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LE DUC THO ARRIVES IN PARIS AFTER PEKING, MOSCOW STOPOVERS

Hanoi VNA in English 1738 GMT 17 Dec 73 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 17--Special advisor Le Duc Tho, representative of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, arrived in Paris by air this afternoon.

He was welcomed at Le Bourget airport by Vo Van Sung, charge d'affaires of the DRV in France; Minister Nguyen Van Hieu, head of the RSV delegation to the consultative conference between the two South Vietnamese parties; [and] Pham Van Ba, director of the RSV Information Bureau in France. Henri Bolle, representative of the French Foreign Ministry; ambassadors and diplomatic representatives of socialist countries to France; Ok Sakun, head of the representation of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, and Saygnavong, chairman of the Lao Students Union in France, were on hand.

Also present were Gaston Plissonier, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the French Communist Party [FCP] many members of the FCP Central Committee; Andre Reuquiere, secretary general of the French peace movement; and representatives of 52 organizations of solidarity with and support for the Indochinese peoples.

Many representatives of Vietnamese residents in Paris came to the airport to welcome Le Duc Tho and offer him bouquets of flowers.

Special advisor Le Duc Tho made a statement at the honorable guest house of the airport. In the lounge of the airport, Le Duc Tho read out the following statement to the personalities and journalists who had come to meet him:

"Dear comrades, dear friends:

"First of all, I am obliged to deny a tendentious report spread by a U.S. official and a representative of the Saigon administration in Paris, to the effect that the forthcoming meeting (between him and Dr Kissinger--VNA ed) has been proposed by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam side. The truth is that it is the U.S. side that has proposed this meeting and we have agreed to it. Both sides have agreed that this meeting will aim to discuss problems of common concern in the present conjuncture.

"As you know, the present situation in South Vietnam is very serious, because of the extremely gross violations of many important provisions of the Paris agreement on Vietnam by the U.S. and the Saigon administration.

"Since the signing of the Paris agreement on Vietnam and of the joint communique, the United States has not yet ceased its military involvement and its interference in the internal affairs of the South Vietnamese people. The United States has not completely withdrawn, instead it has introduced many more American military advisors disguised as civilians. It continues giving massive military aid to the Saigon administration. Meanwhile, it eludes its responsibility for contributing to healing the wounds of war and to the postwar reconstruction in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

"Encouraged and assisted by the U.S., the Saigon administration, seeking by all means to sabotage the cease-fire, had conducted tens of thousands of land-grab operations, hundreds of thousands police operations and 'pacification' raids to 'purge,' terrorize and massacre the population, and refused to materialize democratic liberties. The Saigon administration has refused to return hundreds of thousands of political prisoners, continues to persecute them in prisons and detention camps, and even has liquidated many of them.

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"The Saigon administration has obdurately created obstacles driving the consultative conference between the two South Vietnamese parties in Paris and the work of the Two-Party Joint Military Commission in Saigon into an ever-increasing impasse.

"It is stark clear that the fundamental cause of the grave situation in South Vietnam at present is the United States' policy of continuing to use the Saigon administration as an instrument for materializing U.S. neo-colonialism in South Vietnam.

"For their part, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam as well as the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, have consistently respected and scrupulously implemented the Paris agreement and the joint communique, [and] at the same time have demanded that the U.S. and the Saigon administration do the same.

"If the Saigon administration, supported and abetted by the U.S., continues its grave violations of the agreement, there is no reason for the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam to sit with folded arms and watch it act with impunity. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam fully supports the stand of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam to use all energetic means to duly punish all acts of war of the Saigon administration that violate the ceasefire, (and violate) the agreement. That stand of the PRG is fully justified, since it is aimed at preserving the agreement and peace. The United States and the Saigon administration must bear full responsibility for the grave situation now obtaining and for all the consequences of their violations of the Paris agreement on Vietnam and the joint communique of June 13, 1973.

"I have come to Paris this time with goodwill and a serious attitude, but just how this meeting will proceed and how the South Vietnam situation will develop depend on whether or not the U.S. side shows the same correct attitude as we do.

