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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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NORTH VIETNAM APPLAUDS ANTI-WAR DEMONSTRATIONS IN WASHINGTON, SAN FRANCISCO

Editorial: "A Large and Powerful Demonstration Against Nixon's Policy of Aggression"; Hanoi, Quan Doi Nhan Dan, Vietnamese, 26 April 1971, pp 1, 47

Yesterday, 25 April, more than a million persons from a number of states in the U.S. rallied at the capital, Washington, in a demonstration, holding banners high and thunderously shouting slogans against the war-mongering policies of Nixon, demanding an immediate end to the war of aggression in Indochina and immediate withdrawal of all forces from Vietnam.

Also on that day, in many large U.S. cities, there were numerous demonstrations of tens of thousands of people protesting Nixon's obstinacy in continuing, prolonging, and expanding the war of aggression against the countries of Indochina. In San Francisco, a major city in California, more than 500,000 people demonstrated. At the same time, in the capitals of England, France, West Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, and Norway, outbursts in response to the American peace movement and supporting the people of Indochina against the U.S. aggressors were seen.

On the intense demonstrations across the U.S., on 24 April, the AP wrote, "This was one of the largest demonstrations, if not the largest, ever held in the U.S. . ." The BBC on 25 April affirmed, "This demonstration against the war was certainly the largest in the U.S. On 24 April the newspaper AFP also commented that these demonstrations were evidence that the American people want to end, once and for all, the nightmare of this war, the most offensive in the history of the U.S.

Panicking before the strong struggle being waged by all classes of people, Nixon had to put Federal troops on alert, and close the doors of public offices. The U.S. Congress cancelled its meetings, and Nixon himself went to Camp David in the state of Maryland to avoid the resistance and violence of the masses rising up strongly and steadily in the U.S. capital. Clearly this is the biggest struggle of the American people against the war of aggression and the largest crowd to shake the capital city of Washington, to shake the whole of the U.S., and to be heard throughout the world.

This demonstration of force was not only powerful but also a new stage of development in the movement of the American people against Nixon and his war of aggression in Vietnam.

In yesterday's huge demonstration nearly every class of American people was in Washington, the political center of the U.S.

Leading the group in the march which began at 0500 hours were thousands of U.S. enlisted men and officers who were veterans or in the service at that time from many bases throughout the U.S. Many of them, who had been wounded in the war of aggression in Indochina, used crutches to limp in the demonstration. They brandished the flag of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the flag of the [Democratic] Republic of South Vietnam and loudly shouted slogans; "Bring our brothers home now!", "We don't want your war!" (Nixon and his lackeys). These were the angry sounds and yells of numerous people; ever since then the U.S. authorities have reacted by making every effort to indoctrinate and confuse, and, in a vain attempt at using them as their tools of repression and aggression, pushed them into a bloody war of aggression for the selfish interests of the U.S. capitalistic monopolies.

There were tens of thousands of U.S. women whose husbands and sons have been captured or become cannon fodder in Vietnam. Many mothers with snow-white hair held banners saying: "My son has been killed in Vietnam. I want other mothers to avoid losing their sons!" Groups of people loudly shouted "Peace now!" in reply to the empty promise to "reduce casualties and withdraw from the war," which Nixon has often used to deceive the public.

Youths, students, and intellectuals. . . have made appearances in many struggles before this, and now again participate actively and strongly with various slogans, "Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh," "Stop the war now!" (aggression in Southeast Asia) "Nixon is a liar!" "Withdraw the military!"

Representatives from peace organizations, Catholics organizations, and unions. . . many Americans of African, Asian, Mexican, and Puerto Rican origin. . . people with white skin, black skin, and red skin, arm-in-arm waved high the flag of the anti-war forces and loudly shouted slogans opposing the policies of Nixon provoking the war, and in support of the people of the countries of Indochina and victory over our aggressors.

Many well-known U.S. congressmen and dignitaries also joined the demonstration. According to estimates of the American press, in support of this struggle were at least 50 well-known dignitaries, such as the former U.S. Secretary of Defense Katzenbach, former U.S. Representative to the United Nations, Goldberg; the mayor of the city of San Francisco, and many congressmen of both the Democratic and Republican parties, including such people as the Republican Congressman Paul McClosky who is leading a "movement to overthrow Nixon."

