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DRV GOVERNMENT'S 26 OCTOBER STATEMENT ON
"STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS RELATING TO THE
VIET-NAM PROBLEM"

[Hanoi VNA International Service in English, 0811 GMT,
26 October 1972]

Hanoi VNA October 26--Following is the full text of the statement issued here today by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam on the present state of the negotiations relating to the Viet-Nam problem:

Following years of a glorious resistance war of our armed forces and people in both zones, the United States had to stop in October 1968 the bombardments against the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and accept the holding of a four-party conference on Viet-Nam in Paris. That situation opened up prospects for restoring peace in Viet-Nam.

The Nixon administration chose, however, to embark on the path of "Vietnamization of the war", and negotiation from a position of strength. As a result, the U.S. war of aggression in Viet-Nam dragged on, was intensified and expanded, and the Viet-Nam peace negotiation could not make any progress.

Over the past four years, the valiant and undaunted Vietnamese people have stepped up their just struggle on the military, political and diplomatic fronts, and have recorded unprecedented victories, especially since spring 1972, thus inflicting a very important setback on the "Vietnamization" policy.

At the same time, the government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam has constantly shown its serious attitude and goodwill in the search for a peaceful solution to the Viet-Nam problem on a basis guaranteeing the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination.

In full agreement with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam, the government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam has held private meetings with the U.S. government with a view to a peaceful settlement of the Viet-Nam problem. But till September 1972, the negotiations on the Viet-Nam problem had remained without result.

With a view to making the negotiations progress, at the private meeting on October 8, 1972, the DRV side took a new, extremely important initiative: it put forward a draft "agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Viet-Nam," and proposed that the government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, with the concurrence of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam, and the government of the United States of America, with the concurrence of the government of the Republic of Viet-Nam, immediately agreed upon and signed this agreement to rapidly restore peace in Viet-Nam. In that draft agreement, the DRV side proposed a cessation of the war throughout Viet-Nam, a cease-fire in South Viet-Nam, an end to all U.S. military involvement in Viet-Nam, a total withdrawal from South Viet-Nam of troops of the United States and those of the foreign countries allied with the United States and with the Republic of Viet-Nam, and the return of all captured and detained personnel of the parties. From the enforcement of the cease-fire to the installation of the government formed after free and democratic general elections, the two present administrations in South Viet-Nam will remain in existence with their respective domestic and external functions. These two administrations shall immediately hold consultations with a view to the exercise of the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, achieving national concord, ensuring the democratic liberties of the South Vietnamese people, and forming an administration of national concord which shall have the task of promoting the South Vietnamese parties' implementation of the signed agreements and organizing general elections in South Viet-Nam. The two South Vietnamese parties shall settle together the internal matters of South Viet-Nam within three months after the cease-fire comes into effect. Thus the Viet-Nam problem will be settled in two stages in accordance with the off-expressed desire of the American side: the first stage will include a cessation of the war in Viet-Nam, a cease-fire in South Viet-Nam, a cessation of the U.S. military involvement in South Viet-Nam and an agreement on the principles for the exercise of the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination; in the second stage, the two South Vietnamese parties will settle together the

internal matters of South Viet-Nam. The DRV side proposed that the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and the United States sign this agreement by mid-October 1972.

The above initiative of the government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam brought the negotiations on the Viet-Nam problem, which had dragged on for four years now, onto the path to a settlement. The American side itself admitted that the draft "agreement of ending the war and restoring peace in Viet-Nam" put forward by the DRV side was indeed an important and very fundamental document which opened up the way to an early settlement.

After several days of negotiations, on October 17, 1972, the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and the United States reached agreement on almost all problems on the basis of the draft agreement of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, except for only two unagreed issues. With its goodwill, the DRV side did its utmost to remove the last obstacles in accepting the American side's proposals on the two remaining questions in the agreement. In his October 10, 1972 message to the Premier of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, the President of the United States appreciated the goodwill of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, and confirmed that the formulation of the agreement could be considered complete. But in the same message, he raised a number of complex points. Desirous of rapidly ending the war and restoring peace in Viet-Nam, the government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam clearly explained its views on this subject. In his October 22, 1972 message, the President of the United States expressed satisfaction with the explanations given by the government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam. Thus by October 22, 1972, the formulation of the agreement was complete.

