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[Text] Hanoi VNA March 16--Editor's note: U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy recently addressed a letter to DRV Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh, in which he expressed his concern over the implementation of the Paris agreement on Vietnam, the normalization of relations between the U.S. and the DRV and the improvement of the living conditions of war victims in Vietnam and Indochina. He also referred to the efforts of some U.S. humanitarian organizations to "provide postwar humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to the Vietnamese people"; such efforts, he wrote, "reflect the true feelings of many Americans".

Likewise, Senator Kennedy said that the measures already taken by the DRV, such as the supply of information about captured or missing American personnel, and the return in accordance with the Paris agreement of American military and civilian personnel captured during the war, were "recognized by many people as important humanitarian acts" and were "deeply appreciated by all Americans".

At the same time, he expressed his "earnest hope" that the competent DRV services would endeavour to get "any available information on the fate or remains of personnel still considered missing in action" so as to ease the anguish of the families of those persons.

On January 21, 1975, Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh sent a letter in answer to Senator Kennedy, which reads in full as follows:

Dear Mr. Senator,

I have received your letter dated December 18, 1974. I have carefully considered it. I understand your concern over the implementation of the Paris agreement on Vietnam and your goodwill in wishing to see a normalization of relations between our two countries. I am sensitive to the anxiety of the families of those military and civilian personnel still regarded as missing in action in Vietnam. I also share your interest and concern in efforts to ameliorate the needs of civilian victims of the war started by U.S. administrations in our country.

I think that to find a good solution to the above-mentioned problems, it is first of all necessary to determine the deep root and immediate cause of the present situation in South Vietnam. That is the policy of continued military involvement and interference in the internal affairs of South Vietnam, which the U.S. administration embarked upon even before the ink had dried on its signature to the Paris agreement on Vietnam. The U.S. authorities have deceived the American people and acted at variance with their commitment in Articles 1 and 4 of the Paris agreement to respect the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Vietnam, and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, and to end their military involvement and interference in the internal affairs of South Vietnam.

Directed and aided by the U.S. administration, Nguyen Van Thieu and his group have pursued and stepped up the war, perpetrating innumerable crimes against our countrymen in South Vietnam. They have trampled underfoot all democratic liberties, arrested and maintained in detention hundreds of thousands of political prisoners. Obviously they constitute at present the main obstacle to the implementation of the Paris agreement and the achievement of real peace and national concord in South Vietnam.