

Amsterdam  
7/14/71

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SOUTH VIETNAM

DEPUTY PRG DELEGATION HEAD IN PARIS DISCUSSES BASIS OF PRG PLAN

FILE SUBJ.  
DATE 7-11  
SUB-CAT.

Amsterdam DIE WAARHEID in Dutch 14 Jul 71 p 3 X

[G. Schreuder interview with Nguyen Van Tien, deputy head of PRGRSV delegation in Paris]

[Text] On the occasion of the peace initiatives taken by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, the following questions were put by our editor G. Schreuder, to the Paris delegation of this [PRGRSV] government and were answered by Nguyen Van Tien.

[Question] Because of the new peace initiative of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, has a speedy end to the Vietnam war become possible?

[Answer] The seven-point peace initiative confirms our declaration of a general solution to the conflict which was presented on 8 May 1970, and the clarifications thereof. This date was 8 months after the opening of the negotiations. We made logical and sensible proposals. They were intended to put an end to the war, to reach a correct political solution to the Vietnam problem on the basis of the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people in a spirit of national solidarity, in line with the realities of South Vietnam.

Had the American Government reacted seriously to these peace initiatives on our part in the past, the war would have been over a long time ago!

And the Americans could have saved themselves the innumerable difficulties in which they are now bogged down. For they have run aground completely in trying to pursue their neocolonialist goals and supporting the regime of Nguyen Van Thieu in Saigon. This regime is merely an instrument for expanding and intensifying the war.

The question is whether the Nixon administration will face this reality and begin to talk seriously.

[Question] Your diplomatic activity reflects the military and political situation. On what changes in this situation, in Vietnam itself first of all, are your new proposals based?

[Answer] The Nixon administration has run aground in all fields. It is under these circumstances that the peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia who have strengthened their mutual unity have achieved glorious victories. I refer to the victory on National Highway 9, the victory in Quang Tri, in the North, the successes of the patriotic forces fighting in southern Laos, the victory in the battle near Snuol in Cambodia and, very recently, the successes in the large attacks near cities, near Saigon, in Da Nang and the attack on the base in Cam Ranh. These are all fatal blows for Nixon's so-called Vietnamization program. Even our military activity within the large cities is a serious problem for the aggressors. The situation is extremely favorable for us! In the military field, we have the initiative well in hand everywhere.

Americans propaganda still tries to camouflage the military defeat as much as possible and to hide the success of our attacks from the eyes of the world.

According to the Washington POST of 19 July 1971, 73 percent of the American people want the U.S. administration to withdraw all U.S. troops from South Vietnam by the end of this year. The American people are now awakened and are directing hard blows at Nixon's warlike, aggressive policy and are driving the U.S. leading circles in Washington into a critical situation and serious isolation. According to the most recent Gallup poll, Nixon has the least support of the American people, when compared with Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson. The antiwar (?spirit) is also spreading among U.S. political circles, including important personalities such as Clifford, former U.S. defense secretary; Harriman, former U.S. chief negotiator at the Paris conference on Vietnam, and so forth. A rather large number of retired U.S. generals have demanded an end to this costly U.S. war in Vietnam.

The U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff recently exerted pressure on Nixon, demanding that he quickly withdraw from South Vietnam an army whose morale has so seriously deteriorated--according to AFP on 11 July 1971.

In Congress, many U.S. congressmen have submitted many bills, one of which, that of Senator Mansfield of the Democratic Party, demanding the withdrawal of U.S. troops in 9 months, was approved by the U.S. Senate. Commenting on this, the Washington POST wrote: "This approval [words indistinct] that they will condemn Nixon's policy." But what concerns Nixon most is the obvious change of attitude of the House of Representatives, where Nixon had pinned many of his hopes, according to AFP. The broad dissatisfaction, in both the Republican and Democratic parties, with Nixon's policies has strongly increased. Some want to prosecute Nixon while others just want to get rid of him. Recently, 19 members of Nixon's Republican Party held a meeting to advocate a public movement against warlike Nixon. A number of people have quit the Republican and Democratic parties to form a new party, the Peace Party, whose objective is to demand the U.S. administration's withdrawal of all U.S. troops before the end of this year and to demand a cut in the U.S. war expenditures in Indochina.

Faced with the stubborn attitude of Nixon, who does not want to respond to the fair and just peace initiative of the PRGRSV, on 4 July the Alliance of U.S. Peace Forces held a meeting in New York to approve a resolution stating that it will coordinate with the alliance of the American people struggle for peace and justice, in the forthcoming summer and autumn struggle. Attending this meeting were about 2,400 representatives from nine cities, and representatives of 385 worker, student, youth and women's organizations. The meeting decided to launch many struggle movements for the cessation of the war.

