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STATEMENT BY PRGRSVN'S MADAME BINH AT 120TH
PARIS SESSICN

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(Statement by Minister Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, Chief of the Delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam at the 120th Plenary Session of the Paris Conference on Viet-Nam, July 8, 1971)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last week, at this conference, our delegation presented the Seven-Point Statement of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam, aimed at settling peacefully the South Viet-Nam problem. This is an all-sided peace programme which puts forth the correct, reasonable, logical and realistic solutions to the most vital problems in the military and political spheres in order to end the war and ensure a lasting peace in South Viet-Nam.

As a matter of fact, the U.S. has launched the war of aggression against the South Vietnamese people, therefore, in order to restore peace it ~~must~~, as a matter of course, put an end to this war and bring home all its troops. Prompted by our good-will for peace, we are ready, as we said in the Seven-Point Statement, to guarantee the safe and honourable withdrawal in 1971 of all U.S. troops and those of the other foreign countries in the U.S. camp.

The captured military-men issue, as an aftermath of the war, should reasonably be settled after the war is over. However, we advocate that: In case the U.S. government sets a terminal date for the withdrawal from South Viet-Nam in 1971 of all U.S. forces and those of the other foreign countries in the U.S. camp, the two operations will begin and end on the same date: The afore-said troops withdrawal [sic] in safety, and the release of the totality of the military-men of all parties as well as of the civilians captured during the war, including the American pilots captured in North Viet-Nam.

A cease-fire will be observed between the South Viet-Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces and the armed forces of the United States and other foreign countries in the U.S. camp immediately after an agreement has been reached on the afore-said troops withdrawal.

So, the sooner a terminal date is set by the U.S. government for the total withdrawal of its troops in 1971, the less the losses the U.S. troops will have to suffer, and the earlier the military men of all parties and civilians captured during the war will return to their families.

Another fact has to be taken into account: Everybody knows that the U.S. government has installed the Saigon administration in order to implement its policy of aggression, opposing the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination. The secret documents of the U.S. Defense Department recently published have confirmed this. The U.S. government is using this administration to serve as an instrument to carry out the "Vietnamization" policy, that is to say to prolong and widen the war. On its part, the Nguyen Van Thieu administration is using the troops, policemen and members of the administrative machinery turned out by the United States to repress the people, terrorize the opposition, and organize the fraud elections, etc...

This is why the Seven-Point Statement makes it clear that the U.S. government must really respect the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, put an end to its interference in the internal affairs of South Viet-Nam, cease to support the bellicose group led by Nguyen Van Thieu now in office in Saigon, and stop all maneuvers, including tricks on elections aimed at maintaining the puppet Nguyen Van Thieu.

The U.S. government must let the political, social and religious forces in South Viet-Nam form in Saigon, by various means, a new administration favouring peace, independence, neutrality and democracy. The establishment of such a new administration will be a major step forwards towards peace and national concords. The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam will immediately enter into talks with that administration.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam does not intend to monopolize the power. On the contrary, it advocates a broad concord and lasting operation among the forces and individuals eager to serve the cause of peace and independence for the Fatherland, irrespective of their political tendencies and religions and without taking into account of their past. Prompted by this spirit, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam is ready to reach agreement with the afore-said new administration so as to set up in South Viet-Nam a broad three-segment government of national

concord that will assume its functions during the period between the restoration of peace and the holding of general elections and will organize general elections in South Viet-Nam. A cease-fire will be observed between the South Viet-Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces and the armed forces of the Saigon administration as soon as a government of national concord is formed.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government is also ready to reach agreement on concrete measures, with necessary guarantees, to prohibit all acts of terror, reprisal, and discrimination against persons having collaborated with one or the other party, to ensure every democratic liberty to the people, to release all persons jailed for political reasons, to dissolve all concentration camps and to liquidate all forms of constraint and coercion. It is ready as well to reach agreement on the stabilization and improvement of the people's living conditions and on the measures to be taken to ensure the holding of genuinely free, democratic, and fair general elections in South Viet-Nam.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Seven-Point Statement of July 1st, 1971 manifests the just position, supple attitude and good will for peace of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam.

Over the last week, the entire Vietnamese people in both South and North Viet-Nam have warmly welcomed and supported that statement. Large sections of public opinion all over the world, including in the United States, have also welcomed, and expressed their sympathy with and support for the Seven-Point Statement, considering it as an "important peace programme" which includes "new and positive elements", as well as an initiative making it possible for the Paris Conference on Viet-Nam to move ahead. This high appreciation and warm support testify to the fact that the Seven-Point Statement reflects the South Vietnamese people's profound aspirations for peace, independence, neutrality, democracy and broad national concord. It responds as well to the entire Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights. Moreover, it conforms to the aspirations for peace of the American and world's peoples.

It is obvious that if the U.S. government still clings to its old policy, the question of ending the war and restoring peace can by no means be settled. That is why large sections of public opinion are demanding the U.S. government [sic] to respond positively to the Seven-Point Statement of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam. This is a very favourable opportunity for the U.S. to get out of Viet-Nam in a honourable way so as to build a new relationship between the United States and South Viet-Nam, in the interests of both Viet-Nam and the United States, as well as the common cause of peace.