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1/5/74

PS	FILE	SUBJ.
1/74	DATE	SUB-CAT.

PRG'S DINH BA THI SPEAKS AT 35TH PARIS TALKS SESSION

Paris VNA in Vietnamese to VNA Hanoi 1522 GMT 5 Jan 74 B--FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

["Statement by Ambassador Dinh Ba Thi, Acting Head of the PRGRSV Delegation, at the 35th Session of the Consultative Conference Between the Two South Vietnamese Parties in Paris on 4 January 1974"--VNA heading]

[Text] LPA, Paris 4 January 1974--Ladies and gentlemen, the PRG continues, as it has done in the past, to thoroughly respect and correctly implement the Paris agreement on Vietnam, regarding it not only as the duty of one of the signatories of the agreement

but also as a major policy. [words indistinct] to settle the internal problems of South Vietnam. Our side advocates that serious consultative talks be held with your government in a spirit of national reconciliation and concord, of equality, mutual respect, and mutual non-elimination as pointed out in the agreement.

In this spirit, at this conference table over the past 10 months, the PRG delegation has advanced many reasonable proposals in accordance with the practical situation in South Vietnam and with a view to restoring genuine peace and bringing about national reconciliation and concord. Our proposals are also aimed at immediately and fully guaranteeing the democratic liberties of the South Vietnamese people, freeing all prisoners captured during the war, and setting up in the near future a council of national reconciliation and concord composed of three components and entrusted with the task of organizing truly free and democratic general elections in South Vietnam. If your government had correctly implemented the agreement and displayed good will in the consultative talks, the gunfire would have ceased in South Vietnam, life would have become stable, many families would have been reunited, and the agreement on the various internal problems of South Vietnam would have been signed long ago.

However, despite the fact that the cease-fire order has been issued on three occasions and that the PRG has vigorously restrained itself, the situation in South Vietnam has become more and more tense while life in the areas under the control of the Saigon government has become more and more miserable and unstable. The indisputable reason for this is that your government has been steadily advancing on the path of opposing and sabotaging the agreement and the joint communique, prolonging and intensifying the war with a view to refuting the fact that there exist two governments, two armed forces, two zones of control, and three political forces in South Vietnam, and carrying out the scheme to annex and place the whole of South Vietnam under the neocolonialist yoke of U.S. imperialism.

To carry out this scheme by force, your government has refused to implement the cease-fire, has sent its armed forces to repeatedly carry out nibbling operations, and mobilized its air force to savagely bomb various areas under the control of the PRG. From 28 January to 25 December 1973, your government violated the cease-fire over 305,000 times, carried out [figure indistinct] nibbling operations, 35,648 artillery attacks and 15,300 air raids and armed reconnaissance flights.

In the areas under the control of your government, you have launched hundreds of thousands of mopping-up and "pacification" operations and have burned and destroyed countless houses, assassinated, jailed, and plundered the local people and brought down innumerable sufferings and sorrows on the population. (?To carry out the policy of resettling the masses), your government has forcibly herded hundreds of thousands of compatriots into various concentration camps [words indistinct] thus placing them in dire straits.

With respect to over 200,000 peace-loving patriots, your government has refused to release them as stipulated in the agreement and the joint communique. You continue to detain them in jails, to torture and clandestinely liquidate them. With respect to the 5,081 people mentioned in the plan which has been agreed upon, your government has deliberately refused to release all of them.

The Paris agreement has been signed for nearly a year now. The time limit stipulated in the agreement for completing the exchange of the prisoners passed long ago. Despite all this, hundreds of thousands of distinguished members of the population are still detained and repressed by your side and are unable to be reunited with their families. Legally and ethically, these are acts which cannot be justified.

Due to the policy of annexing the opponent by force, of prolonging the war and exploiting and plundering the people carried out by your side, life in the areas under the control of your government has become more and more deplorable. There is a severe shortage of rice, prices of daily commodities are skyrocketing, taxes are heavy, corruption is spreading, theft and pillage are rampant, and starvation is threatening many areas. In the face of the terrible hunger and suffering endured by the people, your government has not carried out any effective measures to solve the problem. On the contrary, it has stepped up the exploitation and plunder of the people as witnessed by the rice plundering campaign recently launched by your government in the Mekong Delta and the efforts in preparation for the "full collection" of the 200 billion in taxes to be levied this year.

