

IV. 16 Jul 71

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NORTH VIETNAM
DATE SUB-CAT

7-71

Text of Xuan Thuy Statement

[Following is English text of DRV opening statement by Xuan Thuy at 121st plenary session of Paris meetings, July 15, 1971 as released to press by Vietnamese Communists]

Ladies and gentlemen,

The July 1st, 1971, seven-point peace plan of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam is aimed at making the Paris conference on Viet Nam progress and at rapidly reaching a peaceful settlement of the Vietnam problem. The Nixon administration should have given a positive response. However, in his July 6 statement, Mr. Nixon reaffirmed his old erroneous policy, saying that the United States "was actively participating in negotiations just as it was actively participating in the programme of 'Vietnamization', regardless of the results of negotiations". How can one seriously negotiate while pursuing the "Vietnamization" of the war? Because "Vietnamization" brings about the prolongation and expansion of the war, it means the seeking of a military victory so as to negotiate from a position of strength. It means also the deliberate maintenance in office of the U.S.-established Nguyen Van Thieu administration, which is the greatest obstacle to the progress of the Paris conference.

This statement of Mr. Nixon's further proves that his administration talks peace but makes war. In fact, since early July, the United States has continuously launched barbarous B-52 bombing raids in South Viet Nam and supported Saigon troops in many sweep operations, at the same time it pursued air attacks against many populous regions of North Viet Nam, particularly those near the 17th Parallel, thus violating its engagement to cease all encroachments on the sovereignty and security of the DRVN in Laos.

The United States and its agents have opened nibbling offensives against the Plain of Jars and many other areas in southern Laos controlled by the Lao Patriotic Front. In Cambodia, the United States still supported and commanded Saigon troops in continuing operations of aggression, particularly in the Parrot Beak region.

The Nixon administration often claims that the other side makes propaganda. However, for propaganda purposes, it is distorting the good will of the PRG and of the DRVN Government to minimize the important significance of the seven-point peace plan that is very correct, logical, and reasonable and that has won approval and support all over the world. Nevertheless, it can in no way tarnish the just cause of the resisting Vietnamese people.

The seven-point peace plan explicitly writes: in case the U.S. Government sets a deadline for the total withdrawal from South Viet Nam in 1971 of its forces and those of the other foreign countries in the U.S. camp, the two following operations will begin on the same date and be achieved on the same date: the withdrawal in safety of all the above-mentioned troops and the release of the militarymen of all parties and civilians captured during the war, including American pilots taken captive in North Viet Nam. This is evidently an expression of good will because such a proposal will enable the United States to get out of the Viet Nam war in safety and honour. It will also solve the question of military and civilian captives, in a humanitarian spirit and in response to the concern of the American people in this connection.

The Nixon administration often states that it wanted a prompt release of American prisoners of war, that it would set a terminal date for the total withdrawal of U.S. forces when the date for the release of prisoners was known. The seven points of the PRG of the RSVN have now given a clear answer to that question. If Mr Nixon does not set a deadline for the total withdrawal in 1971 of U.S. forces, the American people and the families of American servicemen will come to the conclusion that the U.S. Government has deceived them. It is evident that every American new casualty or new prisoner on the Vietnam battlefield will only serve immoral objectives, in contradiction with the interests of the United States and of the American people.

The origin of the war in Viet Nam stems from the U.S. policy of intervention and aggression, the introduction into South Viet Nam of troops of the United States and other foreign countries in the U.S. camp, and the establishment of a puppet administration as an instrument of U.S. neo-colonialism. In order to radically settle the problem and to ensure a lasting peace, the United States should pull out of South Viet Nam the totality of its forces and those of the other foreign countries in the U.S. camp, stop its intervention and aggression, respect the South Viet Nam people's right to self-determination, cease backing the warlike ruling group headed by Nguyen Van Thieu, and let the South Viet Nam people settle themselves their own affairs in a spirit of broad national concord. Otherwise, how can the war be ended and how can the United States extricate itself from the difficulties caused by its long standing involvement in the Viet Nam problem, if Mr Nixon persists in his policy of "Vietnamization" of war, if he refuses to stop supporting the bellicose ruling group headed by Nguyen Van Thieu? The PRG of the RSVN and the Government of the DRVN have shown their good will. It is now up to the Nixon administration to choose the path of peace or to continue the war, to let American servicemen promptly and safely return home or to prolong the list of American casualties and prisoners.

PHAM VAN DONG ATTENDS FRENCH RECEPTION

Paris AFP in English 1131 GMT 15 Jul 71 C--FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Hanoi, 15 Jul (AFP)--by Joel Henri--Premier Pham Van Dong attended a national day reception held at the French general delegation here last night, in a move regarded by diplomats as signifying an improvement in relations between Hanoi and Paris.

At last year's reception, the North Vietnamese Government was represented only by the minister of trade.

Recent French official statements welcoming the peace initiatives of the South Vietnam Provisional Revolutionary Government have contributed to recreating a good atmosphere between the two countries. All Hanoi newspapers reproduced French Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann's statement that the new P.R.G. seven point peace plan was an occasion that the United States should seize.

LE DUC THO INTERVIEW WITH LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR

Paris LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR in French 12-18 Jul 71 pp 22-23 L--FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Philippe Devillers and Jean Lacoutre interview with Le Duc Tho, under the heading "A High-Ranking Leader of North Vietnam Reveals to LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR the Details of the Peace Offensive"--first two paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] Le Duc Tho, "special adviser" to the DRV delegation, has returned to Paris after a 1-year absence, on the eve of Madame Nguyen Thi Binh's statement which has

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