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'TRUTH' ON HELICOPTERS GIVEN; MISUSE OF MARKINGS CHARGED

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[Unattributed article: "The United States and the Saigon Administration Cannot Use Any Pretext To Cover Up Their Crimes"]

[Text] On 15 December 1973 the Saigon administration issued a communique on the so-called incident involving an attack on three helicopters of the Four-Party JMC team while on a searching mission for missing persons in Binh Chanh district, Gia Dinh Province. Chiming in with Thieu's psychological warfare propaganda mouthpiece, the United States also made slander and false charges, alleged many violations of the agreement and cast the blame on the PRGRSV side.

However, what is the truth about the so-called attack on the Four-Party JMC team helicopters in Binh Chanh? At the Four-Party JMC team meeting on 15 December 1973, there were no discussions and agreements about sending its helicopters on a mission in Binh Chanh district. Not only on 15 December, but up till now the Four-Party JMC team has never reached an agreement on sending its officials on any grave searching mission in South Vietnam.

In article 8-B, the Paris Agreement on Ending the War in Vietnam clearly specifies the operational principles and methods of the Four-Party JMC team: If a member of the JMC team wants to search for the graves of the dead in one of the two zones of control, he must receive approval from the team and request permission from the administration controlling that zone. As far as the legal aspect of the agreement is concerned, this stipulation is crystal clear. Nevertheless, due to the lack of good will and seriousness on the U.S. side and the Saigon administration, many activities of the Four-Party JMC team and the Two-Party JMC have been deadlocked. The United States and the Saigon administration have not only refused to assist the Four-Party JMC team and create conditions for it to fulfill its missions, but have always tried to create difficulties to hinder its operations. They have not only failed to respect and respond to the Four-Party JMC team's demands but have also taken advantage of its name and that of the ICCS to sneak into the liberated areas and conduct illegal activities.

On 22 February 1973, Thieu himself ordered aircraft of the Saigon army painted with the Four-Party JMC flags and markings to commit wrongdoings in Duc Pho. Three days later, on 25 February, those aircraft painted with the Four-Party JMC flags and markings again appeared in the skies over Danang. At the same time, many cars bearing the orange-colored flags and markings of the Four-Party JMC arrived at the office of the Four-Party JMC team in Danang. The Saigon thugs resorted to all sorts of hooligan maneuvers--wrecking the office while manhandling DRV cadres and looting our cadres' equipment and documents. This is not to mention hundreds of other violations in which the United States authorized Thieu to use these legal facilities to commit crimes in PRGRSV-controlled areas.

For example, on 25 April, the U.S.-Thieu clique sent aircraft painted with ICCS flags to Vi Thanh, in Can Tho Province to carry out reconnaissance activities. The ICCS caught the violators in the act and, on 30 June, sent a note to the Saigon administration exposing its vicious nature, strictly prohibiting it from continuing such activities and demanding that it immediately end them.

From 5 through 7 May, Saigon reconnaissance aircraft, taking advantage of the flight corridor reserved for ICCS aircraft, continuously carried out reconnaissance activities over the Loc Ninh, Tan Loi, and Tan Bien areas and many other areas in Tay Ninh. On 13 May, 5 Saigon helicopters and AD-6s closely followed ICCS aircraft to carry out barbarous bombings and strafings in many areas north of Kontum city. On 17 May, Thieu used aircraft painted with ICCS flags to carry four U.S. advisers to the Tieu Can military subsector in Tra Vinh Province. On 16-17 June, many Saigon aircraft, camouflaged as ICCS aircraft, shot films and took pictures of various areas in Bien Hoa, An Loc and along Route 14. On 25 October, an aircraft, camouflaged as an ICCS aircraft with ICCS flags painted on it, conducted reconnaissance activities, shot films and took pictures of the Ben Het area under PRGRSV control.

Even more barbarously, recently, on 10 December, Thieu took advantage of the Saigon-Loc Ninh flight to send aircraft to just barbarously straf Loc Ninh township and airfield just before the aircraft from Saigon carrying our delegation to the Two-Party JMC was scheduled to land at Loc Ninh airfield. This is not to mention the fact that recently the United States repeatedly sent pilotless aircraft and SR-71 reconnaissance aircraft to conduct reconnaissance activities over the PRGRSV-controlled area. These examples suffice to demonstrate that the crash in Binh Chanh, about which the United States is making a fuss, is only designed to conceal the illegal U.S. actions and the towering crimes of the war-like Nguyen Van Thieu clique. The world public are well aware that since the signing of the Paris agreement the United States has encouraged and helped Thieu to commit some 300,000 violations of the agreement and ordered him to conduct some 35,000 nibbling operations against the liberated areas, 215,461 police operations to terrorize the people, 36,000 shellings of civilians with some 1.9 million rounds and some 15,000 bombings and armed reconnaissance missions over the liberated areas.

Another loathsome crime which the U.S.-Thieu clique is trying to divert public attention from is the one it committed at Pho Phong village, Duc Pho district, Quang Ngai Province. During a sweep of the area on 20 November, the wicked tyrants of the Saigon army's 1st Battalion, 5th Regiment, hanged dozens of children; buried many others alive; raped many women until they died; killed many elderly people; burned or destroyed many of our compatriots' houses and orchards; and robbed them of great quantities of rice, paddy, cattle and poultry.

Our armed forces and people have seen through the U.S.-Thieu clique's dirty tricks. The United States and the Nguyen Van Thieu administration have perpetrated countless crimes against our southern compatriots. The U.S.-Thieu clique is robs people while "stop thief!" It has committed crimes but placed the blame on others. It has continuously sabotaged and hindered the implementation of the peace agreement in Vietnam, but it has made slanders against the PRGRSV.

The legality of the Paris agreement recognizes the reality that two administrations, two armies, two zones of control and three political forces exist in South Vietnam. The U.S. Government and the Thieu administration leaders cannot refute this reality. Many of our people have sacrificed their lives to regain the airspace and land we now possess. The United States and the Saigon administration cannot encroach on the liberated areas without authorization from the PRGRSV. If they do not correctly observe this principle and deliberately act against it, they must be held entirely responsible for the consequences resulting from their acts.