To serve the policy of annexing the opponent by force, at this conference table your delegation has consistently clung to its erroneous stand, distorting the agreement, avoiding discussion of the problems constructively posed at the conference. Facts clearly show that, after more than 10 months of negotiation, your delegation has used this forum to advance cheating proposals and to accuse and slander the PRGRSV and the DRV Government with a view to covering up the schemes and the activities aimed at sabotaging the agreement carried out by the Americans and your government.

Recently, on 28 December in Vung Tau, the head of your government in a statement once again asserted the stand and policy of your government as outlined above. In his statement, he continued to deny the PRG and the third political force. He also asserted that "peace will not arrive," that "there will not be general elections," that "the negotiations that are being held with the communists in Paris and Saigon will be canceled." Through these statements, everybody can clearly see that your government has escalated more than ever before its scheme to scrap the basic contents of the agreement.

Openly declaring that "there will be no general elections," it is obvious that your government has publicly opposed the provision that "the South Vietnamese people be allowed to determine the political future of South Vietnam through truly free and democratic general elections under international supervision" as stipulated in Article 9(B) of the Paris agreement. This fact has also laid bare your trick because, in the past, you have on many occasions repeated that "general elections should be organized," that "a timetable with the date of the general elections clearly inscribed should be set up." All this is nothing but a cheating trick.

Brazenly declaring that "negotiations are not needed," that "all the negotiations will be cancelled," shows that your government has definitely chosen the path of armed conflict and opposed the fact that "the two South Vietnamese parties have agreed to undertake to respect the cease-fire and firmly maintain peace in South Vietnam, to settle their differences through negotiations, and to avoid all armed conflicts" as stipulated by Article 10 of the agreement. Let us ask: In declaring that "there will be no peace," that "negotiations will be cancelled," that "there will be no general elections," what path will your government choose? It is obvious that your government is advancing deeper on the path of war, of opposing and sabotaging the agreement and peace as well as national reconciliation and concord and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people.

The root of this situation is the fact that the United States continues with a policy of military involvement and of impudent interference in the internal affairs of South Vietnam, making use of your government as a tool to implement its scheme of controlling South Vietnam.

Once again, we deem it necessary to point out to you that the path of opposing the agreement so as to carry out a policy of annexing the opponent by force, as chosen by your government, is erroneous and runs counter to the aspirations of the South Vietnamese people and the people in the world who hope that the Paris agreement on Vietnam will be respected and thoroughly implemented, that the internal problems of South Vietnam be settled through negotiations on the basis of the agreement and in a spirit of national reconciliation and concord. This policy of your government is certainly doomed to failure. The U.S. Government, which leads and supports your side, also cannot cast off its heavy responsibility for all the consequences arising from the sabotaging actions carried out by it and by your government.

Ladies and gentlemen, in face of the present serious situation in South Vietnam, answering the urgent aspirations of the people at the beginning of 1974 and on the eve of the traditional Lunar New Year, the PRG delegation proposes, at this first meeting of 1974, that the two sides agree on the following urgent measures aimed primarily at stabilizing the situation, contributing to partly solving the hardships of the people, and creating conditions toward fully settling the South Vietnam problem:

1. The two sides immediately reach an agreement so that the cease-fire can be thoroughly implemented according to the 13 July five-point proposal and the 28 December four-point proposal further clarifying the first one advanced by the PRG military delegation and aimed at silencing the guns and restoring peace throughout South Vietnam in the near future. Your side should immediately put an end to all nibbling operations and all police and "pacification" activities, to all attacks against the areas under the control of the PRG by means of its air and naval forces, and artillery. You should let the commanders at various levels of your armed forces in various areas get in touch with, meet and talk with the commanders of the People's Liberation Armed Forces with a view to ending hostilities, safeguarding the lives, property and freedom of circulation of the people, and withdraw the encroaching forces to the positions prior to 28 January 1973, and immediately carry out the defining of the zones controlled by each side.
2. Immediately continue the exchange of all of the military and civilian personnel still being detained and, first of all, complete the release of the 5,081 prisoners before the Lunar New Year in accordance with the plan that has been agreed upon so that these prisoners can be reunited with their families. Immediately end all actions of brutality against the lives and persons of all those who are still being detained, particularly murdering them or rendering them disabled. Immediately end all torture and all actions offending the personality and dignity of human beings, improve living conditions and insure medical care for the prisoners, allowing their parents and relatives to visit and take care of them.
3. Immediately guarantee the democratic liberties of the people, and, first of all, let the people freely circulate, freely choose their residence so that they can resume their farming and gardening activities, go about their business, repair the tombs of their parents, and visit relatives and friends. On the occasion of the Lunar New Year, these activities are very important for the South Vietnamese people.

