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PRGRSV FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON SUSPENSION OF JMC MEETINGS

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6/22/74
Liberation Radio [Clandestine] in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 1400 GMT 22 Jun 74 S

[22 June Foreign Ministry statement]

[Text] In a spirit of national reconciliation and concord and desiring that the Paris agreement on Vietnam be scrupulously respected and strictly implemented, the PRGRSV has consistently demonstrated its good will. This spirit is reflected in its six-point proposal of 22 March 1974 and in its Foreign Ministry statement of 10 June 1974. As a result of the resolute struggle of the PRGRSV and the DRV Government, the head-level sessions of the joint military organizations were resumed on 11 June 1974. However, since that time the United States and the Nguyen Van Thieu administration have not adopted a serious attitude in the negotiations, have sabotaged the talks, have continued to intensify the war and have committed many crimes against the South Vietnamese people. They have refused to discuss the question of insuring full implementation of the prerogatives and immunities, as prescribed in Articles 16 and 17 of the protocol on the joint military commissions and in paragraph 11 of the joint communique of 13 June 1973. They have also displayed an arrogant and overbearing attitude, brazenly distorting the Paris agreement and grossly slandering the PRGRSV and the DRV Government.

The Nguyen Van Thieu administration has stubbornly refused to resume the La Celle-Saint-Cloud conference and has unilaterally canceled the regular Saigon-Loc Ninh liaison flights. Meanwhile, the fascist, warlike Nguyen Van Thieu clique is intensively repressing and terrorizing all of the forces that do not side with it, including religious circles, committing many new crimes against the South Vietnamese people.

Particularly grave is the fact that the Thieu clique recently brazenly encroached on PRGRSV territorial waters, attacking and sinking DRV transport vessel LC-174, which was carrying out a civil supply mission for the South Vietnamese people in the Cua Viet area. Disregarding the Paris agreement, the Thieu clique also arrogantly claimed that the territorial waters from the southern side of the 17th parrallel southward are under its control. These acts by the Nguyen Van Thieu administration are part of a premeditated plan masterminded and directed by the United States.

Obviously, the Nguyen Van Thieu administration reluctantly resumed its participation in the sessions of the joint military organizations to ward off public condemnation and cover up its stubborn stand and its criminal acts of war escalation.

The PRGRSV vehemently denounces and sternly condemns the schemes and acts sabotaging the Paris agreement, and the double-dealing and overbearing attitude displayed by the United States and the Nguyen Van Thieu administration in the course of the talks. In a situation in which the United States and the Nguyen Van Thieu administration are impeding the operations of the joint military organizations and exerting efforts to intensify the war, and at the same time are taking advantage of the PRGRSV'S good will to deceive public opinion, it is completely useless to continue to sit with them at the negotiating forums.

The PRGRSV has decided to indefinitely suspend its participation at the sessions of the central Two-Party JMC and the Four-Party JMC team until the United States and the Nguyen Van Thieu administration stop all of their acts of sabotage against the negotiations, undertake to guarantee implementation of all privileges and immunities as specified in Articles 16 and 17 of the protocol concerning the joint military commissions and item 11 of the joint communique, adopt a serious and correct attitude in negotiations at the joint military organizations as well as at the La Celle-Saint-Cloud conference, and positively respond to the PRGRSV'S reasonable and logical proposals.

These are legitimate and very necessary minimum demands aimed at insuring that all negotiations are quickly conducted in order to correctly solve South Vietnam's internal affairs and guarantee scrupulous implementation of the Paris agreement on Vietnam. If the United States and the Nguyen Van Thieu administration refuse to respond to these legitimate demands and to fully carry out their obligations and duties as stipulated by the Paris agreement and the joint communique, and if they stubbornly continue to intensify the war and sabotage the negotiations, they must be held totally responsible for all the consequences arising from their own actions.

South Vietnam, 22 June 1974.

Front Radio Commentary

Liberation Radio [Clandestine] in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 1400 GMT 22 Jun 74 S

[Station commentary: "A Correct and Timely Decision"]

[Text] The PRGRSV Foreign Ministry has just released an important statement dealing with the sabotage of the negotiations at the Two-Party and Four-Party JMCs and therefore, reaching the decision to suspend its participation at all sessions of these two organizations. This is a correct and timely decision that clearly reflects our people's unswerving stand of strictly respecting and scrupulously implementing the Paris agreement and the joint communique, and of displaying their good will in negotiations--while always maintaining their readiness to adopt an appropriate attitude if the United States and Thieu intensify the war, sabotage the agreement and adopt an insolent attitude in negotiations.

