

W
FILE / SUBJ
DATE 1
APR. 75
SUB-CAT.

III. 15 Apr 75

L 2

USIA INTERNAL AFFAIRS
INDOCHINA

NIKOLAYEV COMMENTS ON PLAUSIBILITY OF DOMINO THEORY

Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1600 GMT 12 Apr 75 LD

[Yevgeniy Nikolayev commentary]

[Text] Developments in Southeast Asia have been commanding attention in the American press lately. The newspapers that still adhere to the old dogmas of cold war are again talking about the domino theory. The New York TIMES, referring to that theory, claims that the coming fall of the Thieu regime in Saigon and what remains of the Lon Nol regime in Phnom Penh upsets the balance in Southeast Asia and jeopardizes the security of the neighboring countries.

The domino theory, from the very day it was developed, more than 10 years ago, has been merely an excuse for imperialist interference in Indochina, and a groundless excuse (?at) that. If its architects really sought to preserve stability in Southeast Asia, there would have been no need for the Pentagon and the CIA, back in the sixties, to overthrow one puppet regime in Saigon after another or to send half a million American troops to South Vietnam. Nor would there have been CIA subversion against the Laos coalition government formed in 1962, or American bombing of that country from 1964 to 1973. It was not concern for keeping the stability of Southeast Asian governments that was behind the CIA-inspired military coup in Phnom Penh in March 1970. The domino theory serves to camouflage the imperialists' flagrant interference in the internal affairs of Indochina nations. The Vietnamese themselves were proclaimed the aggressor in Vietnam.

Today the imperialist policy of diktat in Southeast Asia has notably failed. In South Vietnam, the Thieu regime is as good as doomed as a result of the patriots attacks and popular revolts in the Saigon-controlled zone. In Cambodia, the patriots, led by the National Unity Front and the Royal National Unity Government, have liberated 97 percent of the country's territory and are preparing to liberate from American stooges the capital, Phnom Penh. The head of the puppet regime, Lon Nol, has fled the country. He is to join his masters in the United States. Laos has marked the first anniversary of the coalition governing body, which signifies the restoration of peace and national concord and also the failure of the neocolonialist schemes against that country. Indochina, one can now say, is advancing toward the restoration of peace and consolidation of national sovereignty, which were violated for years by imperialist intervention. Peace in Southeast Asia can only gain by the fall of the regimes in Saigon and Phnom Penh, which don't represent anyone. The way would be paved for strengthening security in the region through its neutralization and by other means, too.

Why then does the Western press need the domino theory? There is every indication the American prophesy of disaster in Southeast Asia, if the Saigon and Phnom Penh regimes collapse, has the purpose of making political circles in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines express solidarity with the crumbling regimes of American puppets. But can there be solidarity between democratically elected governments in Malaysia or Thailand and the corrupt men like Thieu who don't represent anyone? What is more, the very idea of putting together the puppet regimes and the governments of independent Southeast Asian countries is preposterous.

FILE	SUBJ.
DATE	SUB-CAT.

III. 15 Apr 75

L 3

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
INDOCHINA

And another point: When the Pentagon and the CIA started their venture in Indochina, they did not ask the opinion of Southeast Asian governments. So why address the ill-concealed appeals to the public of Malaysia, Indonesia and other countries to help the bankrupt stooges of the imperialist circles? Moreover, solidarity with lovers of military ventures, which is advocated by the American press, will conflict with the long-range program of neutralizing Southeast Asia, a program worked out by the 18 countries in Kuala Lumpur.

No one will be misled by the allegations in the American press that under the domino theory Southeast Asia is facing a disaster because the people of South Vietnam and Cambodia will soon become masters in their own homes. The Southeast Asian public sees the threats to their country's sovereignty in imperialist plans.