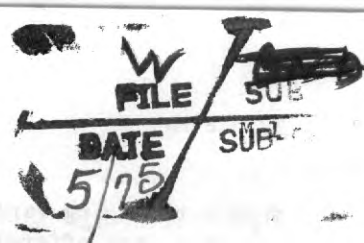


IV. 2 May 75

A U S T R A L I A



AUSTRALIA'S CAIRNS, FRASER COMMENT ON INDOCHINA SITUATION

Cairns News Conference

Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 1 May 75 OW

["Focus on Australia"]

[Text] Australia's deputy prime minister and treasurer, Dr Cairns, returned to Australia today from Manila where he had been attending a meeting of the Asian Development Bank. Dr Cairns was the patron of the anti-Vietnam war movement in Australia during the 1960's when he was a member of the Labor Party opposition in Parliament. At a news conference in Sydney today, Dr Cairns was asked what sort of links Australia would establish with the new government in Vietnam: [recorded]

[Cairns] Well, I suppose there will be the normal recognition when the government establishes itself, and we know what it is. The great majority of nations in the world will act that way--and reasonably soon--and I suppose we will be amongst them.

[Question] Do you expect those ties to be close?

[Answer] Normal.

[Question] It is a major defeat for the United States, but do you see it as a major defeat for Australia as well?

[Answer] It is a major defeat for the governments that made terrible mistakes in the United States and for the Australian governments that followed them for 10-15 years. It is a major defeat for the foreign policies of the Dulles, Eisenhower and Kennedy--for that matter--the Johnson and Nixon administrations. It is a major defeat for the Menzies policy in Australia. It is a major defeat for the kind of policy that Mr Fraser would like to follow. It is not a major defeat for America or Australia. It is a major defeat for particular kinds of governments that existed in those countries.

[Question] Dr Cairns, what aid will the Australian Government be offering to the new government in Vietnam?

[Answer] Well, I would say, first of all, whatever aid it wants. Before you offer anyone aid, or before you give aid, it is necessary to find out what they want, and I think we have got to get a government there, find out what it wants before we can possibly know what we aim to do about it.

[Question] You have got a long-term personal commitment to the end of the Vietnam war. How do you feel personally now that it is all over?

[Answer] Well, I have said I feel a very great relief about it. It is almost something that I have never been able to believe could happen. I have felt at times over the last 12-15 years that this war might go on as long as I would live. It has been going on for 30 years--roughly in its present form--and even longer than that, so I feel relieved that it is over.

[Question] Are you disturbed at accusations of pay-back killings, bloodbaths? Will these happen, do you think?

People thronging various thoroughfares greeted us with cheers and handshakes, surrounded our cars, and offered cakes to the liberation fighters. Some elderly women ran after our car with teapots, insisting that we have a little drink. "Hurrah to the victorious soldiers back to the people," one shouted while running.

Nguyen Duyen, a teacher at the Trung Minh Giang secondary school, who had just been released from Chi Hoa jail, rode a Honda in pursuit of our car, captivated by a portrait of President Ho stuck on our car's windscreen. He was not satisfied until we gave him a small portrait of President Ho for himself.

We stopped at the Eandon port. A ship of the puppet army loaded with weapons was in flames, giving off columns of black smoke, rendering ever more proud the PRG flag fluttering over the port.

Nguyen Van Thanh, a Saigon docker for 31 years, held my hand tightly, saying: "So, Saigon has been liberated. I only regret that President Ho has passed away and the South Vietnamese people have no chance of welcoming him on a visit to Saigon." He wept, and we, too, could not hold back our tears. This port where 64 years ago President Ho left the homeland in search of a way for national salvation is today shining under the red and blue golden starred flags.

In other parts of the city, flames are still burning, houses are reduced to debris, vehicles lie wrecked.

Among the crowd greeting the liberation fighters, Buddhist monk Thich Lieu Minh came to us, and said with a smile: "Today is a festive day for the nation, a day that is the product of decades." Then he sang a few songs composed during the resistance war against French colonialism.

On Truong Minh Giang Street, a Catholic priest waved at us and greeted us with a broad smile.

Saigon had plenty of electric lights on the first night of liberation. Water supplies were also uninterrupted. The fire brigade was at the scene day and night extinguishing in time the results of an attempt at arson at the children's hospital. At the Tu Du hospital, 45 babies were born on the first historic day of Saigon's liberation.

NGUYEN HUU THO SENDS BIRTHDAY MESSAGE TO ALBANIA'S LLESHI

LPA From North Vietnam [Clandestine] in English to East Europe and the Far East
1513 GMT 1 May 75 CW

[Text] South Vietnam May 1 LPA--Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, president of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation and of the Advisory Council of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, on April 20, 1975 sent a message of greetings to President Haxhi Lleshi of the Presidium of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Albania on his 62nd birthday (May 1st, 1975).