This time, we hope that your side will positively and quickly reply to the above-mentioned extremely urgent proposals.

[Liberation Radio [Clandestine] in Vietnamese to South Vietnam at 1000 GMT on 6 January summarizes Dinh Ba Thi's speech and describes the RVN delegate's response in the following passage:

"The representative of the Saigon administration, Nguyen Xuan Phong, boasted about his participation in this first session of the year as a special adviser to the Saigon administration."

"He reiterated the old stand and proposals on the so-called timetable, the formation of sub-committees and so forth. Nguyen Xuan Phong also tried to deny the existence of the PRGRSV and the third political force.

"[Ambassador Dinh Ba Thi denounced the boastful statement of the Saigon representative as a scheme aimed at evading the discussion of urgent problems to solve the South Vietnam situation as recommended by the Paris agreement. The ambassador stressed: If the Saigon administration wants to show that it has sincere good will, it should seriously answer the three-point proposal set forth today by the PRGRSV delegation. The ambassador added that continuing their present erroneous policy, the United States and Saigon administration will only sustain even more bitter defeats.

["As a result of the negative attitude and the agreement-sabotaging policy of the Saigon administration, the 35th session, the first session of 1974, did not achieve any result. The United States and Saigon administration must be held responsible for this fact. The next session will be held on 11 January 1974."]

#### SAIGON RADIO REPORTS NO PROGRESS IN 35TH PARIS SESSION

Saigon Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 5 Jan 74 S

[Text] Yesterday's session of the La Celle-Saint-Cloud talks again did not make any progress due to the communist side's shameless, stubborn and deceitful attitude. Just as at the previous sessions, this time also the communist side replayed its all too old farce, advancing deceitful and boring propaganda allegations and evading the concrete proposals of the RVN delegation.

Truly, at yesterday's session, Mr Nguyen Xuan Phong, acting head of the RVN delegation, proposed a complete solution to the RVN issue, including both military and political problems which must be solved in parallel. In this proposal, the acting head of the RVN delegation suggested that special task groups be organized to consider all problems related to the holding of general elections. He proposed that the communists must end all restrictions on implementation of democratic liberties after the two sides have signed a general agreement in which the date of the holding of general elections is definitely set.

In the military field, the acting head of the RVN delegation proposed a reduction of military forces on both sides. And at the same time, he requested that the communist forces not belonging to the south withdraw to their departure positions--that is, the North Vietnamese must withdraw completely to the north.

#### RVN PARIS SPOKESMAN INTERVIEWED FOLLOWING LATEST SESSION

Saigon Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 5 Jan 74 S

[Interview with Nguyen Xuan Phong, acting head of the RVN delegation to the bipartite Paris conference, by a Saigon radio correspondent following the 35th session of the conference on 4 January--recorded]

[Text] [Question] We know that at the first session of this year, the RVN delegation made a special effort to help the conference progress. Please, then, tell us if this effort of our side achieved any results.

[Answer] To put it mildly, our delegation solemnly confirmed the correct negotiating stand of the RVN. The RVN delegation, in a realistic and detailed manner, presented its stand concerning the problems facing the conference as clearly stipulated in the Paris agreement.

In so doing, our delegation sought to help the conference avoid the old rut of last year and progress. However, after almost two hours of discussion, the communist side did not show even the slightest sign that it wanted to embark on the path of true negotiations.

Over the past 9 months, every time the RVN delegation has put forth realistic, concrete and just overtures and proposals at the conference table with a view to satisfactorily solving the problems, the communist side has reacted in a completely negative manner and only concentrated on ridiculing and distorting all constructive efforts of the RVN delegation. Therefore, public opinion can clearly recognize the true sincerity and good will of the RVN in the quest for peace, and that the responsibility for the present deadlocked situation of the conference obviously and completely rests with the communist side.

[Question] Mr Phong, before entering and after leaving the conference room today, the communist side declared that recently our side has said that there will be no general elections nor negotiations whatsoever. What did you tell the communist side concerning this point?

[Answer] The communist side reiterated this allegation many times right in the conference room, and I clearly told them that such allegations are merely an exaggeration and distortion of the truth, if not blatant fabricated slanders.

