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FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN CONDEMNS 'WAR INTENSIFICATION'

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[5 February DRV Foreign Ministry spokesman statement]

[Text] Over the past few days, U.S. President Gerald Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger have strenuously and slanderously accused the DRV of repeatedly violating the Paris agreement, with a view to supporting a campaign to deceive public opinion and pressure the U.S. Congress to increase military aid to the Nguyen Van Thieu clique in order to intensify and prolong the war in South Vietnam. The Ford administration has also used U.S. pilots and reconnaissance aircraft to guide and support the puppet air force in carrying out airstrikes against the liberated areas.

Meanwhile, the Nguyen Van Thieu clique has feverishly stepped up its nibbling and pacification operations in Thua Thien, Quang Da, Quang Ngai, My Tho, Vinh Long, Tra Vinh, Can Tho, and Ca Mau provinces, massacring people, burning and destroying their homes, and looting their property. Specifically, in a sweep in Xuyen Tra village, Duy Xuyen district, Quang Da Province, the Thieu clique killed more than 80 villagers, injured hundreds of others, robbed the villagers of hundreds of buffalos and oxen, and burned or destroyed hundreds of homes. The Nguyen Van Thieu clique has also feverishly carried out pressganging to increase its troop strength in support of the U.S. policy of using Vietnamese to kill Vietnamese. It was carried out religious repression, killed Hoa Hao followers, ruthlessly terrorized journalists, arrested and detained dozens of newsmen, and summarily confiscated nine newspapers and all of their printing and publishing facilities.

These facts prove that the Nguyen Van Thieu clique, under U.S. direction and with U.S. assistance, has not only continued but has intensified the war and sabotaged peace and the Paris agreement, thus creating an extremely grave situation in South Vietnam.

The DRV Foreign Ministry sternly condemns these acts of war intensification carried out by the United States and the Nguyen Van Thieu clique. The DRV Foreign Ministry resolutely demands that the U.S. Government completely end its military involvement and interference in the internal affairs of South Vietnam and immediately and completely end its military aid to the Nguyen Van Thieu clique.

The DRV Foreign Ministry resolutely demands that the Nguyen Van Thieu clique put an immediate end to all its acts of war and sabotage of the agreement, to pressganging and troop buildup, and to all of its repressive acts against religious sects and journalists.