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FORD INTERVIEW SHOWS CONTINUED U.S. INTERFERENCE IN RVN

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

[Text] According to Western news agencies, U.S. President Gerald Ford, interviewed by a correspondent of the Chicago Tribune on 8 February, brazenly requested the U.S. Congress to appropriate fairly considerable funds in military and economic aid for Thieu in the coming 3 fiscal years. Ford also defended Nguyen Van Thieu's repression of scores of newspapers and arrest of newsmen in Saigon.

Ford's statements once again prove that the U.S. Government continues to nurture evil designs to maintain its military involvement and interference in the internal affairs of South Vietnam and continues to support Nguyen Van Thieu in prolonging the war and sabotaging the Paris agreement.

U.S. CONTINUED INTERFERENCE IN RVN AFFAIRS HIT

8 Feb PRGRSV Foreign Ministry Statement

Hanoi VNA English 1713 GMT 8 Feb 75 OW

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 8--The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of South Vietnam today issued the following statement: On February 7, 1975, the spokesman for the U.S. State Department and the Pentagon admitted that the United States had introduced U.S. Air Force officers into South Vietnam and considered this as non-violation of the Paris agreement on Vietnam.

This is an admission of part of the fact that since the signing of the Paris agreement the U.S. has stealthily introduced more American pilots and military technicians, and illegally poured bombs, shells and other weapons and military equipment into South Vietnam. In the meantime, the Ford administration pressed the U.S. Congress to adopt a 300-million-dollar additional military aid in the 1974-75 fiscal year and put forth a bill for 1.3 billion-dollar military aid in the 1975-76 fiscal year to the Nguyen Van Thieu Administration. On February 7, 1975, General G. Weyand also pleaded before the U.S. Congress that the U.S. may have to continue assisting South Vietnam from 5 to 10 more years.

These actions of the U.S. show that the Ford administration, ignoring the strong protests of public opinion, is bent on pursuing its policy of "Vietnamization" of war, scheming to prolong its involvement in South Vietnam, thus seriously violating Articles 4, 7 and 14 of the Paris agreement on Vietnam.

Assisted and commanded by the U.S., the warlike Nguyen Van Thieu clique is striving to step up the war, multiplying its "pacification" and land-grabbing operations, and its bombings and shelling of the liberated areas, upgrading its military forces (to have more regular combat troops-ed) and pressganging young people into the puppet army, repressing the townfolk's movement, strangling freedom of the press, and cracking down on religious people.

The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of South Vietnam energetically denounces and strongly condemns these actions of the U.S., which continues its military involvement and interference in the internal affairs of South Vietnam. The Ford administration and the Nguyen Van Thieu clique must bear full responsibility for the present serious situation in South Vietnam. The United States must strictly implement the Paris agreement on Vietnam, end its military aid to the Nguyen Van Thieu administration, and withdraw all U.S. military personnel illegally introduced into South Vietnam.

This politically important event created an enthusiastic atmosphere among the Vietnamese people and strongly encouraged our armed forces and people to accelerate their resistance against the French colonialist aggressors and score increasingly great victories leading to the historic Dien Bien Phu victory.

Over the past 25 years, under the leadership of the party, our people have perseveringly and heroically struggled to constantly lead the Vietnamese revolution forward. Meanwhile, the parties, governments and peoples of the various fraternal socialist countries have always reserved for us their strong support and great assistance. Ever since the liberation of the northern part of our country, the fraternal socialist countries have heartily supported and assisted our people's struggle to rehabilitate and develop the economy and culture, to build socialism, to demand implementation of the Geneva agreements and to oppose the acts of sabotage by the Americans and their henchmen in the south.

In the course of the war of aggression waged by the United States against Vietnam, the socialist countries increased their support and assistance to our people. The movement for solidarity and support for Vietnam was a deep, broad mass movement in many fraternal countries.

Together with all progressives in the world, the fraternal socialist countries highly valued our people's victory over the U.S. imperialist aggressors. They continue to support our people's struggle to achieve independence and democracy in the south and to demand that the Americans and Thieu seriously implement the Paris agreement. They are assisting our people in rehabilitating the economy and in building the material and technical bases for socialism in the north.

Recently, on the second anniversary of the signing of the Paris agreement, the comrade leaders of the socialist countries and socialist public opinion expressed strong support for our people's just struggle and the PRGRSV's 8 October 1974 statement and demanded that the United States end its military involvement, that Nguyen Van Thieu be toppled and that the Paris agreement be seriously implemented.

Our people have carried out a protracted, difficult struggle to defend their interests and the interests of the world revolution. In this struggle, the powerful socialist countries have served as a firm support for our people. This support has created conditions for our people to strengthen their economic and national defense forces and has encouraged our armed forces and people to advance enthusiastically and defeat the aggressors.

Our party has always taught us that in the struggle for independence, freedom and socialism, our people must rely mainly on their own strength and that the assistance of the fraternal countries and progressive revolutionary forces in the world is an important factor of victory. Our people will be forever grateful to the parties, governments and peoples of the socialist countries for their support and assistance. For their part, they will constantly develop the militant solidarity, friendship and cooperation with the fraternal countries and fully support their task of building socialism and communism and safeguarding peace in the world.