The main issues of the agreement which have been agreed upon may be summarized as follows:

1. The United States respects the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet-Nam as recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements.
2. Twenty-four hours after the signing of the agreement, a cease-fire shall be observed throughout South Viet-Nam. The United States will stop all its military activities, and end the bombing and mining in North Viet-Nam. Within 60 days, there will be a total withdrawal from South Viet-Nam of troops and military personnel

of the United States and those of the foreign countries allied with the United States and with the Republic of Viet-Nam. The two South Vietnamese parties shall not accept the introduction of troops, military advisers and military personnel, armaments, munitions, and war material into South Viet-Nam. The two South Vietnamese parties shall be permitted to make periodical replacements of armaments, munitions, and war material that have been worn out or damaged after the cease-fire, on the basis of piece for piece of similar characteristics and properties. The United States will not continue its military involvement or intervene in the internal affairs of South Viet-Nam.

3. The return of all captured and detained personnel of the parties shall be carried out simultaneously with the U.S. troops withdrawal.

4. The principles for the exercise of the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination are as follows: The South Vietnamese people shall decide themselves the political future of South Viet-Nam through genuinely free and democratic general elections under international supervision; the United States is not committed to any political tendency or to any personality in South Viet-Nam, and it does not seek to impose a pro-American regime in Saigon; national reconciliation and concord will be achieved, the democratic liberties of the people ensured: an administrative structure called the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord of three equal segments will be set up to promote the implementation of the signed agreements by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam and the government of the Republic of Viet-Nam and to organize the general elections, the two South Vietnamese parties will consult about the formation of councils at lower levels; the question of Vietnamese armed forces in South Viet-Nam shall be settled by the two South Vietnamese parties in a spirit of national reconciliation and concord, equality and mutual respect, without foreign interference, in accordance with the post-war situation; among the questions to be discussed by the two South Vietnamese parties are steps to reduce the military number on both sides and to demobilize the troops being reduced; the two South Vietnamese parties shall sign an agreement on the internal matters of South Viet-Nam as soon as possible and will do their utmost to accomplish this within three months after the cease-fire comes into effect.

5. The reunification of Viet-Nam shall be carried out step by step through peaceful means.

6. There will be formed a Four-Party Joint Military Commission, and a Joint Military Commission of the two South Vietnamese parties.

An International Commission of Control and Supervision shall be established.

An International Guarantee Conference on Viet-Nam will be convened within 30 days of the signing of this agreement.

7. The government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam, the government of the United States of America, and the government of the Republic of Viet-Nam shall strictly respect the Cambodian and Lao people's fundamental national rights as recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina and the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, i. e. the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of these countries. They shall respect the neutrality of Cambodia and Laos. The government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam, the government of the United States of America and the government of the Republic of Viet-Nam undertake to refrain from using the territory of Cambodia and the territory of Laos to encroach on the sovereignty and security of other countries. Foreign countries shall put an end to all military activities in Laos and Cambodia, totally withdraw from and refrain from reintroducing into these two countries troops, military advisers and military personnel, armaments, munitions and war material.

The internal affairs of Cambodia and Laos shall be settled by the people of each of these countries without foreign interference.

The problems existing between the three Indochinese countries shall be settled by the Indochinese parties on the basis of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

8. The ending of the war, the restoration of peace in Viet-Nam will create conditions for establishing a new, equal, and mutually beneficial relationship between the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and the United States. The United States will contribute to healing the wounds of war and to post-war reconstruction in the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and throughout Indochina.

9. This agreement shall come into force as of its signing. It will be strictly implemented by all the parties concerned.

The two parties have also agreed on a schedule for the signing of the agreement. On October 9, 1972, at the proposal of the U.S. side, it was agreed that on October 18, 1972, the United States would stop the bombing and mining in North Viet-Nam; on October 19, 1972, the two parties would initial the text of the agreement in Hanoi; on October 26, 1972 the foreign ministers of the two countries would formally sign the agreement in Paris.

On October 11, 1972, the U.S. side proposed the following change to the schedule: On October 21, 1972, the United States would stop the bombing and mining in North Viet-Nam; on October 22, 1972, the two parties would initial the text of the agreement in Hanoi; on October 30, 1972, the foreign ministers of the two countries would formally sign the agreement in Paris. The Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam agreed to the new U.S. schedule.

On October 20, 1972, under the pretext that there still remained a number of unagreed points, the U.S. side again put forth another schedule: On October 23, 1972, the United States would stop the bombing and mining in North Viet-Nam; on October 24, 1972, the two parties would initial the text of the agreement in Hanoi; on October 31, 1972, the foreign ministers of the two countries would formally sign the agreement in Paris. Despite the fact that the U.S. side had changed many times what had been agreed upon, the DRV side with its goodwill again agreed to the U.S. proposal while stressing that the U.S. side should not under any pretext change the agreed schedule.