The strong development of the struggle movement of the American people against the aggressive war in Vietnam and Indochina clearly proves that Nixon has completely failed in his efforts to fool, appease and repress the American people into approving his criminal Vietnamization plan. It is obvious that the more Nixon stubbornly pursues the aggressive war in Vietnam and Indochina, the higher the antiwar wave will mount in the United States, and the more it will create new and greater troubles in the U.S. society, driving Nixon into serious confusion and isolation.

Therefore, the political struggle in the cities gains in importance very emphatically and unavoidably. The inhabitants of cities still occupied by the Americans and their hirelings have joined a fierce fight against the aggressors and against the war-mongering Thieu government which is corrupt through and through. Despite the bloody oppression by the hirelings, the city dwellers are able to give form to their struggle in an unusually effective manner.

I would also like to point out that frictions are increasing in the ranks of the Americans' accomplices. Daily they take sharper forms, especially the opposition between Nguyen Van Thieu and Nguyen Cao Ky.

[Question] In your proposals you also brought up the question of the American prisoners of war in Vietnam. Their position is being misused by the Nixon propaganda. But this propaganda does not speak about the developments among the American soldiers themselves. What is your view on this?

[Answer] This is also important in judging the situation which lies at the base of our peace proposals. As the war goes on, each day it goes on, the morale of the American soldiers sinks at a tremendous rate. Discipline weakens, instances of disobedience increase, as well as escape into drugs. The latter has taken on massive proportions. Even murders of officers are the order of the day. Moreover, there is an increase in racial tensions within the American fighting forces.

There is an unwillingness and an active opposition among the GI's who are directly acting against the war. They do not want to fight any more!

All this means that the Nixon administration is running into more difficulties, just as is the case also in the United States.

[Question] As for the difficulties in America itself, the world is confronted with the publication of the so-called Pentagon Papers. These establish the origin and the direct causes of the war, that is, American aggression. How does Nixon's policy compare with that of his predecessors, which is exposed in these documents, and how do you see the consequences of the opposition in America toward Nixon's position?

[Answer] In the first place, the Nixon administration is faced with great economic and financial difficulties in the United States itself. These are becoming more serious, as can be seen from the increasing unemployment.

In the United States, as everywhere else, the antiwar movement is developing rapidly. It is gaining in influence also in the so-called "political circles".

Now the publication of the secret Pentagon papers in the American press means that the lies concerning the conduct of the war against Vietnam have been exposed to the American people. And this has happened in such a way that the opposition of the American people to their government has intensified. There is a crisis of confidence which they call "a credibility gap". But this is really an expression of the indignation of an entire nation toward an aggressive and thoroughly perfidious government. This crisis of confidence is nothing but a manifestation of the powerful protest of the American people against the Nixon policy and the prolongation of the war of aggression in Vietnam.



You see, the publication of the Pentagon Papers shows that the government in Washington has lied; that it keeps the truth hidden from the people. And not only have the past administrations lied, but also the Nixon administration. It has not dared tell the people the truth. This dissatisfaction of the American people, this "lack of confidence," applies not only to the past administrations, but above all to the present Nixon administration. We have made our own observations on this subject here at the Paris conference. The conference has fallen into an impasse through Nixon's reactionary policy. The American delegate has done nothing else--during the two full years that have gone by--never done anything else but try to justify the colonialist war of aggression. He has tried to denigrate the struggle of the Vietnamese people for their independence and freedom and he has continued to oppose the legitimate wishes of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam.

While he tried to maintain this obstinate position, he has harped increasingly on the question of American prisoners of war, but he has denied American responsibility on the fundamental questions. This is a completely irresponsible position which is being condemned by world opinion and public opinion in America itself.

[Question] And what meaning do your proposals have for the continuation of the Paris conference?

[Answer] From all points of view the situation in which these proposals are made is difficult for the USA. And from all points of view the situation is very favorable for the struggle of the Vietnamese people.

In connection with all this, our revolutionary government has taken a new initiative. Thus, we once more show our readiness to bring the conference out of the impasse and to open the way for a peaceful settlement in the interest of the peoples of Vietnam and America, in the interest of peace in Indochina, in Southeast Asia and in the world. All who cherish justice, peace and freedom in the world can cheer these proposals and support them. They are also welcomed by the American people.

[Question] As for the specific content of the proposals, what are the main points?

[Answer] First, the establishment of a date of departure, a date for the withdrawal of all American troops. On this point brand new elements have been brought in. The text says: "In the event that the American government establishes a deadline for the withdrawal from South Vietnam in 1971 of all the American troops and the other foreign troops of the American camp, the parties agree simultaneously to the following:

A. Safe withdrawal from South Vietnam of the American and other foreign troops of the American camp;

B. Freeing of all military personnel of all parties and of civilians arrested during the war (including American pilots detained in North Vietnam) in order to enable these people to return home."

If this agreement is reached, a cease-fire will follow.

