

IV. 27 Feb 75

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SOUTH VIETNAM

RVN FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTESTS COMMUNIST SHELLING OF SCHOOL

Saigon VIETNAM PRESS in English 27 Feb 75 Morning Edition SG

[Text] Saigon (VP) Feb 26--The Foreign Ministry Wednesday issued a communique strongly denouncing the communist Feb 21 shelling of five 61 mm mortar rounds into a primary school at Quy Hiep hamlet, six kilometers southeast of Cai Lay district, Dinh Tuong Province killing one school child, injuring ten others and two persons.

The communique also demanded to the communists to stop immediately their barbarous terrorist acts perpetrated at innocent school children and warned the latter must bear full responsibility for the serious consequences caused by their policy of violence.

The savage act happened in less than two months after the communists slammed 37 rounds into Song Phu community primary school, 10 kms northeast of Binh Minh district town, Vinh Long Province last Jan 9, 1975. Twelve children and a civilian were wounded and a classroom was damaged in the shelling.

These acts, the communique said, constituted serious violations of provisions 3C and 10 of the Jan 27, 1973 Paris agreement on the cessation of hostilities, provisions 1 and 2 of the protocol on ceasefire and provisions 3 and 4 of the June 13, 1973 joint communique.

The Foreign Ministry stressed that these acts were not sporadic shellings but were part of the communist systematic terrorist and sabotage policy geared at teachers, students and educational installations in the RVN. In fact, since the signing of the Jan 27, 1973 Paris agreement to date, the communists have destroyed 54 schools, 30 classrooms, four conference halls and four community centers.

The communists have mercilessly committed the killing of hundreds of teachers and students. The most typical case was the massacre of 69 pupils at Cai Lay primary school on March 9, 1974.

The shellings of the Qui Hiep hamlet's primary school and the Song Phu community primary school have bared the barbarous nature of the communists who did not hesitate to use the most savage measures including the killing of innocent students to carry out their scheme of taking over South Vietnam by force, the Foreign Ministry said.