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PHAN DAN'S NGUOI BINH LUAN URGES U.S. ACCEPTANCE OF 7 POINTS

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[PHAN DAN 25 July Nguoi Binh Luan--Commentator--article: "The Seven Points Are a Way Out for the Americans"]

[Text] More than 3 weeks ago the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam set forth its seven-point peace initiative. This initiative has won the approval and support of broad public opinion in the cities of South Vietnam, the United States, and the world at large. However, the U.S. Government has not yet given a positive response to that correct, fair and reasonable initiative.

On 6 July Nixon elusively claimed that the United States was "actively participating in negotiations." The U.S. representative at the Paris conference continues to make roundabout contentions in an attempt to evade a concrete response. These allegations and other tricks of the Nixon administration are aimed at buying time, deceiving public opinion, and blurring the Vietnamese people's justice-radiating seven points.

The whole world knows what a bellyache the U.S. Government has made about the "prisoners of war" issue. On 29 April 1971 Nixon declared: "We--the U.S.--will be there--South Vietnam--as long as they have any--American--prisoners in North Vietnam," and the setting of a date for the total withdrawal of U.S. forces from South Vietnam "will have to be delayed until we get a commitment to release our American prisoners."

These statements clearly mean that if we agree to release all captured American servicemen, the United States will immediately set the date for the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops. There can be no other interpretation.

Concerning this problem, the PRGRSV's initiative specifies in its first point: "If the U.S. Government sets a terminal date for the withdrawal from South Vietnam in 1971 of the totality of U.S. forces and those of the other foreign countries in the U.S. camp, the parties will at the same time agree on the modalities:

"A) Of the withdrawal in safety from South Vietnam of the totality of U.S. forces and those of the other foreign countries in the U.S. camp,

"B) Of the release of the totality of militarymen of all parties and of the civilians captured in the war including American pilots captured in North Vietnam.

"These two operations will begin on the same date and will end on the same date."

This is a complete answer to Nixon's statement on the release of "POW's" and the withdrawal of U.S. troops. Everyone sees that the United States has no further pretext for refusing to set a date for complete troop withdrawal. Yet Nixon keeps turning a deaf ear, willing as he is to invite upon himself public exposure as a man who is trying to prolong his war of aggression by means of the "POW" issue.

Concerning the other basic problem--power in South Vietnam--the seven-point peace initiative demands that the United States cease backing the bellicose group headed by Nguyen Van Thieu so that a new administration favouring peace, independence, neutrality and democracy may be formed in South Vietnam. The PRGRSV will immediately enter into talks with that administration on the formation of a broad three-segment government of national concord that will assume its functions during the period that begins with the restoration of peace and the holding of genuinely free, democratic, and fair general elections in South Vietnam.

The Lao people's just struggle, which has won the sympathy and support of the Indochinese peoples and the world's peoples as a whole, has recorded one great victory after another, exploding the myth about the so-called "U.S. air power," wiping out an important part of the enemy live force including Vientiane puppet troops, driving the enemy further into passivity and inflicting a serious initial defeat on the "Nixon doctrine."

The successful struggles of the Lao, Vietnamese and Khmer peoples have testified to the fact that in our times, a nation, though small but united and determined to struggle to win back the right of deciding their own destiny, can certainly defeat the aggression by any enemy, however powerful and cruel.

While waging a struggle against all new aggressive schemes and war-seeking acts of the U.S. imperialists, the people and the Lao Patriotic Front have persisted in their good will and desire for a peaceful settlement of the Lao problem. The Lao problem is the problem of intervention and aggression by the U.S. imperialists, the sabotage of the Geneva agreements and the bombing of the Lao territory by the U.S. That is why, the U.S. must stop its intervention and aggression in Laos, strictly respect the 1962 Geneva agreements on Laos, and discontinue its bombing of the Lao territory completely and unconditionally.

The Lao issue must be settled by the Lao parties concerned on the basis of the Geneva agreements on Laos and in accordance with the realities of the present situation in Laos. The U.S. imperialists and their quislings must seriously respond to the new peace proposal of June 22, 1971 of the Lao Patriotic Front, aimed at materialising a ceasefire throughout the country including the ending of U.S. aerial bombardments; thereafter the Lao parties concerned would meet and settle the Lao problem peacefully.

If the Nixon administration recklessly continues to escalate the war in Laos, to increase air raids and commit crimes against the Lao population, the Lao Patriotic Forces and people will resolutely carry on their just struggle, dealing them more stinging blows. The U.S. and its henchmen must bear full responsibility for all consequences of their acts.

The LFF Central Committee earnestly calls upon the governments of the signatories to the 1962 Geneva agreements on Laos, the international democratic organizations, and the peace- and justice-loving people the world over, including the American people, to support the Lao people's just struggle, and demand that the U.S. imperialists and their flunkies strictly respect the Geneva agreements on Laos and discontinue their intervention and aggression in Laos. First and foremost, they must stop their war escalation in Laos, completely and unconditionally end their bombing of the Lao territory, and let the Laotians settle themselves their internal affairs without U.S. interference.

