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DRV OFFICIAL REPLIES TO ROSENTHAL OF NEW YORK TIMES

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[Text] Hanoi VNA January 24--after his televised interview of January 2, 1972, at which U.S. President Richard Nixon made ambiguous remarks on questions of the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Vietnam, of the American militarymen captured in Vietnam and of the right of self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, A.M. Rosenthal, managing editor of the New York TIMES, sent a number of questions to Premier Pham Van Dong asking him to clarify several points relating to the aforesaid problems. In this connection, the head of the Press and Information Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam Ngo Dien has sent to A.M. Rosenthal the following answers:

"Dear Sir:

"Concerning your questions sent on January 5 to Prime Minister Pham Van Dong, I am empowered to draw your attention to the following:

"--The fundamental problem is the cessation of the U.S. war of aggression in Vietnam, the restoration of peace in Vietnam, respect for the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people. Satisfaction will thus be given to the aspirations of the Vietnamese people for peace in independence and freedom and the aspirations of the American people who are demanding the withdrawal of their country from the present bog in Vietnam and the repatriation of all their sons enrolled in the U.S. expeditionary corps in Vietnam, including the American militarymen captured in Vietnam.

"--At present, forced to effect a gradual withdrawal of U.S. troops, President Nixon, however, has not yet reconciled himself to putting an end to the war of aggression. Putting into practice his 'Vietnamisation' policy he is bent on pursuing the war by means of the Nguyen Van Thieu clique and the Saigon puppet army to which the United States is giving a colossal aid and (?massive) combat participation of American air and naval forces.

"--By raising at the same time the question of prisoners and withdrawal of U.S. troops without renouncing all the commitments and support to the Nguyen Van Thieu puppet clique, President Nixon did not aim at bringing any solution to the aforesaid fundamental problem but simply to appease the legitimate demands of the American people. In fact, he aimed at avoiding the pressure of American and world public opinion with a view to prolonging and extending war in Indochina.

"--With regard to the settlement of the Vietnam problem, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam approves and fully supports the seven points put forth on July 1st 1971 by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam. You can find in it, fundamentally speaking, the answers to the problems you have raised in your telegram. By refusing to accept these seven points, the Nixon administration is steering away from the path to a just solution for the Vietnam problem and at the same time has rejected an opportunity to bring home all the American militarymen including those captured in Vietnam during the last Christmas.

"With my distinguished considerations".