

VNA
1/28/68

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FILE	SUBJ.
DATE	SUB-CAT.

1/68

NHAN DAN CONDEMNS OB DURATE U.S. ATTITUDE

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0550 GMT 28 Jan 68 B

[Text] Hanoi--Condemning the obdurate and bellicose attitude of the Johnson authorities concerning the Vietnam problem, NHAN DAN's Commentator today stressed that this is the direct cause of the prolongation of the Vietnam war. The U.S. warmongers must be held responsible for all consequences arising therefrom, the commentator stated. Pointing to the ever stronger world protest against the U.S. bellicosity and obduracy, the commentator said:

Following the statement of 28 January 1967 and the speech of 29 December 1967 by DRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh, the people and press of various countries, many governments including U.S. allies, and even some American political circles, have demanded that the U.S. Government stop unconditionally the bombing of North Vietnam with a view to creating conditions to pave the way for the cessation of the war in Vietnam and a peaceful settlement of the Vietnam issue. Broad public opinion unanimously holds that as the United States has been bombing the DRV, an independent and sovereign country, it must unconditionally stop this act of war. This is a very clear and just thing which the United States cannot deny.

Yet, the U.S. ruling circles still maintain a stubborn attitude, the Commentator said. He added: In face of the DRV Government's correct stand and under the pressure of public opinion in the United States and the world over; they ambiguously claimed that they were still exploring the statement of the DRV Foreign Ministry. In fact, the stand of the United States was clearly expounded by Johnson last 17 January when he repeated his San Antonio formula in which the U.S. imperialists put insolent conditions in exchange for a halt of their bombing.

The Commentator continued: The reciprocity plea put forth by Johnson and company is but a trick to confuse right and wrong, justice and injustice, and the aggressor and the defender of national independence and freedom. The Johnson clique hopes to deceive public opinion in the United States and the world, and is seeking a pretext to intensify and expand its aggressive war in Vietnam.

This has been shown by the recent statements and acts of the U.S. rulers. In his State of the Union message, Johnson again affirmed that America will persevere [in its aggressive war in Vietnam], that this perseverance will match our [United States] power. His close aides, including Taylor, Bundy, and the like, also stated that the United States would not stop bombing North Vietnam.

On the other hand, the Commentator further pointed out, the U.S. imperialists continue sending tens of thousands more troops to South Vietnam and increased conscription in the United States. Besides, they have bombed Haiphong port, the provincial capital of Lang Son and other heavily populated areas in North Vietnam and even attacked foreign merchant ships frequenting Haiphong. They have made public their scheme to set up a mechanical warning system through Laos, and expand their war from Vietnam to Laos and Cambodia.

In the face of the decision of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation to suspend military operations for seven days on the forthcoming Lunar New Year festival, the United States and its Saigon henchmen had to declare a two-day cease-fire but later shortened the cease-fire period from 48 hours to 36 hours.

The commentator underlined: The Johnson clique's words and deeds amply show that they obstinately refuse to settle the Vietnam problem peacefully. Instead, they are feverishly intensifying their aggressive war despite their heavy failures and stalemate. The so-called desire for peace they have boasted about is but deception.

So long as the U.S. warmongers are reluctant to give up their aggressive scheme and continue feverishly intensifying their dirty war, the Vietnamese people are determined to fight ever harder to foil this dark design, to defend national independence and freedom till final victory, the commentator concluded.

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