic violation of the agreement by the U.S. and the Saigon administration. It is common knowledge that Thieu has called for pre-emptive attacks right after the signing of the agreement and has conducted over 58,717 landgrabbing operations over the past 2 years. Meanwhile, the U.S. keeps maintaining tens of thousands of American military advisers in civilian guise in South Vietnam and increasing financial and military aid to Thieu.

With these illegal activities, how can Washington and Saigon claim they are seriously implementing the Paris agreement?

Actually, the U.S. involvement and interference in South Vietnam's internal affairs and the continued existence of the Thieu regime in Saigon are the main obstacles to the implementation of the Paris agreement and result in the present tension in South Vietnam. By (?plotting to) sabotage the Paris agreement and staging provocative activities against the Vietnamese people, the U.S. and the Saigon administration have gone farther along the old path fraught with danger.

World public opinion, including American, insists that the U.S. terminate its involvement and interference in South Vietnam's internal affairs and stop its aid to the Thieu regime. People of good will around the world wholly support the South Vietnamese people's demand that Thieu be overthrown so that the Paris agreement can be implemented in a serious manner and the situation in South Vietnam stabilized. They also support the determination of the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces to defend the peace agreement.

PAPERS DEMAND END TO U.S. ASSISTANCE TO THIEU CLIQUE

NHAN DAN Commentary

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[NHAN DAN 11 January commentary: "The Ford Administration assists Thieu in Committing Crimes"]

[Text] On 7, 8, and 9 January, the Thieu clique's aircraft flew hundreds of sorties to conduct extermination bombings against Loc Ninh city and its outskirts, causing heavy losses in life and property to our people. Tens of people, including many old people and children, were killed. Hundreds of houses were destroyed, as were the Truc Lam pagoda, the Tu Quang pagoda, and the Loc Ninh church. What was especially serious was that U.S. unmanned reconnaissance and RF-4 aircraft, from U.S. bases in Thailand, directly guided the Saigon air force in bombing and strafing the Loc Ninh area.

On 10 January, the spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Saigon announced that Gen David Jones, U.S. Air Force chief of staff, would arrive in Saigon on 11 January.

According to U.S. dispatches, the Ford administration is illegally shipping many weapons, bombs, and munitions from the United States and U.S. military bases in Thailand to South Vietnam for the Thieu clique.

The United States is obviously continuing to keep its criminal hands on the southern part of our country. This is undeniable proof that the Ford administration is seeking to intensify its involvement and interference and is assisting the Thieu clique in prolonging and intensifying the war, thus grossly trampling on the Paris agreement. Obviously, the United States must be held completely responsible for the grave situation in the south as a result of its stubborn pursuance of the war Vietnamization policy in an attempt to impose neocolonialism on the southern part of our country.

The frenzied bombing of the Loc Ninh area further exposes the extremely reactionary nature of the Nguyen Van Thieu clique--the war criminals, the fascist butchers, and the enemy whom the southern people must topple. This fact obliterates the hypocritical arguments of this clique, which has schemed to deceive public opinion and pretended to be concerned over the Phuoc Long compatriots at a time when it daily and hourly committed and is still committing many barbarous crimes in Phuoc Long and other areas.

We energetically denounce and severely condemn the U.S.-Thieu clique's new crimes against the compatriots in the Loc Ninh area. The criminal clique has been vigorously countered and appropriately punished even in its staging areas, such as those in Phuoc Long and elsewhere.

In stubbornly opposing the people, the Thieu clique will certainly be punished severely and eliminated by the people.

The United States must immediately, completely and thoroughly end all military involvement and interference in the internal affairs of South Vietnam and scrupulously implement the Paris agreement. In refusing to adopt an enlightened attitude in the face of the lessons of bitter failure learned by the previous administrations and in stubbornly embarking further on the path of continuing the neocolonialist war, the Ford administration must be held responsible for disastrous consequences.