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EVACUATION OF PLEIKU PROVES 'FAILURE OF U.S.-THIEU CLIQUE'

Liberation Radio [Clandestine] in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0930 GMT 16 Mar 75 BK

[Feature: "Editor's Notebook"]

[Text] Communist pressure on the Pleiku-Kontum area has forced the South Vietnam command to move its Central Highlands headquarters from Pleiku to Nha Trang, AP reported.

According to the same agency, a U.S. spokesman referring to the evacuation of U.S. citizens said, "Kontum and Pleiku will probably be the scene of heavy fighting. We don't want to put ourselves in a box." He added that the fate of the nine Americans trapped in Ban Me Thuot was still unknown and that the last radio contact with them was made on 12 March.

This report has clearly shown the extremely perilous predicament of the U.S.-Thieu clique in the Central Highlands. After Routes 19 and 21 were cut and nearly all of Darlac Province, including Ban Me Thuot city, was captured and controlled by the armed forces and people in Darlac, the U.S.-Thieu clique in Pleiku and Kontum was isolated and forced to move the II Corps headquarters from Pleiku to Nha Trang to escape danger and especially to spare the U.S. advisers in Pleiku the fate of their nine colleagues in Ban Me Thuot, who were described by the U.S. Embassy spokesman as being boxed in. Col Vo Dong Giang, deputy chief of the PRGRSV military delegation, stated at his 15 March press conference at Tan Son Nhut that foreigners, including honest Americans, will be well treated and released if they are captured; but this treatment will not be given to U.S. military advisers. They are special cases because they have violated the Paris agreement.

We all know that since the signing of the Paris agreement, the U.S. administration has left behind in South Vietnam or brought in a total of 25,000 military personnel in civilian disguise to operate Thieu's war machine in Saigon and in various corps, divisions and provinces.

When the water falls the stones are revealed, the saying goes. The capture of U.S. military advisers will be a slap in the face to the White House ruling clique which has adamantly claimed that it has only civilian personnel in South Vietnam. This has caused the U.S. Government to worry about the fate of the nine Americans in Ban Me Thuot. One reason prompting the U.S. to hastily shift the II Corps headquarters--which teems with U.S. military advisers--from Pleiku to Nha Trang, was to avoid being caught in such a box. Moreover, because of its incompetence, this headquarters would be of little help in improving the military situation facing the U.S.-Thieu clique in Darlac, Quang Duc, Phu Bon and on Route 19, had it been kept in Pleiku. Shifted to the distant town of Nha Trang, its command ability will be further reduced and the rapid collapse of tens of thousands of Saigon troops in the II Corps will be inevitable.

That was an account of the panic-stricken U.S.-Thieu clique's flight from the battle-front. What about its fear of truth and its repression of the press?

When Thieu's arrest of 18 journalists and the closing of several Saigon newspapers are still making headlines, the Thieu clique's recent shooting of Paul Leandri, a French journalist and deputy chief of the AFP bureau in Saigon, has profoundly shocked and violently angered the world public. He was killed because of his report on the statement by a Catholic priest who had fled Ban Me Thuot that the attacks were led by ethnic minority groups and local Viet Cong members and not by North Vietnamese troops. Thieu's police department summoned Leandri for interrogation and shot him dead. Leandri's report contradicted the Thieu administration's allegations that all punitive blows, attacks and uprisings were launched by North Vietnamese troops.

Thieu's killing of this journalist has caused waves of anger throughout the world, especially among press circles. (Oslov Mayer), director of the International Press Institute, voiced a strong protest to the fascist Nguyen Van Thieu administration and said: This murderous act has clearly shown that the Saigon authorities are extremely hostile to foreign journalists airing their justified criticisms.

Without further lengthy comment, by this incident everyone can still see how much the Thieu clique fears the truth and can understand all the more clearly why Thieu has vociferously vowed to shoot anyone who gives a helping hand to the communists--that means anyone who demands implementation of the Paris agreement and national reconciliation and concord.

SAIGON AGAIN SABOTAGES LIAISON FLIGHTS TO LOC NINH

Liberation Radio [Clandestine] in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0500 GMT 18 Mar 75 SG

[Text] On 15 March, as usual, the PRGRSV military delegation to the Two-Party JMC announced its plan for the periodic Saigon-Loc Ninh liaison flights for the week 17-23 March so the Saigon administration could make concrete preparations for these flights. The PRGRSV also requested the Saigon administration to affirm its readiness to seriously conduct these flights.

On the same day, in its letter of reply, the Saigon administration, instead of ending its sabotage, repeated its ridiculous, slanderous argument that the PRGRSV had deliberately cancelled the use of the planes to maintain liaison with Loc Ninh because it had not forwarded namelists of personnel for each flight.

Due to the Saigon administration's sabotage scheme aimed at preventing the PRGRSV military delegation from going to the liberated area to contact its government, the Saigon-Loc Ninh liaison flights were not carried out 17-23 March.

RVN OFFICIAL HOPES FOR EARLY CONVENING OF ASIAN FORUM

Hong Kong AFP in English 1440 GMT 17 Mar 75 OW

[Text] Manila, March 17 (AFP)--Visiting South Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Phan Quang Dan today expressed hope for an early convening of the proposed Asian forum "if the peace and cooperation of the region is not to be betrayed."

In an interview with the government television here, Quang Dan said the forum, which was proposed by Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, could be a potent source of Asia's collective voice in making the region a zone of peace.

"Now is the time to convene such a body to bring together the signatories of the Paris agreement if the peace and cooperation of the region is not to be betrayed," the deputy premier stressed.

Quang Dan said: "Peace in Southeast Asia depends very much on a balance of power and respect of international agreements... If the balance of power is disturbed, the whole region will have to go to unrest and instability."

"Therefore, I think that the idea of the Republic of the Philippines should now be implemented... it is high time that some kind of forum should immediately be convened," he added.

Questioned on the role of the United States in Southeast Asia, the South Vietnamese leader said Washington's honor and credibility "is deeply committed and at stake here."

"However, the Asian nations have a role to play," he added. "It is their right... when the house of your neighbor burns, it is your concern also... much more than people who live miles away. Therefore, I think Asian nations could do much."

LPA COMMENTARY CITES AFGHANISTAN'S RECOGNITION OF PRGRSV

LPA From North Vietnam [Clandestine] in English to East Europe and the Far East
1537 GMT 15 Mar 75 BK

[Commentary]

[Text] South Vietnam March 15 LPA--In her friendship visit to the Republic of Afghanistan early March 1975, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, foreign minister of the