In the light of the joint declaration of the Indochinese peoples' summit conference, and enjoying the approval and support of the peace- and justice-loving people all over the world, the Lao people, millions as one man, will overcome all difficulties and make every sacrifice, and shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal Vietnamese and Khmer peoples they will step up the struggle to defeat the U.S. aggressors, and build a genuinely peaceful independent, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos, contributing to making the Indochinese Peninsula a really peaceful and independent region.

The general consensus is that the above-described way of settling the problem of power in South Vietnam is correct, conforms to the actual situation, and guarantees democracy and equity.

Nixon keeps touting his "respect for the right to self-determination" of the South Vietnamese people, but he stubbornly demands that the South Vietnamese people bow to domination by the traitor Nguyen Van Thieu, who, together with his henchmen, is hectically arranging fraudulent elections in a bid to keep this goddamned traitor as "legal president".

The negative attitude of the U.S. Government toward the seven-point peace initiative, the recent stepping up of military activities in South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos by the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys, and the U.S. raids on a number of densely populated areas of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, once again lay bare the Nixon administration's obdurate stand and policy of colonialist aggression in Vietnam and Indochina.

Nixon's stubborn attitude on the settlement of the Vietnam question has made the U.S. Government ever more isolated. The Vietnamization plan has earned Nixon heavy setbacks in northern Quang Tri and the high plateaux in South Vietnam, in the Route 9-southern Laos area and the Bolovens high plateaux in Laos, in Snuol and eastern Cambodia.

The Nixon administration still has not drawn any necessary lesson. It keeps seeking a "military victory" and deceiving public opinion. How foolish it is!

~~The PRGRSV's recent seven-point peace initiative propounded a fair and reasonable way of settling the South Vietnam issue on the principle of guaranteeing the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights. This initiative clearly expresses the correct and just stand, serious attitude and good will of the PRGRSV and people of South Vietnam. It reflects the South Vietnamese people's deep aspirations and conforms to the interests of the political, social and religious forces which stand for peace, independence, neutrality and democracy of South Vietnam. It meets the American people's desire for an end to the dirty war of aggression pursued by the U.S. Government in South Vietnam, for the release of captured U.S. servicemen and the withdrawal in safety of U.S. troops from South Vietnam. It conforms to the aspirations of the people around the world for independence, peace and justice.~~

~~For these very reasons, the seven points have won warm and wide approval in the world. Many governments have issued statements saying that these seven points constitute a good opportunity to end the war and move the Paris conference off dead center and demanding a positive response from the United States. The press in many countries has recalled Nixon's statements, and stressed that the U.S. Government has no legitimate reason to balk at this seven-point offer.~~

In the United States, this initiative has received particular attention, and enjoyed support from many congressmen and major newspapers. Senator Edmund Muskie said he regarded the seven points as the best proposal so far for ending the war. The New York TIMES pointed out in an editorial that the seven-point initiative has given the United States an opportunity for safely getting U.S. troops and POW's out of a disaster in Southeast Asia.

By beating around the bush, Nixon is running counter to reason and to the demands of the American people and the world public. The seven-point initiative shows a clear way out for the United States, yet Nixon continues to plunge into the tunnel. Our people loudly and clearly say to Nixon: If he really wants to get out of his losing posture and quagmire in Vietnam in a safe and honourable way then he should accept the seven-point initiative. That is the only way out for him.

The Vietnamese people are the master of their own destiny. We want the war ended, the South Vietnam problem settled correctly. Peace will come only when the United States renounces its aggressive scheme and respects our people's right to self-determination. Our people will go on fighting as long as the United States carries on its aggression. For more than a decade, U.S. imperialism has suffered bitter defeats in Vietnam. We are ready to inflict on it still heavier defeats. No amount of war crimes and crafty schemes can save the U.S. aggressors or deflate the determination of our people to persevere in and step up their war of resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, till complete victory.

TRANSPORTATION TASK IN MOUNTAINOUS AREAS DISCUSSED

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[Text] In light of the resolution of the 19th party Central Executive Committee conference, the Communications and Transportation Branch recently held a seminar to discuss the communications and transportation task in mountainous rural areas in order to satisfactorily develop agricultural production and improve the livelihood of the minority nationalities.

Persons attending the seminar listened to reports on the development of communications and transportation in mountainous rural areas, experiences in mobilizing compatriots of minority nationalities to build new roads in Cao Bang Province, using horses for transportation on hilly lands in Ha Giang Province, serving the campaign to motivate the people to settle in fixed areas and to engage in fixed cultivation in Hoa Binh Province, and building (?suspension) bridges in Lai Chau Province.

The seminar clearly pointed out the important role of mountainous areas in the development of a comprehensive agriculture and in the strengthening of national defense in the coming years. The trend for development is, first of all, to concentrate on continuing to enlarge the communications and transportation network. The communications link is a key link in solving the problem of transporting goods and materials to the nationalities. It is necessary to use the "three principles" slogan--the people's work, local raw materials, and universal technology--along with being appropriately helped by the state.

It is necessary to pay attention to using transportation means such as animal-drawn wagons, wagons with wooden or rubber wheels, and horses, along with hurriedly studying the possibility of using wagons that can transport between 4 and 6 quintals and are suited to mountainous areas and hurriedly studying and implementing regulations and policies on horse-drawn wagons in the midlands and highlands.