The demonstration of 25 April was a highpoint in the "spring offensive" of the American people who plan to continue and prolong it into the middle of May. Even though Nixon and his lackeys sought every means to

divide the people, they are becoming disorientated, are frightened and attacked by public opinion, and they still suffer a shameful defeat. Clearly this is not the "silent majority" that supported him, nor is it only an "extremist faction" against him, but the masses of the classes of American people opposing him, including numerous people in the U.S. Army, the U.S. Congress, the Republican Party, and forces which Nixon has long considered sources of support for the policies of prolonging and expanding the war of aggression in Vietnam and the countries of Indochina.

The strong growth of the opposition of the American people to the war-mongering policies and aggression of Nixon is a very logical development, one in harmony with the numerous recent failures of the U.S. imperialists on the battlefields in Indochina. Nixon promised and boasted loudly concerning his statements, "In my heart I want peace," and "The success of Vietnamizing the war" and "of his numerous stages of troop withdrawal." Yet in reality, his obstinancy continues to push the U.S. into the calamity of extending a bloody war and certain defeat.

Strong waves of resistance have flooded Washington and continue after the cruel defeat of the U.S. -- puppets on Route 9 and other battlefields in Indochina are strong warnings to the Nixon warmongers. The more they, without regard for life or death, stubbornly charge head first into an unjust war of aggression and then are defeated on the battlefield, the more the people of the U.S. will violently oppose them, and the more cruelly isolated they will become.

The movement of the American people against the war of aggression in Indochina and against the warlike, obstinate lackies of Nixon, because of the interest of the American people in a peaceful world, is a strong development. It is also a valuable source of encouragement to the people of Indochina fighting a war for independence and the freedom of their Fatherlands, for peace and friendship among all peoples.

Standing firm on the front line against the U.S., our people and Armed Forces wholeheartedly welcome and support the struggle of the American people for peace, and a halt to the war of aggression in Indochina, Nixon's immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces to the U.S., an early end to the U.S. involvement in the ill-advised and drawn-out war, and the long cost to good people. With confidence and a firm belief in a final victory and the unifying strength of the war of our countries, with the cooperation and strong support of progressive people in the world, including the American people, our army and people our determined to stand shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal peoples of Laos and Cambodia, heighten their determination to win, steadfastly step up the struggle to gain greater victories and press forward to attack more strongly, attack the American pirates and completely defeat them for the independence and freedom of the Fatherland, and for peace, justice, and social progress of the people of the world.

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No. 33/VP/TD

CIRCULAR

On Antiwar Movements in the US.

((Possibly reproduced by an agency of Hoài Hương District Party Committee, VC Binh Tuy Province, VC Region 6)).

I. The antiwar movements in the US are unpredictable. They have been widely developed from Washington DC and New York to other states. At the beginning, only a small number of people of the middle class, intellectuals, students, writers, artists, and religious people joined these movements, but now they have rallied a large number of people, including members of the Senate and House of Representatives, former ministers and ambassadors, ex-service men, repatriated soldiers, draftees, service men, and a portion of the working class. The majority of US workers were not politically aware because the US labor unions (supporting the government) only motivated them to struggle for their own interests.

The spontaneous antiwar movements in the US have received assistance and guidance from the friendly ((VC/NVN)) delegations at the Paris Peace Talks. Of the US antiwar movements, the two most important ones are: The PCPJ ((the People's Committee for Peace and Justice)) and the NPAC ((National Peace Action Committee)). These two movements have gathered much strength and staged many demonstrations. The PCPJ is the most important. It maintains relations with us. Through its activities, we see that the PCPJ has made progress in its newly-adopted policy lines with the following strategic alteration:

1. To gain success in struggles, it is necessary to: strengthen internal unity, contact other associations, other social classes, and influential personalities and take part in ((US congressional)) elections (instead of boycotting them), to eliminate reactionary candidates and plant progressive people in the Senate and House of Representatives.
2. Closely combine struggles of the people with those of the opposing faction in the ((US)) Congress.
3. Step up the motivation of US soldiers and coordinate with them in the struggles.
4. Motivate ((US)) Labor Unions, especially those concerned with defense and communication and transportation work, to participate in antiwar movements.
5. In conjunction with slogans demanding the end of the war in VN, adopt other slogans demanding improvement of the US society. This is a further step because generally speaking, the US people are proud of their scientific and technical advancements and the prosperity of their country. The people have deep prejudices against the Communists. Most Americans do what they think they will be successful in. They like ((sic)) propaganda and engage in unusual enterprises.



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## II. MOVEMENT INITIATED IN SPRING 71:

An ((antiwar)) movement initiated by the NPAC in Apr 71 with the participation of the PCPJ consisted of demonstrations demanding a rapid withdrawal of US troops from Vietnam.

