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GOVERNMENT REASSERTS THAT NO POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE IN RVN

Saigon VIETNAM PRESS in English 4 Mar 75 Morning Edition SG

[Text] Saigon (VP) March 3--The RVN Government today reasserted there is no political prisoner in the republic but jailed communist cadres, rejecting a remark on the issue by Rep. McCloskey of the U.S. Congress.

Rep. McCloskey was quoted by REUTER as saying half of the prisoners in the republic are political detainees and the representative referred to the case of Huynh Tan Mam to substantiate his standpoint.

This was completely erroneous, the RVN Government said explaining Huynh Tan Mam was a communist cadre and was detained for his activities favoring the other side. In 1973, he was returned to the communists within the prisoners' exchange and in Loc Ninh, the Red representative signed on the returnees list in which Huynh Tan Mam was mentioned.

This was once more ample proof that even the communists acknowledged Huynh Tan Mam in their ranks. Later, Mam requested to stay in the free zone. Thereupon, he was brought to the Binh Tuy Open Arms Center as a freedom seeker.

Front Radio Comments

Liberation Radio [Clandestine] in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0300 GMT 1 Mar 75 SG

[Text] According to REUTER, at a meeting with U.S. Congressman McCloskey on 28 February, Nguyen Van Thieu said he has never detained any political prisoners. He brazenly stated that the persons under arrest were communists.

This denial by Thieu cannot conceal the truth. Actually, over the past 2 years since the signing of the Paris agreement, Nguyen Van Thieu has not only not freed more than 200,000 political prisoners, but has arrested an additional 50,000, worse still, the Thieu clique has ruthlessly repressed and secretly and gradually liquidated the political prisoners it has detained. On 25 January, the clique shot dead seven political prisoners in Thanh Le hamlet, Tra Vinh Province.

At a meeting with Congressman McCloskey on 27 February, a Saigon National Assembly deputy denounced Thieu for continuing to detain political prisoners. He referred to the case of four students of the third force who have been detained for many years. He condemned Thieu for sending student Huynh Tan Mam, former chairman of the Saigon Students General Association, to an undisclosed place in February.

The fact that the Thieu clique has sought every means possible to deny and conceal the detention of political prisoners is part of its sinister scheme of getting an additional \$300 million in aid, a scheme which Ford and Thieu have been undertaking for months.

Reporting on the activities of the U.S. congressional delegation in Saigon, REUTER added that on 28 February, Congresswoman Bella Abzug and Congressman Donald Frazer met with the chairman of the National Reconciliation Force. At this meeting, they were handed an open letter which said: The blood and money of the American people have been used to impose on our people a barbarous and ruthless government.

Another Saigon National Assembly deputy told the delegation that the United States should not give additional aid to South Vietnam.