

SONG THAN
24.72

IV. 24 Oct 72

L 6

SOUTH VIETNAM

PS	7
FILE	SUBJ
DATE	SUB-CAT

10-23

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.

This, however, is just the outward appearance of developments. In fact, a criterion for verifying all news reports and a yardstick for evaluating these speculations is the RVN Government's vigorous and unchanged definition of our peace stand. We have consistently advanced peace initiatives based on the balance of forces and, especially, on the South Vietnamese people's national right to self-determination.

Furthermore, not only the Republic of Vietnam but Laos and Cambodia as well are subjected to the North Vietnamese communists' war of aggression. Therefore, according to our thorough and comprehensive stand for ending the war, a cease-fire, if any, must simultaneously go into effect throughout Indochina, must be internationally supervised and must insure that the North Vietnamese communists withdraw all their expeditionary troops to the north. This is what the North Vietnamese communist enemy's duty consists of. Regarding other issues, such as South Vietnam's postwar political future, these fall completely within the South Vietnamese people's jurisdiction. In fact, after basic explanations have been given people still worry and want to know what really happened at the high-level meetings in Saigon last week.

We are seeking peace by trying to end this war of aggression waged by the North Vietnamese communists and by compelling them to stay out of all private and unyieldable problems of South Vietnam. This quest for peace is being carried out actively and with difficulty. The general difficulty is that our efforts are being made at a time when the U.S. Government and people's support for the Vietnamese people's and armed forces' just struggle against communist aggression is under pressure by the U.S. presidential election. This election is (more or less) causing trials in this war for the close, profound relationship between the United States, which is playing the role as our biggest ally, and the Republic of Vietnam, which is conducting an anticommunist struggle for its own survival and that of other nations.

Although the policy of giving absolute support to the Republic of Vietnam's anti-communist struggle has been clearly determined, because of the subtlety of the U.S. presidential election, this policy is subject to trials. Between now and the election more pressure will be applied by President Nixon's political opponent and our communist opponent. If we flinch or waver in the last mile, we will easily find that this pressure is too much for us.

Another difficulty is the communists' bellicose, stubborn nature. In reality, being punished severely by our armed forces, communist North Vietnam's aggressive expeditionary army has lost more than half its numerical strength and is crippled. Meanwhile North Vietnam, the rear base for this army, is now completely devastated and exhausted as a result of the communists' misadventure.

However, it is difficult for communist North Vietnam to admit the actual deterioration of its forces. Ho Chi Minh pledged to his masters Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai that North Vietnam would fight to the last man to take over South Vietnam. But it is difficult and useless to force the old communist leaders in North Vietnam to admit their crime of exterminating their own manpower while they have not yet sacrificed the last North Vietnamese soldier. Only by persistently struggling until final victory can we drive into a position where he must publicly admit his defeat.

We only want the communists to stop their aggression and withdraw all their troops to North Vietnam so the South Vietnamese people can live in peace and so Indochina will no longer be a vast hideout where the communists can act freely and wage wars.

The third problem is [words indistinct]. Communist North Vietnam is not only bellicose and stubborn but also extremely greedy. So long as South Vietnam is not taken over and its peace-loving neighboring countries do not collapse, communist North Vietnam will consider it a failure on its part to fulfill the duty of number one servant of the communist world, having lost the ability to pursue annexation and expansion by force.

As the most bellicose, covetous and backward communists in the communist world, North Vietnam is frantically trying to gain something before withdrawing its defeated army and commanders from South Vietnam. Prompted by this absurd desire, the communists in the final stage of the chessgame have resorted to the political maneuver of proposing the setting up of a so-called three-segment government.

But the South Vietnamese people, who have a horror of communism, have resolutely and vigorously opposed the communist move to set up a camouflaged coalition government under the illogical and insolent three-segment formula.

More than anyone else, communist North Vietnam can see and foresee this positive reaction. For this reason, from the outset it has performed the trick of solemnly pledging never to impose a communist government on South Vietnam through the three-segment formula. All communists have the same childish, brazen arguments when they acclaim the setting up of a three-segment government. Typical was Pham Van Dong's statement in a recent interview in a U.S. weekly magazine. Dong himself censored this report. However, all Dong's carefully considered statements appeared before the readers' eyes as repetitious, absurd, impudent words, because a professional liar is never ashamed. Thus Dong's or Tho's assurances that the three-segment government the communists want to impose on South Vietnam is not a communist one reveals the wicked intention of the communists, who are bewildered by the imminent failure of the military adventure which has brought nothing good to those who have promoted the aggression.

Because the enemy is confused and has revealed his bad intentions, we must strike at him more vigorously to drive him back. For this reason, our search for peace is replete with difficulties, and in the past days anyone who is aware of the immutable stand of the South Vietnamese people and government can see that to achieve peace they must surely step up their victorious struggle more strongly than ever before on the battlefield, to exterminate the communist aggressors.