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GISSINGER PRESS CONFERENCE SHOWS U.S. CONFUSION OVER VIETNAM

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0400 GMT 7 Apr 75 SG

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Kissinger held a press conference on 5 April at Palm Springs, California, following Ford's 3 April press conference and the 4 April meeting between Ford, Kissinger and General Weyand, who had been sent by the U.S. President to Saigon to assess the situation. Through Kissinger's press conference, one can clearly see the White House confusion and embarrassment over the irremediable collapse of the Nguyen Van Thieu clique in Saigon and the country-selling clique in Hanoi.

In seeking to cope with the increasingly worsening situation in South Vietnam and to intensify U.S. involvement, Kissinger revealed a series of forthcoming actions by the White House. He said: The U.S. President has convened a meeting of the National Security Council for 8 April and prepared a series of proposals of possible U.S. action to aid the lackey clique in Saigon.

Kissinger said Ford's decisions would be presented in a major foreign policy speech before the U.S. Congress on 10 April. Kissinger also stated that the White House would make public several sections of Weyand's report.

The U.S. secretary of state complained that last year the Thieu clique had only been provided with munitions and fuel but not major equipment. This was to prepare public opinion for a request to the U.S. Congress to increase the aid to the lackey clique to enable it to continue the war. Although Kissinger had to admit that the situation in South Vietnam is extremely grave, he pretended to be optimistic and held that the Thieu regime might be stabilized if the combat lines were narrowed and if it were provided with more aid.

Commenting on this press conference, AFP on 5 April said: Kissinger's press conference confirms the pessimistic and confused situation of the Ford administration in the face of the South Vietnamese armed forces collapse.