

DAN CHU QUESTIONS U.S. REACTION TO COMMUNIST CHALLENGE

Saigon DAN CHU in Vietnamese 11 Apr 75 p 1 SG

["viewpoint" column: "President Ford and His Warning"]

[Text] On 7 April, President Gerald Ford reiterated his warning that the main enemies of the United States should not believe that they can challenge it because of the current communist offensive in South Vietnam.

He stated that the allies and friends of the United States should not doubt the U.S. determination to respect its commitments to them.

The aforesaid warning and statement are found in a well prepared speech delivered by President Ford before a session of the National Broadcasting Corporation in Las Vegas.

In reality, the two things that the U.S. leader spoke of to reassure public opinion have happened and are becoming widespread.

First, communist North Vietnam's challenge to the United States has been very obvious. The large-scale offensive launched by the communists since early 1975 is an utmost challenge. As regards the free world's confidence in the spirit of U.S. responsibility, it is being shaken and is liable to break.

In any case, this warning and statement by President Ford are still a great encouragement to everyone. One has not forgotten that in the course of history the United States has been challenged on several occasions, and sometimes the challenge was tantamount to an insult. President Roosevelt's wise policy of remaining outside the conflict during the first stage of World War II failed to prevent U.S. merchant ships from being fired on and sunk by Hitler's forces. The invasion of South Korea by North Korea in 1950 was also a challenge to U.S. and world public opinion. This invasion was preceded by the Berlin blockade and followed by Krushchev's introduction of missiles into Cuba.

The Americans first tried to swallow the insult in these challenges to avoid being dragged into war but, in the end, they found it necessary to take action to save their honor and peace and freedom in the world.

Therefore, the world peoples are asking themselves: What will the Americans do to cope with the communists' brazen challenge against the RVN? Is it possible that they are coping with this challenge with empty warnings coupled with a few words which are inconsistent with reality to reassure public opinion?