

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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TO : Mr. Al Francis - POL

DATE: June 22, 1974

FROM : John F. Hogan - SA/PA

SUBJECT: PRG/DRV Press Briefing, Saturday, June 22, 1974

The regular Saturday morning PRG/DRV press briefing was held at the usual location -- Davis Station, Tan Son Nhut.

PRG Senior Colonel Vo Dong Giang charged that talks in the FPJMT were deadlocked because the United States has incited South Vietnam to step up the war in violation of the Paris agreements. Although he talked for a little more than an hour, COL Giang said nothing of substance, according to wire service reporters at the briefing. He repeated the PRG/DRV line that the problem of priviledges and immunities must be discussed and agreed upon before serious consideration can be given to article 8-B.

DRV LTC Nguyen Duc Bao, deputy chief of the DRV delegation to the FPJMT, concentrated on the sinking this week of a NVN ship off the coast north of Danang. (just below the DMZ)... LTC Bao claimed that the GVN was responsible for attacking a civilian ship carrying 34-tons of food for the PRG. It was sunk, he said, seven miles off the coast, clearly in PRG territorial waters. LTC Bao said 15-crewmembers were on the ship. Some are missing, he said, and some were killed or captured by the GVN. Reporters quieried him on how many were killed and how many captured, but he refused to give specific figures. LTC Bao also refused to answer a question about how many NVN ships had visited PRG areas of Quang Tri province in the past. LTC Bao decried the SVN attack on the lost vessel and said it was fired on by GVN helicopter gunships and two "war vessels" before it was sunk.



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