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NORTH VIETNAM

NHAN DAN CONDEMNS THIEU'S MOBILIZATION DECISION

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[Text] Hanoi VNA March 17--The paper NHAN DAN today condemns Thieu's recent decision to tighten the rules on mobilization to bring more men into the armed forces. After remarking that the Ford administration continues prodding the Saigon clique to step up the war, the paper says: "To carry out the forcible conscription of 300,000 more men into the puppet army in an effort to make up for its heavy losses, the Thieu clique has since early this year mobilized all its resources--military, administrative, police, psychological war--to step up the physical repression and political deception of the people in the areas under its control, thus grossly encroaching upon the lives, property and democratic liberties of the people. In the Saigon-controlled areas, Thieu's agents have launched a series of military campaigns with the participation of regular troops, 'civil guard', police and tyrants in various villages and hamlets to kill people, loot rice, herd villagers into concentration camps and step up forcible conscription.

"Of late, the Saigon puppets staged a 'cabinet meeting' to adopt the so-called 'rules on mobilization'. They have tightened the conditions for draft exemption and postponement in order to pressgang more young men into the army. They have dissolved the 'civil guard confederation' so as to push more youths of the Hoa Hao religious sect into the army. They have effected a general upgrading of the 'civil guards' into regular forces."

The paper adds: "Obviously, to prove that he meant business when he told his U.S. boss that 'we Vietnamese don't lack blood and bones. . . 'but you (the U.S.) must give us money,' Thieu is casting his net for a big haul. By its current acts, the Thieu clique have proved themselves to be a product of war and enemies of peace who are selling the blood of their compatriots in the interests of foreigners", the paper points out.