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FRONT RADIO COMMENTS ON RVN STANCE ON PRISONER EXCHANGE

Liberation Radio [Clandestine] in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0500 GMT 4 Jan 74 S

[Text] It has been reported from Saigon that on 3 January the Saigon administration military spokesman again ballyhooed that the RVN Government was trying to resume, prior to the Lunar New Year's Day, the exchange of those who had been arrested. Thus during the past few days the Saigon administration has repeatedly spread news about the return of civilian and military personnel which it still detains, and ballyhooed that its concern over this matter proved that it had good will concerning implementation of the Paris agreement.

What was the Saigon administration's purpose when it spread this news? In its 2 January statement the PRGRSV military delegation to the central Two-Party JMC pointed out that this was a trick by the Saigon administration aimed at placating public opinion at home and abroad, which was been increasingly condemning its illegal detention of hundreds of thousands of patriotic and peace-loving people arrested in the war. The statement also said: The truth is that the stubborn Saigon administration during past days has refused to implement the return plan as agreed on at the 17 July 1973 central Two-Party JMC session.

According to this plan the Saigon administration should have returned to the PRGRSV within 7 days, that is from 23 through 28 July 1973, 4,331 civilians and 33 military personnel, while the PRGRSV should have returned to the Saigon administration during the same period all the military and civilian personnel which it could not have returned before because of the Saigon administration's sabotage. But when only less than one-fifth of the plan had been carried out, the Saigon administration suspended its implementation after advancing implausible excuses. It also sent to Loc Ninh under escort 20 students and intellectuals, who belonged to the forces which did not side with any party, contrary to their wish to return to the community and their families in Saigon. In addition, it mingled 71 of its army men and civil servants with the personnel which it returned to the PRGRSV.

After sabotaging the agreed-on plan, the Saigon administration also set new conditions for the resumption of the return plan and has thus far completely stalemated the return. Obviously, the responsibility for the present stalemate in the return of military and civilian personnel rests entirely with the Saigon administration. The New York TIMES in a recent issue bluntly pointed out that as long as the Americans provide Thieu with money and weapons, gunfire continues to be heard and the doors of Thieu's prisons continue to be closed.

Our people are determined to expose the vile schemes and tricks by the Saigon administration regarding the return of the military and civilian personnel which it still detains and demand that it release all the 200,000 people under detention as stipulated in the Paris agreement.

RVN, PRG AGREE IN PRINCIPLE ON PRISONER EXCHANGE

London REUTER in English 0814 GMT 4 Jan 74 X

[Excerpts] Saigon, Jan 4, REUTER--South Vietnamese and Viet Cong military negotiators announced today they had reached agreement in principle on resuming exchanges of prisoners, held up since last July. Brig. Gen. Phan Hoa Hiep, South Vietnam's negotiator, told reports by telephone that the agreement was reached at a regular meeting today, and only details remained to be worked out.

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Later, a Viet Cong spokesman also said agreement in principle had been reached, and said a further meeting would be held during the day to work out the details.

On two previous occasions recently, Hiep said agreement had been reached in principle on releasing prisoners by the Tet Lunar New Year on Jan 23. But the Viet Cong spokesman, Maj Phuong Nam, then denied that his side had agreed to the South Vietnamese proposals. Nam said today his delegation was "optimistic with reserve until it saw how the other side concretely applied this agreement in principle."

Both sides agreed to return a total of more than 4,000 prisoners before the Tet Lunar New Year. These were all named on official lists exchanged last July 17, but their release was held up by incidents involving Viet Cong photographers at Loc Ninh, north of Saigon.

LPA COMMENTARY CONDEMNS RVN'S 'EVIL DESIGNS'

Liberation Radio [Clandestine] in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 2200 GMT 29 Dec 73 S

[LPA commentary: "Angry Words Cannot Conceal Evil Designs"]

[Text] Owls are afraid of sunlight. The Saigon administration is again panicked by truth and realities. One of the obvious realities, which no one can refute, is that there now are in South Vietnam two administrations, two armies and two zones of control. This reality has been solemnly acknowledged by the Paris agreement.

Recently, on 24 December 1973, in an interview with the French national television service, special adviser Le Duc Tho, representing the DRV Government, repeated this reality and stressed: The situation in South Vietnam can develop along either of two trends.

The first possibility is that the United States continues to violate the Paris agreement and continues to encourage and support the Saigon administration in waging the war in an attempt to do away with the present reality in South Vietnam of two administrations, two armies and two zones of control, thus rendering the situation in South Vietnam extremely serious. The United States and the Saigon administration must be held responsible for all the consequences of the situation they create.

The second possibility is that the United States scrupulously implements the Paris agreement, ends its military involvement and intervention in the internal affairs of South Vietnam, stops encouraging and supporting the Saigon administration in continuing the war, acknowledges the actual existence of two administrations, two armies and two zones of control in South Vietnam and allows the Vietnamese people to solve their internal affairs in conformity with the provisions of the Paris agreement and the joint communique.

The problem posed is so obvious and clear. Why has the Saigon administration reacted so frenziedly? It is because the United States and the Saigon administration have deliberately shut their eyes to this reality.

Is it not true that according to the Saigon administration this reality has not been acknowledged in the Paris agreement? Since together with the United States, the Saigon administration was one of the four signatories to this agreement, why does it not acknowledge this reality? We wonder, to whom has the Saigon administration been forced to make commitments, if not the PRGSRV of which Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh, whose signature can be still be seen very clearly on the Paris agreement and its subsequent protocols, is the foreign minister? We wonder what Article 3B of the Paris agreement refers to, if it does not refer to Article 17 on the determination of the areas controlled by each party.