

## INDOCHINA

## GERASIMOV COMMENTS ON SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

Moscow in Polish to Poland 1700 GMT 7 Apr 75 LD

[K. Gerasimov commentary]

[Text] The Saigon army, splendidly equipped with American weapons, is disintegrating under the blows delivered by the liberation forces. The patriotic troops, in addition to operations in the directions already established, have launched an offensive south of the South Vietnamese capital in the Mekong Delta. U.S. correspondents report that panic has broken out among the Saigon soldiers. Increasing numbers are going over to the patriots.

The defeats of the Saigon army have caused confusion among those who have for years been creating a myth about the alleged support of the population for the Nguyen Van Thieu regime. How was this possible? Such a question is being asked now by the Western bourgeois press, mainly the American one. Indeed, according to U.S. sources, the Saigon army was three times as strong as its enemy in numbers and firepower; the superiority amounted to seven to one.


The United States has invested billions of dollars in the Nguyen Van Thieu regime, even after the signing of the Paris agreement. Violating it, the United States granted this regime military aid amounting to nearly \$4 billion. The Saigon army was so well-equipped with American arms that it was virtually considered the strongest army in the whole of Asia.

However, now the army is in flight, leaving behind not only complex electronic devices, but even rifles. The U.S. press blames the defeats of the Saigon army on poor discipline, on refugees blocking the traffic on the roads and the blame is placed needless to say, on communist penetration. In other words, on practically everything except the main reason, that is, the fact that the population of South Vietnam did not want to live under the oppression of a puppet, antipopular regime.

The war which has been raging on Vietnam's soil for many years started with severe persecution on the part of that regime of the supporters of genuine democratic reforms. The 1973 Paris agreement at last opened the road to a peaceful, political settlement of the problem. However, the Nguyen Van Thieu regime thwarted its implementation. A National Council for National Conciliation and Concord was set up with the tasks of organizing three elections in the country. Instead, Nguyen Van Thieu imprisoned thousands of opponents of that regime.

The violation by Saigon of the military articles of the Paris agreement became a system. This has even been admitted by the U.S. press. Nguyen Huu Tho, chairman of the NFLSV Central Committee Presidium, stated in an interview for the French press: "The present attack launched by the population and the People's Armed Liberation Forces is the inevitable answer to the policy of thwarting the Paris agreement and continued war by the Thieu clique.

"In order to get rid of the dictatorial, fascist and militarist Thieu regime, our nation has no choice but to resort to an uprising with the support of the People's Liberation Armed Forces, taking their fate into their own hands."



Thus a just liberation struggle is being waged by the preponderant majority of inhabitants against the corrupt antipopular people's clique; hence the efforts of certain U.S. circles to try and save the bankrupt regime at all costs. American military assistance is being sent to South Vietnam, while U.S. warships cruise along the coast of Indochina. At the same time changes have been made in the cabinet in Saigon.

However, those maneuvers will not help the Saigon puppets put the situation right. The restoration of elementary order in the hinterland, pilferage and speculation have assumed dangerous dimensions. An entirely different situation prevails in the liberated areas. The PRGRSV program published recently guarantees full implementation of democratic freedoms. At the same time it insures the rule of law and order in the interest of all strata of the population.

Many propaganda organs in the West try to distort the attitude of the PRGRSV, though it demands only a strict implementation of the Paris agreement. The PRGRSV advocates a political settlement of all South Vietnamese problems on the basis of that agreement.

Nguyen Thi Binh, PRGRSV minister of foreign affairs, has stated that the prerequisite for the resumption of political negotiations is the replacement of the Thieu regime by a different administration advocating peace, independence, democracy, national concord and strict observance of the Paris agreement.

The PRGRSV will be immediately ready to start talks with such an administration. The implementation of these proposals will bring the people of South Vietnam peace and freedom.

#### Krichevskiy on Saigon Reshuffle

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 7 Apr 75 LD

[Excerpts] Hanoi corespondent of all-union radio Leonid Krichevskiy on events in South Vietnam:

A PRGRSV spokesman has described the new reshuffle of the Saigon puppet government as merely another maneuver by the Thieu regime to remain in power at all costs. Yet no one can be in much doubt about the entirely self-evident fact that the forming of a new so-called cabinet headed by the chairman of the lower chamber of the so-called Saigon parliament, Nguyen Ba, cannot stop the process of the decay of the antipeople regime or halt the powerful movement of the broad popular masses.

The Saigon puppets are putting great hopes on the help and support of the United States. Arms and ammunition for the Saigon army are being airlifted into Saigon. U.S. warships stand off the coast of South Vietnam.

All these actions are a gross infringement of the Paris agreement, showing that certain circles in the United States want to consign to oblivion the very instructive lessons of the quite recent past and whip up tension in Indochina. But the maneuvers of the imperialist forces can no longer save the rotten, anti-people Saigon regime, which ought long ago to have been relegated to the rubbish heap of history.

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