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SANKEI (Full)

September 14, 1972 PS

South Vietnamese Provisional Revolutionary Government's Statement Watched with Attention

The South Vietnamese Provisional Revolutionary Government on the 11th issued an "important statement" on peace in Vietnam. We would like to note the point that the basic policy line thereof is not to change the hitherto-made seven-point proposal and the supplementary explanation of the two-point proposal, but the Revolutionary Government showed a flexible attitude, admitting realities.

The first point is that the Revolutionary Government clearly admitted that there exist "two regimes and two armies in South Vietnam" and asserted that both parties should discuss mutually the political future of South Vietnam. The North Vietnamese side has been so far taking the stance of not recognizing formally the Saigon Government, regarding it as a puppet government of the US and, on political issues, it has been taking the attitude that the US should also conduct negotiations with the Revolutionary Government. As against this, the US has been asserting that, apart from military issues, political issues should be entrusted to talks to be held between fellow Vietnamese, that is to say, between the Saigon Government and the Revolutionary Government. Accordingly, as to this point, it is possible to interpret that the North Vietnamese side has admitted the US side's assertions in principle.

The second point is that, in regard to the selection of representatives of third forces, who will join a "national concord government," the Revolutionary Government maintains that it will decide this selection upon consultation with the Saigon Government excluding President THIEU. However, the US side has rejected the North Vietnamese side's proposal, from its judgment that the third forces are followers of the Liberation Front and the concord government will become a communist government. However, if representatives of third forces come to be nominated through consultations between both parties, is it not that the US side's apprehension will come to disappear? It is said that there are some persons in Washington who point out that the North Vietnamese side will reject persons, who have been recommended by the Saigon Government side in selecting the third forces, that is to say, there is the possibility that the North Vietnamese side will exercise its own veto power. If so, it comes to the fact that the Saigon Government's side should also have veto power and it will be even. It will be all right if both parties nominate the same number of representatives of third forces, respectively, and it will not come about that the US will be forced to form a communist government.

The third point is that it was not stated that President THIEU should resign his post immediately. It can be interpreted that this has an implication that it will be all right if the resignation of THIEU is realized by the time both parties discuss the composition of the concord government. In regard to the resignation of President THIEU, as the US side also has recognized it in principle, the problem is the timing thereof.

The fourth point is that the Revolutionary Government merely maintained that the US Forces should withdraw "promptly" without designating the time for the US Forces' complete withdrawal. At the present time when it was decided that the withdrawal of 95% of the US Forces will be completed by the end of November, this problem is no more than a secondary problem for the North Vietnamese side. The problem probably lies in the point as to when the US will stop its support for THIEU.

In viewing the situation in such a way, it can be said that the Revolutionary Government's statement is a statement which allowed the US side to accept the North Vietnamese side's proposals more easily. Of course, even if there are still difficult problems, which will require time, such as the establishment of a concord government and election administration, it is conceivable that it is possible to reach an agreement in outline through mutual concessions on the part of both the US and North Vietnam. We would like to expect that on this occasion, President NIXON will evaluate the North Vietnamese side's flexible attitude in a forward-looking manner and realize peace in Vietnam by the time of the Presidential elections, as pledged.

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ASAHI (Full)

September 14, 1972

Should Hold Secret Negotiations Based on Revolutionary Government Plan

The South Vietnamese Provisional Revolutionary Government made a new proposal on the 11th concerning the composition of a new South Vietnamese Government, which will cope with settlement of the War, and the way that it should be. The Revolutionary Government side calls the new government the people's concord government. In other words, it is an election-control Cabinet or a termination-of-the-war Government, which aims at making preparations and carrying out a general election for establishment of the "final Government", which will restore peace and govern over all South Vietnam land.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government was planning in its seven-point proposals made in July of last year to place one cushion till the present Saigon Government is switched over to the people's concord government and to establish a "new government, which supports peace, independence, neutrality and democracy." However, the Provisional Revolutionary Government revised it in additional two-point proposals made in February this year to omit the procedure of establishing an interim government and to switch over the present Saigon Government to the people's concord government immediately after improvement of the constitution of the present Saigon Government. The recent new proposal clarified some ambiguous points of the additional two-point proposals, and at the same time, revised the proposals by accepting the advocacy by the US so that the US side will be able to accept them easily.

Saigon. However, is it not that it will probably become difficult for President NIXON to oppose it to the last, as the Revolutionary Government side has shown an elastic line in such a way? Of course, concerning the course and the contents of "equality", it may be hard to convince only with this. However, they should probably be boiled down through the negotiations between the Revolutionary Government and the Saigon Government.

Another point, in which we are interested, is that the Saigon Government and the Provisional Revolutionary Government are proposed to hold negotiations to select the third political forces, which will form the people's concord government.

This point was not clarified in the hitherto Revolutionary Government proposals. It is all right that the third forces (neutral forces) will be added to the people's concord government. However, it was not clarified with what the standard for neutrality should be decided or who will judge it. Therefore, the US earnestly pursued this point. The new proposal suggested that the option should be made through consultations between the Saigon Government and the Revolutionary Government.

Concerning the political problem (question of the reins of the Government in South Vietnam), the formula of negotiations between the organizations concerned aiming at settling it through the negotiations between the Revolutionary Government and the Saigon Government was clearly proposed in the seven-point proposals, which the Revolutionary Government side proposed earlier. However, the new proposal stressed it further. The Saigon Government rejected the proposal at once. However, isn't it disadvantageous for the Saigon Government to take such a posture as to be taken as if it were hesitating to hold direct negotiations with the Revolutionary Government side while advocating orally self-determination by the people?

The problem of what structure of power or political structure they should establish in South Vietnam was the core of the Vietnam War. Therefore, as long as there are two Governments, the Saigon and Provisional Revolutionary Government, in South Vietnam, how they should peacefully carry out the switching over of such things to the new Government has become a task for the present. The new proposal by the Revolutionary Government seems to have responded to this task.

It can be said that the focal point of the war situation has been placed on how long Saigon will be able to put up with offensives by the North Vietnamese troops and Liberation Forces and how long Hanoi will be able to support battles in the South amidst the blockade and bombing by the US Forces. However, the greatest problem is probably the move of the Saigon Government.

It is said that the starting of bombing of the North seven years ago was conducted to prevent collapse of the Saigon Government. However, according to a book "The US and the USSR -- World to Change" written by HARRIMAN, the Saigon Government resisted the current of peace all the time. The US war policy, which aimed at defending the Saigon Government by using more than two times as many bombs as were dropped during the Second World War, is now pressed to be reviewed. We expect that more earnest secret negotiations will be resumed in Paris, with the new proposal as a clue.

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