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SAIGON TV COMMENTS ON THIEU 24 OCT SPEECH

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[Text] In the protracted struggle against communist aggression to protect our national independence and freedom, our families and our own lives, if we have remained calm for more than 10 years, we must, more than ever, maintain our calm. We must not only heighten vigilance to cope with the enemy in the last 5 minutes of the battle but must also be clear-sighted before the political smokescreen which the communists have created to drive us into failure after we have won great military victories. This smokescreen has been folded for several months but has become more shadowy in the past week.

Amidst the political whirlwind it is necessary for our nationalist ranks to further heighten their vigilance. This necessary vigilance was stressed by President Nguyen Van Thieu in his talk over radio and television to the combatants, cadres and compatriots on the night of 24 October. For 2 hours, using easy, precise words, President Thieu described the political situation in the past week with vivid pictures reflecting all developments in a delicate phase.

As noted by President Thieu, through the political smokescreen that is now enveloping all strata of the South Vietnamese people, one can see two events: the communists' maneuver to set up a three-segment in South Vietnam, and their demand for a cease-fire before adopting this absurd government formula.

We must say that the enemy's maneuver with this formula is an unprecedentedly perfidious maneuver. This is a sugar-coated poisonous pill used by the communists to stimulate the South Vietnamese people's thirst for peace.

However, our experiences with communism, gained through sacrificing our blood and bones, have helped us overcome all trials and communists traps. In fact, because the dosage of poison in the three-segment pill is so strong, we can easily discover the poison.

The communists are accustomed to embellish what they call the national right to self-determination, considering it as a veil to conceal their dirty designs. However, they have proved to be stupid when creating the strange three-segment government formula which they want to impose on the South Vietnamese people. This prefabricated three-leg government reveals to public opinion at home and abroad that the communists have violated the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination and, as a result, the screen used by the communists to conceal their crimes has been removed. Finally, the South Vietnamese people have come to realize that the communists' plot to set up a three-segment government in this phase seeks to help them move easily toward seizing administrative power and communizing South Vietnam. This is no surprise to the South Vietnamese people. As the thin coat of sugar on the pill has melted, the poison has appeared and become a horror to the South Vietnamese people. This is an inevitable consequence of the communists' plot, and they cannot avoid failure.

The communists' stubbornness is obviously part of their identity. For this reason one is not surprised to see that they have continued to cheat and carry out sabotage activities while demanding a cease-fire.

We say that the communists now need a cease-fire. Seven months or a few years ago they refused to (?deal) with a cease-fire, because at that time they hoped for victory. But now they are nearing complete defeat in the military field, after devoting all their potential to their aggression that started in late March 1972. They realize that negotiating a cease-fire at a moment when the United States is engaged in a presidential election is more beneficial to them than after President Nixon wins the election.

In an attempt to influence U.S. public opinion, the communists have persisted in demanding that the Americans agree to a cease-fire, while at the same time they have thoroughly exploited the important talks between Dr Kissinger and the RVN Government in Saigon. So while these talks took place, with the cooperation of the colonialists and the false peace advocates, the communists spread rumors to give public opinion the impression that due to the requirements of the coming election, the Americans might force us to accept a certain agreement in favor of the communists. But in fact the problem was different.

President Nguyen Van Thieu last Tuesday evening assured our compatriots nationwide over national radio and TV that the United States is merely an intermediary country which arranged discussions to reach an agreement to end the Vietnam war. He flatly said that the role of the U.S. envoys in Saigon is like that of matchmakers. The entire South Vietnamese people's right of self-determination is always an ultimate and supreme right. But the fact that the probing activities, with the United States acting as a go-between, have been continued is because the communists have still harbored exploitative schemes.

The president also said that a cease-fire might be imminent. A cease-fire is in substance not dangerous to us, because if the communists correctly meet our conditions then we have no reason to avoid it. In that case we do not fear but are even ready to accept a cease-fire in the hope that it will lead to a lasting and guaranteed peace in South Vietnam.

But as far as the communists are concerned, nothing is advanced by them without containing many traps. The traps inherent in the cease-fire case can be found in their resolution No 72 and in a number of documents and testimonies provided by communist POW's or ralliers. President Thieu also devoted a major part of his Tuesday evening talk over national radio and TV to revealing to all the people and armed forces the communists' scheme prior to, during, and after a cease-fire. The contents of the above-mentioned documents bare the communists' true face by showing that the communists regard a cease-fire as a temporary respite and a stage of confusion in which they can find an opportunity to rise and take power.

Staging flag-flying high points, firing at populated areas, creating disturbances in the cities, occupying key points, using sappers to carry out assassinations, inciting the masses to stage riots, engineering mutinies in the armed forces and police ranks, and inciting the people to violate national laws with a view to raising the flames of struggle among them are details clearly outlined in the communists' resolution No 72 as a strategy to take power through a cease-fire.

Therefore it is imperative and urgent for us to make every preparation to cope with them. This is the reason why President Nguyen Van Thieu decided to take drastic action to smash all the enemy's schemes. Security forces from local to central levels must use force to stop or nip in the bud every communist act to create disturbances, while at the same time we must mercilessly exterminate the enemy's infrastructure, as we have done so far. In particular, security, police, and armed forces must try by every means to prevent the communists from setting up their administrative system in the rural areas and to frustrate all their efforts to incite demonstrations, market and school boycotts, and assassinations, kidnappings, and sabotage. Public facilities in the service of our compatriots throughout the country have also been protected by a tight security network.

Making preparations and taking precautionary measures do not mean that we have accepted a cease-fire with the communists. The president also affirmed that no agreement has been reached on a cease-fire, because to reach a solution the enemy must at least agree in principle on our conditions. Therefore, all the precautionary measures we have taken are merely aimed at sparing us as much danger as possible in case of an eventual cease-fire.

All wars must end with a cease-fire. Therefore, as we have prepared ourselves and adopted a firm position, there is no reason for us to be confused. For us the big question is not what direction an eventual cease-fire will take, but what position we should adopt to accept it. The best thing for everyone to do for the time being is to maintain maximum vigilance. Each patriot in South Vietnam must think that as long as the war continues, we must fight the communists in any form in the military as well as the political fields.