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PRG PARIS TALKS DELEGATION ISSUES STATEMENT 5 JAN

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["Statement by the PRGRSV Delegation to the Consultative Conference Between the Two South Vietnamese Parties at La Celle-Saint-Cloud"--VNA heading]

[Text] LPA, Paris, 5 January 1974--Over the past few days, the leader of the Nguyen Van Thieu administration has successively uttered extremely bellicose statements against the Paris agreement on Vietnam and the 13 June, 1973 joint communique. From declaring that "the consultative conference" between the two South Vietnamese parties at La Celle-Saint-Cloud "could be scrapped," to saying that Saigon "would not hold general elections" as provided for by the Paris agreement, Nguyen Van Thieu has become so reckless as to order the Saigon army on 4 January 1974 to attack the area under the PRGRSV's control and to resume the war.

As a matter of fact, since the time when the cease-fire became effective on 28 January, 1973, the Saigon administration has sent its troops to nibble at the PRGRSV-controlled areas such as Cua Viet, Sa Huynh and so forth. From then until 25 December 1973, it had committed 305,255 violations of the cease-fire, including 34,660 nibbling operations, 35,648 artillery shellings, 15,304 air raids and armed reconnaissance, repeating many "Son My"-type massacres and piling up untold miseries and mournings throughout South Vietnam.

It is clear that the Saigon army did not wait until 4 January 1974 to launch its attack on the liberated zone. However, through Nguyen Van Thieu's aforementioned statements, the Saigon bellicose ruling clique has brazenly enunciated its scheme of choosing the path of war, the path of annexation by force in an attempt to erase the reality in South Vietnam in which there are two administrations, two armies, two zones of control and three political forces as recognized by the Paris agreement. It is clear that it is the Saigon clique and no one else which has tried to seriously and systematically sabotage the Paris agreement and oppose the 17 million South Vietnamese people's aspirations for peace and national reconciliation and concord.

The U.S. Government must be held fully responsible for the Nguyen Van Thieu administration's adventurous policy because this administration has always been Washington's tool in the plot to impose U.S. neocolonialism on South Vietnam.

Nguyen Van Thieu's warlike statement of 4 January 1974 constitutes a new and extremely serious challenge to the Vietnamese people. It even runs counter to the aspirations for peace felt by a large number of officers and men in the Saigon army. It is also a gross challenge to the people the world over who desire that the Paris agreement be implemented and peace be restored soon in South Vietnam.

The PRGRSV as well as the DRV Government have always scrupulously respected and strictly implemented the Paris agreement on Vietnam and the 13 June 1973 joint communique. At the same time, they resolutely demand that the United States and the Saigon administration adopt a similar attitude. The Vietnamese people and the PRGRSV earnestly desire peace, reconciliation and national concord, but they reserve for themselves the right to adopt all appropriate measures and forms of struggle to defend the liberated zone, safeguard the people's lives and property and protect the agreement. The United States and the Nguyen Van Thieu administration must bear all the consequences caused by them.

HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR ON MICROFILM