

VIET-NAM BULLETIN

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Political

AMBASSADOR LAM: "WE HAVE A FIRM STAND"

Saigon, May 3--Ambassador Pham Dang Lam, Chief of the RVN delegation at the Paris Meetings, Friday afternoon urged his compatriots to be assured, "because we have a very firm stand at the conference table."

Speaking to newsmen upon his arrival in Saigon, Ambassador Lam said that it could not be told when the peace talks would yield results, but, "we must be patient."

In reply to a question, Ambassador Lam made known that the Paris Meetings have enabled world public opinion to see that our stand is logical while that of the Communist side is intransigent. The Paris Meetings also showed that we had much goodwill for peace. Therefore, our side no longer bears pressure from world opinion.

Dealing with the statement by Tran Buu Kiem last April 30 that Kiem was willing to talk with every side concerned, Ambassador Lam contended that there was nothing in Kiem's statement which could prove that the Communist side agrees to private discussions with the RVN delegation.

Ambassador Lam did not deny or confirm press reports that there have been secret meetings between the RVN and the so-called South Viet-Nam National Liberation Front.

To another question, Ambassador Lam made known that he returned to Saigon this time to report to the President on the development of the Paris talks.

He refused to disclose what proposals he would submit to the President so as to help break through the present deadlock of the Paris talks.

Ambassador Lam added: "So far, the Communist side with its stubborn attitude had given no indications that they are ready to hold serious discussions." However, he revealed that there was less tension during the April 30th session.

Yet, he added, this was not an indication that the talks had made progress.

In regard to the statement by Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phong in London that the RVN could not be patient any longer, Ambassador Lam said Mr. Phong only meant that the talks

can be meaningful only when both sides want to reach some results, otherwise there is no need to sit in vain at the conference table.

Asked whether we need a military pressure to force the Communists to hold serious talks, Ambassador Lam said, "We should not make any statements on which the Communists could rely to charge us with hindering the talks."

Asked about the case of Mr. Nguyen Van Loc, former Prime Minister who stated in Paris that he would be the liaison man between the so-called NLF and the RVN delegation, Ambassador Lam said: "As far as I know Mr. Loc has been staying in Paris only in his own capacity."

Ambassador Lam made known he will stay in Saigon for a few days before returning to Paris.

On hand to greet Ambassador Lam at Tan Son Nhut Airport were lawyer Vuong Van Bac and Professor Nguyen Ngoc Huy, two members of the RVN delegation who came back to Saigon recently.

POLITICAL GROUPS ANSWER PRESIDENT THIEU'S CALL

Saigon, April 26--Senator Nguyen Van Ngai today announced that ten political groups have agreed to join the new political organization called for by President Nguyen Van Thieu.

In his address before the National Assembly last April 7, President Thieu called for the establishment of a front composed of various political groups to defeat the Communists.

Ten political groups Friday morning gathered at Number 8, Le Qui Don St., Saigon, to make a decision on their assembling into the new organization.

After a long debate, all the groups agreed to join the new political organization called for by the President.

According to Senator Ngai, the ten political groups include the greater Viet-Nam Revolutionary Party, the People's Alliance for Social Revolution, the Socialist-Democratic Party, the "Viet-Nam Phuc Quoc Hoi", the People's Union Front, the Regional and Popular Forces Combatants Association and the Anti-Communist Old People Association.

Senator Ngai also said that three other political groups including the Greater Solidarity Force, the People's Socialist Revolutionary Party and the Viet-Nam Nationalist Party had agreed on principle to cooperate with the new political organization although they were not present at the meeting.

The ten political groups later decided to hold a convention next May 15 to discuss necessary details on the issue.

Present at this morning's meeting were 30 representatives from the above-said political groups.