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8 APR BOMBING OF INDEPENDENCE PALACE REPORTED

Hanoi Report

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0440 GMT 8 Apr 75 SG

[Excerpt] Friends, you are invited to listen to the news we have just received. According to VPI and AP, this morning, 8 April, a number of Saigon puppet air force aircraft bombed Thieu's Independence Palace. These news agencies report that at least two F-5s flew over the Independence Palace at 0830 [0030 GMT] and bombed Thieu's residence and office. A witness on the scene said a bomb hit the Independence Palace and another fell in the vicinity of the palace. This witness reportedly saw windows blown onto the roof of a three-story building inside the Independence Palace compound. A dark, dense column of smoke rose from the palace

HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR ON MICROFILM

According to these sources, gunfire and police whistles were heard in the streets when the aircraft were bombing the palace, and 300 puppet troops were urgently sent to strengthen the defense of the palace area.

Military Spokesman Statement

Saigon Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 8 Apr 75 SG

[Statement by an RVN military spokesman following the 8 April bombing of Independence Palace--recorded]

[Text] The plane took off from Bien Hoa airbase to take part in an operation, but the pilot turned around, claiming technical trouble. On the way back he performed this act.

[Question] Has the pilot been arrested yet?

[Answer] No, the pilot flew off and we have no idea of his whereabouts. The only thing we know about the bombing is that a staff member of the palace suffered scratches from flying glass caused by the bombing.

Thieu Addresses Nation

Saigon Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0325 GMT 8 Apr 75 SG

[RVN President Nguyen Van Thieu address to the nation--presumably live]

[Text] Dear compatriots and brother and sister combatants and cadres nationwide:

This morning, 8 April, at 0830, an F-5 jet of the Vietnam Air Force bombed and fired rockets on Independence Palace but only caused insignificant material damage.

Thanks to the Supreme Being's blessing, I, my family and all personnel are safe. I am now continuing to work as usual, directing national affairs along with the vice president, the prime minister, the chief of the general staff, and the commanders of the armed services and branches as well as with the commanders of the army corps and the military regions.

I affirm to all of the compatriots and brother and sister soldiers and cadres throughout the country that the bombing of and the firing on Independence Palace this morning was not a coup d'etat by a part or all of ARVN but was an act of a group or a faction.

I am sure that our compatriots, combatants and cadres nationwide have learned that for several days now a group of people has publicly demanded the overthrow of the present constitutional and legal regime through a coup d'etat so as to realize their political solution. However, they did not gain the response of all of our people and armed forces. Therefore, I believe that this morning's incident came from this faction and was aimed at killing me in order to change this constitutional and legal regime.

I call on our compatriots to remain calm and to continue their normal activities. I appeal to all combatants, cadres and police at all levels throughout the country to continue the struggle against the communist aggressors and to insure maximum security and order for our compatriots.

I am resolved to continue my role as the leader of the country.

Cordially yours

24-Hour Curfew Enforced

Saigon Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0201 GMT 8 Apr 75 SG

[Communique No 7/75 of the Saigon-Gia Dinh Governor's Office]

[Text] The Saigon-Gia Dinh governor solemnly announces:

Because of the security requirements of the capital, upon hearing this communique, an around-the-clock curfew has been imposed throughout the special capital zone until further notice.

All movement and gatherings are forbidden. Compatriots are requested to remain calm and to listen to radio and television news on the development of the situation.

Saigon, 8 April 1975

[Signed] The Saigon-Gia Dinh Governor Lt Gen Nguyen Van Minh

Further Report

Saigon Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0630 GMT 8 Apr 75 SG

[Communique No 8/75 of the office of the governor of Saigon-Gia Dinh]

[Text] The governor of Saigon-Gia Dinh hereby announces that the around-the-clock curfew, proclaimed at 0900 this morning, 8 April, will be lifted as of 1500 this afternoon. The 2100-0600 curfew will thereby be restored throughout the territory of Saigon-Gia Dinh.

Ky Denies Involvement

Hong Kong AFP in English 0457 GMT 8 Apr 75 BK

[Excerpt] Saigon, April 8 (AFP)--Former Premier General Nguyen Cao Ky, a leading critic of President Thieu, and who, two weeks ago, called for a change of national leadership, immediately denied any involvement in the [bombing] attack.

A pilot himself, he refuted the accusations that the raid was the responsibility of the "group of people" named by the president, among whom he presumably numbers himself.

In a telephone conversation with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, General Ky labelled the attack as "childish" and said he had no idea who was behind it.

