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FRANCE

PARIS PRESS LOOKS AT SITUATION IN INDOCHINA

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[Paris press review]

[Text] Paris, 21 Apr--The Paris morning press gives wide coverage to the situation in Indochina. LE FIGARO reports that, having been subjected to a harsh test, the Saigon defense perimeter seems more and more fragile, especially in view of the threat hanging over the important base at Bien Hoa which is now only operating during the daytime. Under these circumstances, the concern of U.S. authorities in Washington is now, as it was several weeks ago, to insure the evacuation of Americans and to manage, if there is still time, a political transition which would lead without too much fuss to the establishment of the revolutionary power. From Cambodia there is silence. Communications between Phnom Penh and the outside world are practically cut off.

L'AUREOLE remarks: Sihanouk himself is not aware of what is going on in Phnom Penh. This is something which, as the silence continues, produces ever increasing anxiety. This is so because, if everything was working out fine, what is stopping the new masters of Phnom Penh from cabling the good news?

L'HUMANITE points out: The war which the United States has kindled in Indochina and for which, according to Mr Kissinger, they have [words illegible] their collaborators. Nevertheless, far from deciding to hasten the end, the U.S. Government still maintains Nguyen Van Thieu at the head of the Saigon regime. And what is more, they have assembled an impressive armada off the South Vietnamese coast. What dishonorable battle is the United States planning now? Nothing justifies American combat preparations. This is just a new and flagrant violation of the Paris agreement.