"I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to you, comrades and friends, for your constant concern for the situation in Vietnam, and for your continued strong support to the just stand of the Vietnamese people in their struggle to demand that the United States and the Saigon administration scrupulously implement the Paris agreement on Vietnam.

"I would like to convey the compliments of our government and of our people throughout the country to all of you, dear Vietnamese residents in France, and wish you good health and progress.

"I thank you, comrades and friends, for the warm welcome you have given us today."

On his way to Paris, Le Duc Tho had stopped over in Peking and Moscow.

At his arrival in Peking on Dec 14, Le Duc Tho was welcomed at the airport by Keng Piao, member of the Central Committee and head of the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China; Han Nien-lung, Chinese vice minister for foreign affairs; and other officials. [Hanoi in Vietnamese to Vietnam at 0330 GMT on 18 December, in its version of this report, adds the following names to the list of those present at the airport: "Comrades (Chiao Hua) and (Yun Fong) of responsible organs," plus "our ambassador to China Ngo Thuyen and PRGSRV Ambassador to China Nguyen Van Quang and cadres of the two embassies."]



The same day, Chang Chun-chiao, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CCP Central Committee, received Le Duc Tho. Present at the reception included Keng Piao, Han Nien-lung, DRV Ambassador Ngo Thuyen and RSV Ambassador Nguyen Van Quang. The reception was followed by a banquet given by Chang Chun-chiao in honour of Le Duc Tho and his party.

Le Duc Tho left Peking and arrived in Moscow on Dec 15. He was welcomed at the airport by K.F. Katushev, secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU; O.B. Rakhmanin, first deputy head of the Commission for External Relations of the CPSU CC; N.P. Firubin, deputy minister for foreign affairs, and other officials.

[Hanoi in Vietnamese to Vietnam reports that also present "on the Vietnamese side were DRV Ambassador Vo Thuc Dong, PRGRSV Ambassador Nguyen Van Thang and many cadres of the two embassies. Among the welcomers was also PRC Ambassador to the Soviet Union Liu Hsin-chuan."] On Dec 16, K.F. Katushev held talks with Le Duc Tho. Present at the talks on the Vietnamese side were Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Phan Hien and Ambassador Vo Thuc Dong. On the Soviet side were O.B. Rakhmanin and N.P. Firubin.

CZECHOSLOVAK, HUNGARIAN EQUIPMENT RECEIVED IN HANOI

Hanoi VNA in English 1542 GMT 15 Dec 73 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 15--The Ministry of Engineering and Metallurgy of Vietnam has held a ceremony here to receive equipment for silicate brick-making presented by the workers and trade union at the Sked-Plzen plant in Czechoslovakia. Nguyen Duy Thai, vice-minister of engineering and metallurgy, and Vladimir Kubat, Czechoslovak ambassador to the DRV, attended the ceremony.

A similar ceremony has been organized at the Tran Hung Dao engineering plant here to receive equipment donated by the trade union and workers of the Sepen engineering combinat in Hungary, which has sworn-brotherhood relations with the Tran Hung Dao plant. Present on the occasion were Vice-Minister of Engineering and Metallurgy Nguyen Duy Thai and Hungarian Ambassador Bela Nemety.

HUNGARIAN ICCS HEAD, DEPUTY HEAD PAY VISIT TO HANOI

Hanoi VNA in English 1544 GMT 15 Dec 73 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 15--Ambassador Esztergalyos and Major General Ferenc Szucs, respectively head and deputy head of the Hungarian delegation to the ICCS, have made a visit to Hanoi after accomplishing their missions in South Vietnam. The Hungarian visitors were warmly received by Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh.

VWP DELEGATION RETURNS HOME FROM JAPANESE CP CONGRESS

Hanoi VNA in English 0254 GMT 15 Dec 73 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 14--The delegation of the Vietnam Workers Party headed by Nguyen Van Tran, secretary of the party CC, has returned here after attending the recent 12th Congress of the Communist Party of Japan. It was met at Gia Lam airport by Xuan Thuy, secretary of the party CC, head of the party's Foreign Relations Board; Tran Danh Tuyen, alternate member of the party CC, president of the Vietnam-Japan Friendship Association; and other officials. Tetsuo Matsumoto, on behalf of the representation of the Communist Party of Japan in Hanoi, was on hand.