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RVN FOREIGN MINISTER DOUBTS CEASE-FIRE BEFORE 7 NOV

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[Excerpt] RVN Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam said this morning he did not believe there would be a cease-fire before the U.S. presidential election day.

While attending a national police officers' graduation ceremony, the foreign minister made this statement in answer to newsmen's questions. He also revealed that so far arrangements have not yet been completed for a cease-fire to be observed by various parties concerned, and that therefore he did not believe a cease-fire throughout Indochina might occur before 7 November, that is, the U.S. presidential election day. The foreign minister also said a precondition for RVN agreement on a cease-fire throughout Indochina was that North Vietnam must bring all its troops home, and that only then "will we discuss the details."

Another RVN condition is that North Vietnam must respect provisions of the Geneva agreements they signed, including respect for the demilitarized zone. Furthermore, Foreign Minister Lam said, another reason precluding a cease-fire is the North Vietnamese communists' desire to solve the political and military problems simultaneously.