The message said: "I wish Your Excellency good health and more and yet greater successes in your noble task. May the friendship and militant solidarity between the South Vietnamese and Albanian people be constantly strengthened and developed."

[Answer] I have been disturbed that deliberately planned killing in the course of war that has taken nearly 4 million people out of that country has been going along, and I know these accusations are made by people who have motives to make them. I know that in a war of this kind a great deal of bitterness generates. I know what happened in Europe after the war there when the occupation of foreigners under Hitler in France and other countries were removed. I know there were reprisals there, and I know that we saw them in the light that collaborators were receiving a fate that many people believed was justified, and there will be many people in Vietnam who feel the same way about collaborators there too. [end recording]

Fraser News Conference

Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 1 May 75 OW

["Focus on Australia"]

[Text] Although the Australian Government has so far remained officially silent following the collapse of South Vietnam, the opposition leader, Mr Fraser, has already held a news conference. He was asked what effect the defeat of Saigon would have on the rest of Southeast Asia: [recorded]

[Fraser] Events that happen in one particular country do have an impact on others. I have said that the domino theory is old hash--but, you know, that was in the logical necessity of the domino theory, if one country falls another has to. That was never right, but certainly, significant events in one country do have an impact on other countries, and it is not only in Southeast Asia that these events will have an impact. I believe the impact on Australia will in the longer term be quite significant because I see, as a result of the changing power relationship, an increasing competition between the Soviet Union and China, and that competition is likely to find its hunting ground in Southeast Asia.

[Question] Has the opposition decided on what its reaction is going to be to the new government in Saigon?

[Answer] Basically, we have supported the recognition of North Vietnam. We did not like it happening, but we have not said that we would take representation away from Hanoi. I think it makes sense to have embassies, offices in as many countries as possible so long as you use those offices to good purpose.

[Question] Does this mean you may be supporting the PRG once it is established properly?

[Answer] It will not be the PRG. It will be the government of North Vietnam--won't it?

[Question] How do you see the fate of those Vietnamese who have assisted Australia in Vietnam?

[Answer] I think it will be very difficult indeed.

[Question] Do you think the same fate will befall others who have opposed the communists?

[Answer] On other past precedents, it would be the same fate, yes.

[Question] Sir, in retrospect, how do you view Australia's involvement in Vietnam?

[Answer] Well, the whole episode is tragic because it has ended the way it had, but that does not mean to say that the original decision was wrong. I do not really believe that there is any purpose in trying to cast blame in relation to the past. What Australia needs to do is to assess the present. What we ought to have been doing over the last month or 6 weeks was acting with a sense of national purpose to assist refugees.

[Question] Do you think it has been waste?

[Answer] What?

[Question] Australian involvement.

[Answer] I think the total involvement bought time in Southeast Asia. If there had not been an initial commitment by the United States, I think events in Indonesia might have been very different from that which ultimately occurred. And you might recall that it was only a relatively short while after President Kennedy's original commitment to South Vietnam that the changed regime took over in Indonesia. Now, I do not believe that would have occurred unless it had been for that United States commitment in Vietnam. [end recording]

JAPAN'S MIYAZAWA, DELEGATION ARRIVE IN AUSTRALIA FOR TALKS

Airport Arrival Reported

Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0845 GMT 1 May 75 OW

[Excerpt] Three senior Japanese cabinet ministers have arrived in Canberra for a 2-day meeting of the Australia-Japan Ministerial Committee beginning tomorrow. The cabinet ministers were accompanied by a party of more than 30 officials. The Japanese delegation is being led by the foreign minister, Mr Miyazawa, who was met at the (?Goulburn) Air Force Base by his Australian counterpart, Senator Willesee. The other ministers in the Japanese delegation are the minister for international trade and industry, Mr Komoto, and the minister for agriculture and forestry, Mr Abe.

Willesee, Miyazawa 1 May Talks

Tokyo KYODO in English 1229 GMT 1 May 75 OW

[Excerpts] Canberra May 1 KYODO--Japanese Foreign Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and his Australian counterpart Donald Willesee exchanged frank views on the latest Indochinese situation in Canberra Thursday. Details of their talks were not available, but Japanese sources said the two foreign ministers agreed that further careful watch was necessary to assess the still fluid Indochina situation.

The two ministers also reached broad agreement that sudden developments in Indochina will not bring about any immediate, major political changes in other Southeast Asian neighboring nations, the sources said.

During the meeting, the Australian external affairs minister agreed to visit Japan in June.

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