This proposal is new, it allows the U.S. Government to fix a date for withdrawal in 1971, and then we let the prisoners of war go. Mister Nixon has so often spoken about the prisoners of war; he has so often said he was concerned about their fate. So, voila, here is the opportunity to pass from words to actions. Let him set a date and then he can still have the captive soldiers and pilots back home this year!

And if the American government does not react to this seriously, it means that what they have always said about their prisoners of war was pure propaganda.

[Question] The second point concerns political power in South Vietnam. What should be the character and the composition of a government to be formed in Saigon?

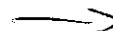
[Answer] The Americans contend that they want to respect the right to self-determination. But then they must put an end to their interference in South Vietnam. They must stop supporting the warmongering group led by Nguyen Van Thieu; they must stop all manoeuvres including the fraud concerning the so-called election of the hireling Nguyen Van Thieu. We have spoken about the setting up of a government in Saigon which would strive for peace, independence and neutrality, and we are prepared to start direct negotiations with such a government in order to settle the political questions of South Vietnam. We are prepared to talk with a new government in Saigon without Nguyen Van Thieu, in order to come to a broad government of national unity, which must then organize the elections in South Vietnam. We say: If the Americans speak about self-determination and respect for independence, let them take this point seriously.

[Question] What will be the consequences if the Nixon administration perseveres in its refusal to draw conclusions from the present situation? How do you gauge the American reactions so far to your proposals?

[Answer] About two weeks have gone by since they were presented. But the USA has not yet answered. The head of the American delegation, Mr David Bruce, has avoided giving an answer, but he came up with manoeuvres designed to avoid the questions of principle. He tried to discuss the form in which the meetings should take place, which is of no importance whatsoever. What is important is whether they are willing to get serious; and that means setting a withdrawal date. They cannot escape this by bringing up questions of procedure.

If no real answer is forthcoming, then it means Nixon attaches no importance to ending the war, no importance any more to the fate of the prisoners of war and no importance to "disengagement"; it means, therefore, that he wants to continue the war in Vietnam and in all Indochina--that all his past statements were pure lies--and naturally: /Then we continue to fight to victory, which will come irrevocably!/ [Passage within virgules appears in boldface] in this case, the Nixon administration once again assumes full responsibility.

And we have sufficient determination. For we are sure of our victory, we are sure of our unity and our strength. There can be no misunderstanding about this. We have given them enormous defeats--more can follow still!



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There are two possibilities: A. The Nixon administration refuses to talk seriously and continues the war, B. the Nixon administration sets a deadline in 1971 for the withdrawal of all troops. Obviously, we desire the second alternative. But we are not afraid of the first. If they choose the first alternative, the consequences will soon follow; but they will be beaten.

[Question] The aggressors have constantly put their confidence in their means of mass destruction, the large-scale bombings, the modern weapons, their technology; they have used chemical weapons and threatened to use nuclear weapons, and their entire way of waging the war is based on this gigantic armament. Former Secretary Dean Rusk, commenting on the Pentagon Papers, had to admit that they had made a mistake, that they had miscalculated. Why has this policy of using weapons of mass destruction failed?

[Answer] It is true that they have a large, formidable armament, the most powerful of all the imperialists. It is also true that we are a small people. But if a people is united and in this unity is completely determined, firmly resolved to win its freedom at any cost, then nothing can prevail against it.

There is no power on earth that can prevail against this. If the people fight with one spirit and one purpose, there is no way to impose colonialist domination on them and subject them. Therefore the Americans, despite their formidable power, despite their means for mass murder, despite all their modern weapons and their perverse use of them, will never be able to oppress our people. The fact of their defeats lies there. If they continue, they will suffer even more defeats. We can tame the aggressors and we are sure to win our freedom. Their defeats show that we have a just cause, a cause which enjoys the support and sympathy of all progressive people all over the world. Against this solidarity, which is also a fact in the Netherlands, they cannot prevail.

[Question] Does the money and goods collected always reach the recipients in faraway South Vietnam?

[Answer] The aid is undoubtedly effective. In the liberated regions, much effective aid has been received also from the Netherlands, and has been immediately in the struggle and for necessary provisions such as the improvement of the health care. I immediately take this opportunity to sincerely thank, through DIE WAARHEID, all Dutchmen who fight with our people, and to express the hope that the Dutch people will continue to support us in an effective way. For we have shown our good will and our readiness to reach a correct political solution, but the Nixon administration remains very obstinate. It is trying by all possible means to avoid a serious answer and to continue the war one way or the other.

We surely have no illusions about the Nixon administration! Therefore, we ask all peoples to keep supporting our struggle continuously, until complete victory.

LIBERATION RADIO HAILS 29-30 JULY GENERAL STRIKE

Liberation Radio [Clandestine] in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 1400 GMT 29 Jul 71 S

[Text] According to Saigon sources, as of this morning, 29 July, a 2-day general strike of about 30,000 workers in 26 trade unions in Saigon-Gia Dinh is being waged to demand that the Thieu clique reduce income taxes and stop withholding taxes from salaries.