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THIEU CHARGED WITH 'TRICKERY' ON DETAINEE ISSUE

[Quan Doi Nhan Dan 4 January commentary: "Thieu Resorted to Trickery Again"; Hanoi Radio, Vietnamese, 1030 GMT, 4 January 1974]

The Saigon Administration has recently released sensational news regarding the return of civilian and military personnel who are still detained. It has fabricated the story about secret meetings and about an agreement between the heads of the two military delegations to the two-party JMC, and even confirmed the number of prisoners to be released and the timetable of their return. Now that the traditional Tet is coming, it is trying to make believe that it has at heart the hopes of hundreds of thousands of families whose close relatives are still under detention, and is trying to again peddle its good will as regards the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

The fact is that the Thieu administration has not budged an inch from its stand and has doggedly refused to carry out the release plan agreed upon at the two-party JMC last July, according to which 5,081 civilians and 33 military personnel among the 200,000 held by Saigon were to be returned to the PRGRSV from 17 to 23 July 1973. Actually, the plan was implemented for only 2 days and only 570 persons were released. Saigon then committed a breach of faith, and among the released there were 71 convicted Saigon employees and soldiers and 21 students who belong to neither side. Even more brazen was the fact that it mingled diehard cruel agents with the personnel to be returned to the PRGRSV, with the sinister purpose of using them to cause disturbances during the release of prisoners and then refusing, under this pretext, to carry out the agreed release plan.

Ever since, in defiance of all condemnations at home and abroad, the Saigon Administration has continued to disperse prisoners, faked their records, mingled political prisoners with ordinary detainees and secretly disposed of many detained patriots and peace-advocates. Even worse is the fact that it has forced many detainees to serve as its mercenaries if they do not want to be killed.

After resuming normal activities with its full complement of four members, the ICCS has twice informed the two-party JMC of its readiness to supervise the release of prisoners. But the Saigon Administration has remained silent, and disagreed.

The PRGRSV, abiding by the Paris Agreement, has put forth many fair and logical proposals aimed at continuing the implementation of the return plan agreed upon in July 1973. Of late, the PRGRSV military delegation to the two-party JMC has renewed the demand that the Saigon Administration strictly apply this plan so that all detained personnel could rejoin their families at Tet, and has stressed that it should not impose any condition. These proposals, however, have not been positively responded to by the Saigon Administration. Moreover, the Saigon Administration has advanced many reasons for demanding a change in the return sites and a new discussion of the return procedures which were already agreed upon by both sides. In reality, it has willfully delayed and caused difficulties concerning the return of prisoners, thus brazenly trampling on the sentiments of hundreds of thousands of families whose close relatives are still detained, and seriously sabotaging Article 8C of the Paris Agreement and Article 8B of the joint communique of 13 June 1973.

This is the true face of the Saigon Administration. The fact that it has feigned optimism over the return of detainees is only a smokescreen and cunning psychological warfare maneuver. It cannot cover up its scheme -- with U.S. facilities, money, and advisors -- to retain, torture, and liquidate the political detainees who are still suffering in the network of prisons which it has developed everywhere in South Vietnam. And this new trick is part of the current slander campaign against the PRGRSV which the Saigon Administration has been conducting now for several months. It also coincides with the stepped-up land-grabbing and pacification operations and the threat to stop all negotiations with the PRGRSV.

More and more the Thieu administration is revealing its extremely reactionary nature. It must immediately stop this deceptive move and scrupulously honor its previous agreement. If it remains stubborn and dodges its responsibility, it will be further scorned and blamed by the people.

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DEFICIENCIES IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY SECTOR SCORED IN COLUMN

["From Production To Consumption" column by Khach Hang: "Indiscriminate Slaughtering"; Hanoi, Nhan Dan, Vietnamese, 29 November 1973, p 2]

Our animal husbandry is still unsatisfactory. The purchasing, distribution, and consumption of meat are still irrational and improper.

Purchasing is often unsatisfactory. A number of purchasing cadres have not yet clearly understood the hog-raising situation, nor have they taken pains to carry out motivation and propaganda activities. As a result of their laziness, purchases have not yet met planned norms. Meanwhile, a number of people have engaged in buying hogs and slaughtering them for pork. They make an on-the-spot examination, looking for the best ones, and insisting that people sell their hogs at a price higher than that stipulated. They then slaughter them indiscriminately. For this reason, many civilian-owned butcher shops have operated on the market where you can find everything you want: wrapped cooked pork, fermented pork dumplings, mashed pork, and so forth. In this manner many hogs have disappeared.

In all agricultural cooperatives a number of people still resort to dilatory moves while selling hogs to the state. After fulfilling their obligation to the state, they still have a number of hogs left. Yet, instead of selling them to the state at a good price, they sell them to butchers at a higher price to serve their own interests. Some people have even signed contracts to raise hogs with the paddy and flour provided by the food branch. Yet, when their hogs were marketable, they sold them to the butchers instead of the food branch. A number of agricultural cooperatives have not yet satisfactorily fulfilled their food obligation; they have often sold only part of their hogs to the state. As for the considerable number of hogs remaining, they have often been sold to other clients in an unprincipled manner. Most serious of all, they have reserved a very large number of hogs for festivals.

Hog selling has not yet been reserved exclusively for purchasing cadres. As a result, the volume of pork purchased by the food branch is