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## THIEU REMARKS ON VIETNAM NEGOTIATIONS REPORTED

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[Report by Nguyen Thai on President Nguyen Van Thieu's meeting with political party delegates and RVN officials and his stand on negotiations and peace]

[Text] RVN President Nguyen Van Thieu just disclosed to the leaders of various political parties the North Vietnamese communists' true military and political demands for solving the Vietnam war, the North Vietnamese communists' present military offensive schemes in coordination with McGovern's election campaign, the North Vietnamese communists' tricks aimed at "gaining the favors" of Nixon, and the RVN's need to support not only Nixon's reelection but also the Republican Party to gain a majority in the U.S. Congress.

Within the framework of the program to learn the views of delegates from various circles, last Saturday morning President Thieu invited the leaders of various political parties to the Independence Palace to explain the situation in negotiations and the information related to the Vietnam solution.

The meeting lasted from 1115 to 1305 with the participation of 12 delegates from political parties of the people's front against communist aggression. On the government side, besides President Thieu, there were Premier Khiem, Deputy Premier Nguyen Luu Vien, Information Minister Truong Buu Dien, and President Thieu's political assistant Tran Van An.

At the meeting President Thieu disclosed to the delegates from political parties what he said he has never disclosed to anyone. He cited the conditions put forth by the North Vietnamese communists for a cease-fire: to force the Americans to withdraw completely, to stop their bombings, to stop their blockade, and to stop providing South Vietnam with all kinds of support. Meanwhile, the North Vietnamese communists would seize the opportunity to restore their potential so as to strike the last blow.

In the political field President Thieu also disclosed the North Vietnamese communists' conditions: that the entire southern administration resign, not just "Mr Thieu" individually; the formation of a three-segment government from the central level to the infrastructure level, including the Saigon government and the "Viet Cong government," and that this government exist for approximately 6 months and after that a general election be held. The North Vietnamese communists' intention definitely is to abrogate the constitution and to draft a new constitution, such as the constitution of the fourth French Republic, so as to create political disturbances aimed at seizing power. President Thieu also disclosed another detail: the communists also demand the elimination of such organs as the national police and the Rural Construction Organization, demand freedom and democracy, and the return of all people to their native lands, meaning that there will be no war refugee problem.

President Thieu stated that the reason why the North Vietnamese communists demand a cease-fire is that approximately 70 percent of their war potential has been lost, a cease-fire would benefit them, and would give them time to strengthen their forces and, after being a member of a three-segment government for 6 months, to resume the war with a deadly blow.

President Thieu said that "the North Vietnamese communists have had many of their flags made and kept on hand in secret areas," and that "the North Vietnamese communists would disseminate and fly them after the issuance of a cease-fire order."

To cope with the North Vietnamese communists, President Thieu stated: In addition to the flag-drawing campaign which was conducted some time ago, we will have many flags made. President Thieu also demanded that on the same occasion the political parties have flags available so as to fly them when necessary.

Recalling the North Vietnamese communists' setbacks in carrying out their general offensive scheme, President Thieu stressed that the North Vietnamese communists launched their general offensive to support McGovern in winning the U.S. presidential election, to achieve the formation of a coalition government, and to invade South Vietnam shortly after this.

However, their scheme was a complete failure. The reason for this failure was cited by President Nguyen Van Thieu: in the United States, candidate McGovern will surely lose the election.

In Vietnam the communists have been heavily defeated on the battlefield. Furthermore, they have made an erroneous calculation. They believed President Nixon would "lay a light hand" on them, just as former President Johnson did back in 1968. But when the communists found that President Nixon would surely win the election, they turned to exploit this election by proposing that they were prepared for a cease-fire prior to 7 November 1972 in order to "gain the favor" of Nixon in the negotiations that followed.

President Thieu also repeated the four-level negotiating line which he had announced during his talk with the professors at the faculty of medicine earlier. According to this line, the negotiations will be conducted among the United States, the Soviet Union, and Red China at the first level; among the Indochinese countries at the second level; between North and South Vietnam at the third level; and between the South Vietnamese Government and the Viet Cong at the last level.

According to President Thieu, perhaps the biggest difficulties during his life as a president often came at election time in the United States.

Earlier, during the time of the U.S. presidential elections in 1968, President Thieu had shown grave concern. Now he considered that his difficulties stemmed from the fact that he must not only seek to help President Nixon win the election but must also assist President Nixon in getting many seats in the U.S. Congress, and that this assistance would have a great effect on a Vietnam solution. However, President Thieu pledged that "he would never agree to sacrifice the nation's common interests, no matter what the circumstance." In case of danger President Thieu would call on the entire people to support his line.

Referring to the role played by Dr Kissinger, who is now in Saigon, President Thieu stated that "he was only playing the role of a go-between, running back and forth."

## THIEU BRIEFS RVN LEADERS ON SITUATION

Saigon SONG THAN in Vietnamese 24 Oct 72 p 1 S

[Text] It was reported that after Mr Kissinger left Saigon on the morning of 23 October President Nguyen Van Thieu summoned to the Independence Palace the commanders of military regions, divisions, armed services and branches, and police and rural reconstruction and pacification officials throughout the country to explain to them the situation in the country and to give them instructions. The meeting took place at 1000 on 23 October.

## LOCAL LEADERS REJECT 'IMPOSED' POLITICAL SOLUTION

Saigon Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 23 Oct 72 S

[Text] The chairmen of the prefectural, provincial and city councils throughout the country met in Saigon yesterday to discuss the national situation. These council chairmen issued the following resolution:

In the seminar held in Saigon on 23 October 1972, the chairmen of the prefectural, provincial and city councils throughout the country maintained that the war, which has destroyed the country for nearly 20 years, has been waged by the North Vietnamese communists with international communist support in an effort to annex the RVN and other nations in Indochina. The RVN's armed forces and people have perseveringly fought communist aggression to protect their independence, territorial integrity and constitutional and legal democratic system. Because the North Vietnamese communists have sustained disastrous defeats on all battlefields, they have changed their direction and colluded with the colonialists and the country-selling lackeys in plotting a deceitful political solution in an attempt to achieve what they cannot attain by a military solution.

It has been decided:

1. To firmly oppose all schemes to impose a prefabricated political solution encroaching on the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination.
2. To firmly reject all forms of coalition with the communists, no matter how skillfully these may be concealed.
3. To accept only a political solution adopted by the South Vietnamese people themselves on the basis of national self-determination.

Besides, the chairmen of the prefectural, provincial and city councils also decided to convene a nationwide council members' congress in the near future to discuss the present national situation.

## SAIGON RADIO ON 'DIFFICULTIES' IN ACHIEVING PEACE

Saigon Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 23 Oct 72 S

[Commentary]

[Text] In the wake of the contacts that have taken place over the past week in Saigon among circles responsible for war or peace, rumors and speculations are rampant and, significantly, the rumors have not been officially denied.