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U.S., RVN WALK OUT OF JMC SESSION OVER ATTACK ON COPTERS

Saigon Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 19 Dec 73 S

[Text] At the 18 December meeting of the Four-Party JMC team, the colonel who is chief of the RVN military delegation to the Four-Party JMC team charged with searching for the missing read a protest note, protesting the communists' murder of Four-Party JMC team members on 15 December in Binh Chanh district, Gia Dinh Province.

According to the protest note, the attack on Four-Party JMC team helicopters bearing special, orange markings and the subsequent firing at unarmed persons raising their hands in surrender were premeditated communist actions.

The chief of the RVN military delegation recalled that the RVN delegation on 6 and 7 December sent notes to the various delegations, informing them of a planned search for the missing at two places in Binh Chang district, Gia Dinh Province, and inviting them to send personnel to participate in the search mission. Noteworthy was the fact that the notes specified the date and sites of the planned search. Moreover, this was a completely humanitarian mission consistent with Article 8-D of the Paris agreement.

Concluding the protest note, the chief of the RVN delegation urged the communists not to be so cowardly as to deny their crime before the various delegations and public opinion at home and abroad. He declared that the RVN delegation was walking out of the meeting in protest against the communists' inhuman actions.

Meanwhile, the U.S. delegation yesterday threatened to boycott the activities of the Four-Party JMC team charged with searching for persons missing in the Vietnam war, because the communists attacked an unarmed U.S. helicopter, which was placed at the disposal of the Four-Party JMC team, and killed a U.S. officer. Col William Tombaugh, chief of the U.S. delegation, said at yesterday's meeting of the Four-Party JMC team that whether or not the U.S. delegation will attend future Four-Party JMC team meetings depends on the communist side's good will and eagerness to negotiate seriously. He added: It has become increasingly obvious that the communists, after failing in their attempts to sabotage the Paris agreement through diplomatic tricks, have now sought to achieve their objectives by committing cruel crimes.

Colonel Tombaugh stressed that the communist side must bear full responsibility for these crimes, and that the U.S. delegation vehemently denounces and condemns this barbarous communist action and, at the same time, demands that the conspirators and their accomplices be identified and severely punished. After delivering the verdict, Col Tombaugh and the U.S. delegation walked out of the conference room.

RVN Walkouts Condemned

Hanoi in Vietnamese to Vietnam 1115 GMT 19 Dec 73 S

[Text] LPA reported that on 18 December, at the regular sessions of the central Two-Party JMC and the Four-Party JMC team, the RVN administration military delegation walked out of the sessions after setting forth insolent and shameless slanders about the so-called attack on the Four-Party JMC team helicopters on 15 December over Binh Chanh district.

The PROGSV and DRV Government military delegations have issued press communiques exposing the vile and cowardly tricks by the Saigon administration and the United States in this matter. Their slanderous allegations not only fail to deceive anyone, but only expose their true nature as violators and saboteurs--as well as their deliberate intention of further stalemating the regular activities of the central Two-Party JMC and the Four-Party JMC team. The United States and the Saigon administration must be held entirely responsible for the consequences resulting from their incorrect acts.