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TASS OBSERVER KARSIKOV REVIEWS DEVELOPMENTS

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[Text] Moscow April 4 TASS--TASS observer Anatoliy Karsikov writes:

The developments in South Vietnam are chief topic these days in the world press, which unanimously declares that the puppet administration of Nguyen Van Thieu in Saigon is on the brink of a final collapse. As a result of spectacular advances of the popular armed forces which meet with the support of the local population everywhere, more and more cities and provinces are passing under the control of the National Liberation Front and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam. In many places liberation is preceded by armed uprisings against the Thieu regime.

Some Western press organs try to accuse the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam of having allegedly violated the Paris agreements on Vietnam. However, it is common knowledge that it is precisely the National Liberation Front and the PRG who have for a long time attempted, without success, to bring the Saigon authorities to strictly and completely comply with the agreement.

In the statement of March 21, the PRG of the RSV points out that the people of South Vietnam and the popular liberation forces have this month mounted a courageous armed struggle, being outraged at the sabotage of the Paris agreement by the United States and Nguyen Van Thieu.

Indeed, the present Saigon administration and its supporters outside the country are to blame of the fact that the national council for reconciliation and concord has not been set up which was to organize genuinely free elections in the country. Instead the Thieu regime, immediately after the signing of the Paris agreement, stepped up repressions against all dissenters, filling its prisons with thousands of new political detainees, and has continuously violated the military provisions of the agreement. Its latest crime has been the driving away of masses of civilians from the territory abandoned by the puppet troops.

Saigon is reaping the fruits of its adventurist policy. Steeped in corruption, the Thieu administration has proved to be a colossus on feet of clay. Deprived of the support of half a million American bayonets, it has begun to crumble under the first serious blows delivered in retaliation for its own provocations.

Not only the population of Saigon-controlled areas but also the servicemen in the puppet army are taking the side of the liberation movement. In the capital of South Vietnam, open demands are voiced to put an end to the rule of a bunch of politicians, which is the chief obstacle in the way to peace. A number of influential Americans have spoken in favour of stopping further U.S. aid to the rotten regime.

The PRG of the RSV in its statements justly points out that there is only one way out of the current situation. An administration must be set up in Saigon genuinely committed to peace, independence, democracy and national concord and prepared to earnestly comply with the Paris agreements. As for the Provisional Revolutionary Government, it has already declared its readiness to enter into negotiations with such an administration to bring about an early settlement of the South Vietnamese problems.

The sooner that is done, the earlier another hotbed of tension, which poisons the international atmosphere, will be liquidated.

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