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FORD'S EFFORTS TO INCREASE AID TO THIEU SCORED

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[QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 5 February commentary: "Ford Is Embarking on the Old path"]

[Text] In the budget for fiscal year 1975-76 that he presented to Congress on 3 February, President Ford proposed more than \$2 billion in aid to Thieu--\$1.3 billion out of the \$3 billion in military aid earmarked for various countries, and \$762 million out of the more than \$1.5 billion in economic aid earmarked for various countries. On the same day, in an effort to persuade Congress to appropriate approximately \$300 million in supplemental aid to Thieu in the current fiscal year, Ford urged Congress to send a delegation to Saigon to assess the situation with a view to increasing the aid to Thieu.

These facts fully expose the Ford administration's policy of continuing to deepen its military involvement in South Vietnam, to sabotage the Paris agreement, and to intensify the neocolonialist war in the south. For more than a month now, the White House has coordinated with the Pentagon in conducting the most widely publicized and large-scale campaign since the signing of the Paris agreement to increase aid to Thieu. Within the framework of this campaign, according to a Pentagon memo disclosed by the New York TIMES on 9 January, many measures will be taken, such as widely publicizing the danger of Thieu's collapse among Congressmen and the American public, urging Senators to visit South Vietnam, sending reports from the battlefield to Congress, and providing untruthful documents to newsmen. The campaign has been conducted according to the following sequence:

Senators Thurmond, member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and Scott met with Thieu and Khieu on 2 and 3 January to discuss aid. U.S. Ambassador to Saigon Martin complained on 7 January: If the present situation continues, it will lead to disastrous consequences in the next 3 months.

Meanwhile, Ford urgently met with Kissinger, Colby, and Clements in Washington to discuss a \$300 million increase in military aid to Thieu. Ford personally urged Congress to increase the military aid to Thieu. The White House, Pentagon, and State Department have held one press conference after another. White House spokesman Nessen, State Department spokesman Anderson, and Pentagon spokesman (Diges) have trumped up the danger of Thieu's collapse because of insufficient aid. Schlesinger has also called for more aid to Thieu.

Kissinger has met privately with U.S. senators, asking for flexibility in providing aid to Thieu and demanding that the \$400 million ceiling imposed on economic aid be lifted and that the Saigon regime be included in the list of recipients of humanitarian aid so as to increase aid to Thieu within the framework of the "food for peace" program.

The Senate Armed Services Committee headed by Stennis, a hawk, has vowed to support Ford in Congress and has sent (Donald Will), an expert on the military budget and arms requirements, to Saigon to prepare a fact-finding tour to be made in late January by a Senate Armed Services Committee delegation to be headed by (Sam Mills).

In addition to meetings and working breakfasts in the White House with congressional leaders of both parties, Ford has held press conferences to persuade Congress to increase the aid to Thieu. In his statements on 21 and 24 January, he repeated the shopworn arguments that Nixon frequently advanced to justify his policy of escalating the Vietnam war--that aggression must be deterred, that the United States must help South Vietnam defend itself, and that U.S. moral commitments must be honored.

Vice president Rockefeller has menacingly told Congress that unless it provides more aid to Saigon it would have to bear the responsibility for the collapse of the Saigon government.

When Ford made public his budget for fiscal year 1975-76, Americans realized that the loudly publicized campaigns conducted by the Ford administration since early this year have been aimed solely at obtaining by every means \$300 million for Thieu in the immediate future and more than \$2 billion in fiscal year 1975-76. Ford is pursuing the unchanged policy of implementing the Nixon doctrine under new circumstances and is continuing the neocolonialist war according to new strategies.

The U.S. administration's sinister designs have been vehemently condemned by our people, the American people, and progressive world public opinion. Many members of Congress have pointed out that maintaining U.S. aid to Thieu is tantamount to prolonging the war, helping Thieu's police state intensify repression, and stupidly repeating old mistakes. Many Americans have urged Ford to stop providing even one cent in aid to Thieu, because any U.S. aid to him in any form constitutes a violation of the Paris agreement and only courts failure.

While the United States is experiencing a serious economic crisis, Ford is trying to extricate himself from the quagmire by proposing a budget with the biggest deficit since World War II and by trying to stimulate production by increasing military spending and aid to Thieu and other lackey regimes. This is merely a repetition of a serious error that led the United States to disaster before.

No amount of aid can save the U.S.-Thieu clique from defeat in Vietnam. The sole correct path is for the United States to respect and strictly implement the Paris agreement, end its military involvement and interference in the internal affairs of South Vietnam, forsake the dictatorial and corrupt lackey Nguyen Van Thieu, and allow the South Vietnamese people to determine their own political future. The tragic fate of Johnson and Nixon is vivid in everyone's mind. By embarking on the old path, Ford will only court ignominious failure.

SOVIET EXPERTS WORKING ON HYDROPOWER PLANT HONORED

Hanoi VNA in English 1717 GMT 5 Feb 75 BK

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 5--Vu Quy, vice minister of building on behalf of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam Government, on the afternoon of February 4 conferred the Labour Order of the DRV on five Soviet experts working at the Thac Ba hydropower plant (northwest of Hanoi).

The decorations included one first class, two second class, and two third class orders. The conferment ceremony was attended by representatives of the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and the department for foreign experts of the premier's office.

Also present was E.P. Glazunov, counsellor minister of the Soviet Embassy in Hanoi.

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