The RVN leaders have made it clear: How can we advance toward general elections at a time when the communist side at the conference table continues to refuse to discuss a clear-cut, detailed and rational program proposed by the RVN Government? Regarding this issue, the RVN delegation has proposed many times at the conference table the organization of general elections under international surveillance on 26 August 1973 and then recently on Christmas. The communist side has not responded to these proposals in a constructive manner and has refused to discuss them seriously.

The RVN leaders have also made it clear that peace cannot be achieved at a time when the communist side is systematically violating all provisions of the Paris agreement.

Moreover, the RVN leaders have said so that everyone can clearly understand: The conference cannot make any progress because the so-called Liberation Front is merely a tool of the North Vietnamese communists. It has no real authority and cannot decide anything. This organization cannot exist in South Vietnam without the presence of numerous North Vietnamese regular troops south of the 17th parallel. Therefore, the communist side should not pretend to talk about the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, about general elections, about correct political solutions, about ending the war and restoring peace and so forth. How can the communist side talk about ending the war and restoring peace, about democratic liberties and about general elections?

RVN DISSEMINATES NOTE PROTESTING PRC-PRG VISA PACT

Saigon VIETNAM PRESS in English 7 Jan 74 Evening Edition 5

[Text] Saigon, (VP) Jan. 7--The RVN Government has sent to the 12 parties to the act of the International Conference on Vietnam and the United Nations' secretary general a note protesting against the exchange of notes on free entry between Red China and the National Liberation Front, spokesman Nguyen Bich Mac of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said this morning.

The RVN Government had informed the UN Subcommittee on International Accords Treaties of the act of Red China and the National Liberation Front, he said, and this meant that the RVN had considered the agreement invalid. Therefore, those foreigners who enter the Vietnamese territory south of the 17th parallel without legal passports will be regarded as illegal infiltrators.

Red China recently exchanged with the so-called NFL notes on free entry without visas and such an action was a serious violation of the sovereignty of the Republic of Vietnam.

#### AFP REPORTERS VISIT, DESCRIBE QUANG TRI LIBERATED AREAS

Hong Kong AFP in English 1947 GMT 4 Jan 74 D--FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[AFP advisory: During two journeys from the Sino-North Vietnamese frontier, members of the AFP staff became the first Western journalists to cross from North Vietnam into Provisional Revolutionary Government-controlled South Vietnam by the famed Hien-Luong Bridge. The following is the first of four accounts of what they saw.]

[by Jean Vincent]

[Text] Hanoi, Jan 4 (AFP)--We are 600 km (370 miles) south of Hanoi, at the extreme southern tip of the North Vietnamese and Provincial Revolutionary Government stretch of Highway One. The sky is low and rain is falling as the Vietnamese, dressed as best they can to protect them from the cold, plod through the wet in their Ho Chi Minh sandals made out of tyres and strips of rubber.

Ahead of us is the Thach Han River, the frontier between the PRG Republic of South Vietnam and the Saigon Republic of Vietnam. On our side of the river flies the starred red and blue flag of the PRG and about 150 meters (yards) away on the other bank is the striped yellow and red flag of Saigon. It was here that, not without incident, the exchange of prisoners of war took place a few months ago.

Suddenly, a supersonic bang splits the sky. Another violation of our air space by the Americans or the Saigonese, says a young National Liberation Front officer, smiling. Asked if it was possible that the bang was caused by a Mig, he replies severely: North Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government are applying the Paris agreement properly. We are waiting for Saigon and Washington to adopt the same serious attitude.

Certainly, the truce is not observed here and violations of the Paris agreement are committed by the hour on both banks of the river. Almost without interruption, loudspeakers exchange insults and aggressive music. Our guides say: The Saigon music is vulgar, modernised, American folklore while the PRG music is a national product, the authentic fruit of our cultural tradition. Between two songs, the Saigon radio announces: The world press says the communist system is stigmatised by the whole of humanity. Immediately the PRG announcer replies: The Nguyen Van Thieu puppet clique is a product of imperialism and treason.

Just at this moment, on the other side of the bank, a motor car exactly the same as ours pulls up and out of it climb a group of visitors who have come to see with their own eyes the banner displayed on our bank. Everybody is watching everybody, but the soldiers despise each other, while the civilians ignore each other.

To reach this spot on the map where the two sides insult each other, I travelled about 1,000 km (600 miles) from the Sino-North Vietnamese frontier.