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THIEU REVIEWS PREPARATION FOR POSSIBLE CEASE-FIRE

Saigon SONG THAN in Vietnamese 25 Oct 72 p 1 3

[Text] On 23 October President Thieu stated at the Independence Palace that adopting a cease-fire is not a difficult decision, but what is important is to know how to make preparations for a cease-fire.

As was reported, on the morning of 23 October, after receiving adviser Kissinger in audience for the last time, President Thieu convened a meeting of a number of chairmen of provincial and municipal councils, mayors, province chiefs, military region deputy commanders, national police commanders, prefectural, provincial and municipal police chiefs and military security service chiefs, to explain the general situation and give instructions concerning the administrative officials at the middle level.

In a 5-hour talk at noon on 23 October President Thieu denied a report that adviser Kissinger had pressured him into accepting a war solution unfavorable to South Vietnam. According to President Thieu, Dr Kissinger reported the developments of the Paris talks to him and reviewed the situation together with him. Moreover, Kissinger played the role of a middleman when he expounded on the other side's proposals for a cease-fire solution.

President Thieu reasserted that because the South Vietnamese government and people want peace, not a peace in slavery, they cannot accept a three-segment government which would be turned into a communist government.

Specifically, he set forth the criteria for activity by the province chiefs, mayors, provincial and municipal police chiefs, and military security service chiefs. They are summed up in these three words for thought: "Law, strength, and creativeness." These criteria must be fully met before and after a cease-fire.

The law must be enforced and respected throughout the country.

The strength of the armed forces and people must be used to smash all cunning schemes by communist North Vietnam, as well as the underground communists, in case of a cease-fire.

Creativeness implies that the leaders at the middle level, such as province chiefs, mayors and provincial or municipal police chiefs, must work with a creative spirit when dealing with problems concerning local security and the protection of the country and must act vividly, cleverly, promptly and effectively.

President Thieu, however, opposed any cease-fire which would allow the North Vietnamese communists to remain on RVN territory. He stressed that the principle of observing a cease-fire throughout all of Indochina must be respected.

## CHINH LUAN Report

Saigon CHINH LUAN in Vietnamese 25 Oct 72 p 1 8

[Excerpt] "Besides the military victories, the political situation contains nothing which can make us pessimistic. President Thieu has shown no disappointment after concluding his sixth meeting with Dr Kissinger." This was the impression of a number of chairmen of prefectural, provincial, and municipal councils after President Thieu talked with them and explained the situation in the country to them the afternoon of 23 October.

Councilor Nguyen Van Dieu, chairman of the Saigon prefectural council and concurrently chief of the liaison office for the prefectural, provincial, and municipal councils, said: "I dare not say many things, but I can assert that the secret talks between the delegations of Dr Kissinger and President Thieu contain nothing which make us pessimistic. However, we should not hasten to show optimism."

President Thieu reiterated his stand, which is to resolutely oppose a coalition and vehemently reject the three-segment formula. He revealed the communists' schemes and the obscure and incomprehensible points behind their proposals. In his opinion, if we fail to grasp the problem we will be easily deceived by the communists, and all our armed forces' and people's toil, blood, and bones will be wasted.

For this reason the aim of his talks was to ask the people's representatives from the higher and the lower levels to cooperate with the central and local administrations in making preparations for a political struggle in the future.

President Thieu also asked the people's representatives and local administrators to reassure the people in one way or another that the government would never betray our combatants' sacrifices. He repeated one of his statements, uttered recently at the Saigon Cong Hoa stadium: "In South Vietnam everything can be sacrificed except the blood and bones which our combatants have sacrificed in the struggle against communist aggression."

Responding to President Thieu's request, all the chairmen of prefectural, provincial, and municipal councils, after leaving the Independence Palace, held a meeting and unanimously adopted the following three-point resolution:

1. Resolutely oppose all schemes aimed at imposing a prefabricated political solution which violates the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination.
2. Resolutely reject all forms of coalition with the communists regardless of what name camouflages them.
3. Accept only a political solution decided by the South Vietnamese people on the basis of the national right to self-determination.

Asked "whether this resolution reflects President Thieu's revelation that the RVN has not been forced to accept an unfavorable solution," a councilor smiled ambiguously: "Sometimes the question answers itself."