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ILINSKIY VIEWS SAIGON'S 'PROGRESSIVE DISINTEGRATION'

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[Correspondent M. Ilinskiy dispatch: "South Vietnam: The patriots' Just Cause"]

[Text] Hanoi, 12 April--The irreversible processes taking place in South Vietnam at this time testify to the military and political collapse of the Saigon regime and to the all-round strengthening of the patriotic forces' positions and authority.

The waves of the patriots' advance are now lapping around the immediate approaches to the South Vietnamese capital. The most tenacious battles are for the principal city in Long Khanh Province--Xuan Loc. Military experts believe that the fall of Xuan Loc, which lies on Highway 1 approximately 60 km from Saigon, would virtually clear the patriots' way to the South Vietnamese capital.

The insurgent movement in the Mekong Delta is developing successfully. People's revolutionary power has been established in hundreds of centers of population in My Tho, Can Tho, Ben Hoa and Thay Ninh provinces. The territory of the Ca Mau Peninsula is virtually completely controlled by the patriots.

Whereas even quite recently one could still hear the view expressed in certain circles that the Saigon troops' pullback from northern and central areas of South Vietnam was a "tactical" move, it is now clear to everybody that what we are in fact witnessing is the progressive disintegration of the Saigon administration and army. This is a direct consequence of the criminal policy of violating the Paris agreement, of the terror brought down upon the peaceful population and of the constant deterioration of the living standards of people in the south. It is being confirmed once again that a people's desire for peace, independence, democracy, national concord and unity cannot be curbed by force of arms. The present attempts by the Saigon administration, aided by the Pentagon, to forcibly move and drive thousands of so-called "refugees," primarily children, out of South Vietnam is encountering resolute protests and opposition from all strata of the South Vietnamese population.

The population of South Vietnam sees the people's revolutionary organs of power as bearers of peace and national concord and as the legitimate representatives and defenders of the interests of all strata of the population. It is precisely this that explains the atmosphere of trust developing around the new organs of power in the recently liberated provinces of South Vietnam.

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Tens of thousands of former Saigon army soldiers and officers are switching over to the side of the people with their weapons in their hands. In the past few weeks there have been instances of large-scale military subunits, complete with their command, asking the patriots to admit them to the ranks of the people's armed forces. Thus, the whole of the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, headed by Captain (Pyok), in Thua Thien Province, civil defense company in Phu Loc, all the students of the (Khoakam) military academy in Danang and many others have switched over completely to the patriots' side.

Nguyen Thanh Trung, the F-5E pilot who bombed the "presidential" palace in Saigon a few days ago, landed his aircraft in a liberated area and made a statement to the effect that he had been following the patriots' appeal to Saigon army soldiers and officers to fight the Thieu regime.