Air Force Commander Denounces Bombing

Saigon Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1020 GMT 8 Apr 75 SG

[Order of the Day of the commander of the RVN Air Force--recorded]

[Text] Dear brother members of the air force:

On the morning of 8 April, a first lieutenant F-5 pilot, taking advantage of an operational sortie and citing technical difficulties to deceive his flight commander and detach himself from his flight, bombed Independence Palace. A preliminary investigation reveals that this was an individual, separate, shortsighted, and senseless action of a young pilot who had been bribed and misused.

I want to firmly assert that his action which caused trouble at the present juncture only benefits the enemy. It betrays the comrades in arms who have sacrificed themselves for the sake of the country and betrays all of the brothers who are fighting shoulder to shoulder with all of our armed forces and people in their life-or-death struggle against the communist aggressor enemy.

Let the brother members of the air force remain calm and clear-sighted. As members of an armed service of our armed forces, we must always scrupulously and satisfactorily execute all orders given by superiors to contribute to defending the country.

Let me reiterate to you brothers that this shortsighted, traitorous action was an individual, separate action which in no way undermines the fighting determination of all our armed forces and people. As soldiers, we have fought and made sacrifices, and we will continue to fight and make sacrifices for the sake of national survival as we have explicitly taken the oath under our flag.

Brothers, be at ease and continue to fight.

General Staff Order of Day Issued

Saigon Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0900 GMT 8 Apr 75 SG

[Text of the Order of the Day of the chief of the RVN Armed Forces Joint General Staff]

[Text] Dear comrades in arms:

At 0830 on 8 April, an undisciplined pilot took rebellious action, bombing Independence Palace. However, the bombing did not cause any significant damage.

As chief of the RVN Armed Forces Joint General Staff, I stress that this was only a blind, isolated action.

Our armed forces, at all stages and in all situations, must remain a united and single-minded body carrying out the mission of resisting aggression and defending the country--a mission entrusted to us by our compatriots.

I call on all comrades in arms of all armed services and branches and all units to remain clear-sighted and calm, to firmly hold their weapons on all fronts, to exert efforts to serve, and to strictly observe discipline so as to check the aggressor enemy and protect the compatriots' security.

The present grave national situation requires that our armed forces place the fatherland's interests above all.

Comrades in arms, my cordial salutations.

Prime Minister-Designate Appeal

Saigon Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 8 Apr 75 SG

[Text of the appeal by RVN prime minister-designate and the cabinet ad interim--read by announcer]

[Text] Compatriots and brother combatants and cadres nationwide:

As you know, at 0830 this morning, 8 April, an RVN Air Force F-5 jet bombed and rocketed Independence Palace. With the blessings of Providence, the president and his family are safe and sound, and the president is directing national affairs as usual.

The prime minister-designate and his cabinet ad interim are deeply indignant over this rebellious action by those plotting to eliminate the constitutional and legal RVN regime.

The prime minister-designate and his cabinet ad interim earnestly call on all the compatriots to remain calm. Let all compatriots, more than ever before, close their ranks around the president and fight for national survival.

Let our combatants and cadres nationwide absolutely uphold discipline and devote all their capabilities and energy and their utmost efforts to fulfilling the task of opposing the communists for national salvation.

Compatriots, combatants and cadres, our cordial salutations.

ARVN EVACUATES CHON THANH DISTRICT TOWN 8 APR

Saigon VIETNAM PRESS in English 8 Apr 75 Evening Edition SG

[Text] Saigon (VP) April 8--Government troops have evacuated Chon Thanh district town, a military government spokesman said Tuesday morning.

Spokesman Lt. Col. Le Trung Hien said the evacuation resulted from an order from the ARVN Joint General Staff to limit losses, since the presence of our combatants in the area is of no further help.

Chon Thanh district town is south of Binh Long and was isolated from the neighbouring provinces by communist forces since 1972.

HUYNH TAN PHAT CHAIRS RECENT NAM BO, SOUTHERN TRUNG BO MEETING

Liberation Radio [Clandestine] in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 1000 GMT 6 Apr 75 BX

[Text] At a time when our southern armed forces and people under FRGRSV leadership have staged continuing offensives and uprisings to punish the U.S.-Thieu clique for sabotaging the Paris agreement, and at a time when they have recorded unprecedented victories and are pursuing the enemy on all battlefronts in the countryside as well as in cities, the FRGRSV recently held a conference of revolutionary administration at zonal and provincial levels in Nam Bo and southern Trung Bo to discuss the building of the liberated areas and the development of the role of the revolutionary administration in the new situation. The conference was presided over by President Huynh Tan Phat.