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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
INDOCHINA

GERASIMOV ON CRISES OF SAIGON REGIME, SCORES U.S. AID

Moscow in Polish to PRAVA 1700 GMT 9 Apr 75 LD

[Kim Gerasimov commentary]

[Text] The antipopular regime of Nguyen Van Thieu is in agony. Its forces are no longer able to halt the offensive of the People's Liberation Armed Forces to liberate South Vietnam and the uprising of the people. More and more Saigon troops are joining the patriotic forces.

The PRGRSV is taking control of more and more provinces in the central plateau, north of Saigon, and also south of the capital, in the Mekong Delta. Of the nearly 18 million people of South Vietnam, over 9 million, or more than half, are now living in the liberated zone.

The debacle of the numerous and well-armed Saigon army is not surprising; the people simply do not want to die for the rotten, mercenary regime holding on to power by might alone. The crisis has struck the Saigon administration from within, too. Political activists embroiled in plots against dictator Nguyen Van Thieu are constantly being arrested in Saigon. There have been three attempts on his life in the past 2 weeks. Last Tuesday, his palace was attacked by a plane of the Saigon air force.

The antipopular regime is striving to bale itself out with the help of its traditional means--repression of the population and American help.

The whole world observes [words indistinct] of tens of thousands of civilians compelled, against their wish, to abandon their homes. This compulsory resettlement has been presented to world opinion, obviously with the aim of arousing sympathy, as "voluntary evacuation." Thousands of civilians, who through the fault of the Saigon regime have found themselves on the war roads, far from their native places, have died of starvation and disease or perished by the hand of Saigon "pacifiers" or marauders.

Some organs of Western propaganda have now raised a clamor about the evacuation to the United States of a group of South Vietnamese orphan children. But the laments about their fate are just as false as the wailing over the refugees. The whole noisy propaganda campaign is aimed at diverting public attention from the fall of the Saigon regime and the fiasco of the U.S. policy in South Vietnam. Besides, the rescue operations of the U.S. Air Force have served as a screen for the transportation of American war equipment to Saigon.

The PRGRSV has declared: "What the U.S. Government calls the problem of refugees in South Vietnam is in fact a new interference by the United States into the internal affairs of South Vietnam."

It should be mentioned that even among American society, the policy of its government in South Vietnam is arousing growing anxiety.

Four American helicopter carriers, four aircraft carriers, destroyers and landing craft are cruising just off the shores of South Vietnam. The Pentagon is demanding hundreds of millions of dollars for additional help to Saigon.

However, many congressmen justly believe that new subsidies will not save the rotten regime, support for which has already cost the United States over \$150 billion.

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"The entire U.S. policy in Indochina was an error," said Mike Mansfield, leader of the Democratic majority in the Senate. In his opinion, new subsidies would mean support for the old, erroneous line.

The people of South Vietnam desire peace. The road to peace was shown by the Paris agreement. This is why the NLFV and the PRGRSV demand strict adherence to the agreement. The PRGRSV wants to have all South Vietnamese problems solved at the negotiation table on the basis of the Paris agreement. It considers the replacement of the Thieu regime with another administration which would opt for peace, independence, democracy, national concord and strict observance of the Paris agreement as a precondition for the resumption of any political negotiations.