Thus, by October 22, 1972, the DRV side and the U.S. side had agreed both on the full text of the "agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Viet-Nam" and on a schedule to be observed for the formal signing of the agreement on October 31, 1972. Obviously, the two sides had agreed upon an agreement of extremely important significance, which meets the wishes of the peoples in Viet-Nam, the United States and the world.

But on October 23, 1972, contrary to its pledges, the U.S. side again referred to difficulties in Saigon, demanded that the negotiations be continued for resolving new problems, and did not say anything about the implementation of its commitments under the agreed schedule. This behavior of the U.S. side has brought about a very serious situation which risks to jeopardize the signing of the "agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Viet-Nam."

The so-called difficulties in Saigon represent a mere pretext to delay the implementation of the U.S. commitments, because it is public knowledge that the Saigon administration has been rigged up and fostered by the United States. With a mercenary army equipped and paid by the United States, this administration is a tool for carrying out the "Vietnamization" policy and the neocolonialist policy of the United States in violation of the South Vietnamese people's national rights. It is an instrument for the United States to sabotage all peaceful settlement of the Viet-Nam problem.

The above shows that the Nixon administration is not negotiating with a serious attitude and goodwill in order to end the war and restore peace in Viet-Nam. All it is doing in fact is to drag out the talks so as to deceive public opinion and to cover up its scheme of maintaining the Saigon puppet administration for the purposes of continued war of aggression in Viet-Nam and Indochina. The Nixon administration must bear before the people of the United States and the world responsibility for delaying the signing of the agreement, and thus prolonging the war in Viet-Nam.

The government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam deems it its duty to bring the present situation with respect to the private meetings between the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and the United States to the notice of our countrymen and fighters throughout the country, and the peoples in the world and the United States so that the truth may be known. This information is in the interest of peace and will in no way affect the negotiations, the two parties having agreed upon the text of the agreement and the schedule for its signing. While pointing to the above situation, the government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam strictly holds to the undertakings between the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and the United States to the effect that no change should be brought to the agreed text of the agreement, and that the date scheduled for its signing is October 31, 1972.

The government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam strongly denounces the Nixon administration's lack of goodwill and seriousness. It firmly demands that the U.S. government respond to its goodwill, keep its commitments, and sign on October 31, 1972, the agreement whose text has been agreed upon with a view to ending the war, restoring peace in Viet-Nam, contributing to the consolidation of peace in Asia and the world, thus meeting the desire of the Vietnamese people, the American people and the peoples around the world.

Countrymen and fighters throughout the country.

We want peace in independence and freedom. We are animated with goodwill. But the U.S. imperialists still nurture the design of conquering the southern part of our country, turning it into a new-type colony and a military base of the United States, and perpetuating the partition of our country. We had rather to sacrifice everything than submit. "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom!"

For the independence and freedom of our fatherland, for peace, national independence, democracy, and socialism in the world, we are fighting and defeating the U.S. imperialist aggressors. Ours is a position of victory, of initiative, which is unceasingly improving. The position of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys is one of defeat, passivity and decline.

More than ever, our countrymen and fighters throughout the country are enhancing their resolve to unite as one man, to brave all hardships and sacrifices, to do their utmost to carry out President Ho Chi Minh's sacred testament, to persist in, and step up the fight on the three fronts--military, political, and diplomatic, until these lofty objectives have been achieved, to liberate the South, to defend and build the socialist North, and to proceed to the peaceful reunification of the country. Our people are determined to fight shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal peoples of Laos and Cambodia, and inflict a total defeat on the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their lackeys.

Our people's patriotic struggle against U.S. aggression is a just one. The strength of our unity is invincible. We have traditions of valiant and undaunted struggle against the aggressors. Moreover, our people enjoy the sympathy and great support of the fraternal socialist countries and the progressive people around the world.

We will win!

The government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam calls on the governments and peoples of the Soviet Union, China and the other fraternal socialist countries, of the peace-and justice-loving countries, the international organizations, the American people, and the peoples around the world, which have been whole-heartedly supporting the Vietnamese people's patriotic struggle against U.S. aggression, to wage a resolute struggle to urge the U.S. government to carry out immediately what has been agreed upon between the United States and

the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam so as to rapidly end the war and restore peace in Viet-Nam. The government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam calls on all brothers and friends around the five continents to extend even stronger support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's just struggle until total victory.

The Vietnamese people will win!

The three peoples of Indochina will win!

Hanoi, October 26, 1972.