Since early Apr 71, there have been small demonstrations in different localities and branches. Repatriated soldiers have denounced US war crimes in NVN.

On 24 Apr, the movement was at its climax. Over 500,000 people gathered in Washington DC and 30,000 people in San Francisco. Many people that had not participated in previous struggles were present at these demonstrations. This caused great effects ((in the US government)).

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In May 71 the PCPJ staged demonstrations but the NPAC did not participate in them.

The purpose of these demonstrations was the same as the one staged on 24 ((Apr 71)). But new slogans were adopted such as "Nixon must immediately set the deadline for the withdrawal of US troops from South Vietnam;" "If the government does not end the war, the people will 'end' the government;" "The US must immediately end the war in Indochina;" together with slogans demanding the improvement of social welfare in the US.

On 2 Mar 71 the PCPJ used the slogan "Workers must disobey the government's orders." This was a great success for us. It was regrettable that there was a lack of cooperation between the NPAC and the PCPJ in demonstrations in May 71, due to disagreements on the following points:

The NPAC did not want to connect antiwar slogans with those demanding the improvement of social welfare and demand that ((President)) Nixon immediately withdraw US troops from SVN instead of fixing a deadline for it.

The NPAC refused to order demonstrators to block routes leading to the White House and the Pentagon or prevent civil servants from going to their offices. ((President)) Nixon mobilized troops and policemen to disperse demonstrators. Thirteen thousand persons were arrested but afterwards they were set free. Only leaders of demonstrations were prosecuted.

As a result of these demonstrations, the PCPJ learned a number of lessons.

1. The antiwar movements in Apr and May 71 were the people's greatest political struggle movements in the US. Although the people were terrorized, they were not demoralized.

2. The PCPJ realized that the slogan "If the government does not end the war, the people will end the government" was not appropriate because the people would misunderstand this slogan and President Nixon would suppress demonstrations.

The application of the slogan "Workers must disobey the government's orders" was not successful. Instead of encircling the White House and the Pentagon, the demonstrations blocked road intersections thus impeding the people's traffic. This caused the people to be discontent and gave President Nixon reasons to suppress demonstrations.

### III. PREPARATIONS FOR THE FALL ((1971)) ANTIWAR MOVEMENT:

The revelation of secret documents of the US Department of Defense ((possibly the Pentagon)) in some US newspapers has enabled the antiwar organizations in the US to motivate the people. The seven-point peace proposal ((of the SVN Provisional Revolutionary Government)) not only solved problems concerning the release of US prisoners but also motivated the people of all walks of life and even relatives of US pilots detained in NVN to participate in the antiwar movement. Previously, the antiwar movement existed only in the US Army, but now it is initiated even in the US Air Force. A number of US Air Force officers have made statements demanding an end to the Indochina War.

#### Forthcoming plan of the ((antiwar)) movements:

The PCPJ and the NPAC have agreed with one another on the following points:

They will publicly conduct a motivation phase on 6 Aug ((71)) on the occasion of the anniversary of the dropping of the ((first)) atomic bomb on ... ((blank in O.T.)) and will consider 13 Oct ((71)) as a national antiwar day as they did on 15 Oct 69 (Kerateri... ((sic)) ).

6 Nov 71 will be the climaxing day for the Fall ((1971)) political struggle phase demanding total withdrawal of US troops from SVN (this is the specific slogan of the antiwar movements)..

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The antiwar movements in the US are trying to find means to cooperate with city dwellers in SVN in the ((political)) struggles aimed at protesting against the forthcoming (RVN) rigged Presidential Election and support the opposition forces to overthrow ((the Thieu Government)) and establish ((a government)) for the restoration of peace. They are also trying by all means to support the seven-point peace proposal ((of the PRG)) and oppose the distorted interpretation made by the White House, the Pentagon and CIA.

In 1970, there were only six secret magazines published by the antiwar movements in the US Army; now there are 20. These magazines have disseminated the order issued by the Headquarters of the SVN Liberation armed forces ((possibly meaning the South Vietnam Liberation Army)), not to fire at antiwar US troops.

IV. The Nixon-Thieu clique is very embarrassed because the seven-point peace proposal is supported by the SVN people's ((political struggle)) movement and the antiwar movements in the US. Therefore, all local areas, units, and branches must widely disseminate the seven-point peace proposal, step up the people's ((political struggle)) movements both in cities and rural areas, taking advantage of disturbances and dissensions in the enemy's forthcoming (RVN) Congressional and Presidential Elections. They must coordinate more successfully with the antiwar movements in the US so as to isolate the Nixon-Thieu clique.