It is universally known that the situation in South Vietnam is growing increasingly tense because the United States and the Thieu administration have stubbornly continued to violate and sabotage the Paris agreement. In recent days, despite our good will and although the Two-Party and Four-Party JMC sessions have been resumed, the situation has not improved because the United States and Thieu have continued to pursue their criminal path. The U.S. administration has been getting militarily involved ever more deeply in South Vietnam by creating pressure to force the U.S. Congress to approve nearly \$1 billion in military aid to Thieu and by continuing to introduce weapons into South Vietnam illegally--including additional F-5E planes and preparing to introduce even more modern F-5F planes for Thieu's air force. The secret arrival in Saigon of Colby, the ringleader of the CIA, on 11 June and the on-the-spot downing of an unmanned U.S. reconnaissance plane on 16 June are the latest evidence of the involvement of the dirty and criminal U.S. hands in South Vietnam.

The Thieu administration--with the United States massively supplying it with money and weapons and expending great effort to formulate schemes and maneuvers for it--has intensified its war activities even more frenziedly than before. Most typical of Thieu's recent acts of war was the large-scale nibbling operation conducted against the PRGRSV-controlled Ben Cat area. During this operation, Thieu mobilized virtually all the forces belonging to the 3d Corps comprising tens of thousands of troops and hundreds of tanks and armored cars; fired 2,000-3,000 artillery rounds a day; and daily sent out 40 to 80 aircraft sorties to conduct destructive bombing in the Ben Cat area.

During the pacification and police operations repeatedly conducted at the rate of thousands a day, Thieu has not spared any barbarous and cruel maneuvers against our people, such as the recent killing of five monks in Kien Thanh. Even more brazenly, on 20 June, Thieu mobilized aircraft and warships to surround and sink a transport vessel of the DRV Government, which was carrying out a civilian supply mission and transporting grain and food in the Cua Viet area in PRGRSV territorial waters. This was a very serious act of war and a very brazen provocation committed by the Thieu administration against the DRV Government and the PRGRSV. Our people cannot forgive the Thieu administration for this crime.

Along with conducting acts of war and sabotaging the agreement, the United States and Thieu have always adopted an insolent attitude at the negotiations and have constantly caused difficulties and obstacles to our delegates to the Two-Party and Four-Party JMCs. At the sessions held since 11 June, in response to our serious, reasonable and logical proposals for signing the documents asserting the right to privileges and immunities and our serious attitude at the negotiations, the U.S. and Saigon delegates have advanced many very ridiculous and distorted arguments to evade their responsibility; and, finally, they flatly rejected our proposals. The U.S. delegate to the Four-Party JMC team also arrogantly walked out of a meeting while other delegates were expressing their views. Meanwhile, Thieu's delegate to the Two-Party JMC has resorted to a gangsterish act, slamming our delegate's draft documents onto the table and declaring he would neither sign nor engage in further discussions. Only a few days after Thieu's delegate repeatedly ballyhooed that he had supplied our delegation with all operational means and that he had displayed his great generosity and fair play toward our delegation concerning the privileges and immunities, the Saigon administration unwarrantedly canceled the Saigon-Loc Ninh flight of our delegation and prevented it from going to the airfield to receive the Iranian delegation to the ICCS.

Obviously, in a situation in which the United States and Thieu are frenziedly intensifying the war, sabotaging the agreement and adopting such an insolent attitude in order to sabotage the negotiations, how can our delegations' normal operations be guaranteed and how can the sessions of the Two-Party and Four-Party JMCs be continued to effectively discuss the urgent problems of the agreement?

The PRGRSV Foreign Ministry's decision to indefinitely suspend its participation at the sessions of the central Two-Party JMC and the Four-Party JMC team until the United States and the Nguyen Van Thieu administration end all their acts sabotaging the negotiations, undertake to guarantee implementation of all privileges and immunities as specified in Articles 16 and 17 of the protocol concerning the JMCs and item 11 of the Joint communique, adopt a serious and correct attitude in the negotiations at the joint military organizations as well as the La Celle-Saint-Cloud conference, and positively respond to the PRGRSV's reasonable and logical proposals, is not only a correct and rational decision but it also responds to the present legitimate demands of the great majority of our people. These are legitimate and very necessary minimum demands aimed at insuring that all negotiations can progress quickly in order to correctly solve South Vietnam's internal affairs and guarantee scrupulous implementation of the Paris agreement on Vietnam.

If the United States and the Nguyen Van Thieu administration refuse to respond to these legitimate demands and to fully carry out their obligations and duties as stipulated by the Paris agreement and the joint communique, and if they stubbornly continue to intensify the war and sabotage the negotiations, they must be held totally responsible for all the consequences arising from their own actions.

FRONT RADIO REPORTS SUSPENSION OF 18 JUN JMC SESSIONS

Two-Party JMC

Liberation Radio [Clandestine] in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0500 GMT 19 Jun 74 S

[Text] At the meeting between heads of the delegations to the central Two-Party JMC on the morning of 18 June, the Saigon delegation, in order to avoid its responsibility and continue its sabotage acts, falsely stated that the Saigon side has fully respected the privileges and immunities of the other side. The Saigon delegation then used this assertion as a pretext for rejecting a draft agreement concerning this problem that the PRGRSV military delegation advanced on 14 June 1974.

Maj Gen Hoang Anh Tuan, head of the PRGRSV military delegation, once again declared that the first thing that the Saigon administration must do is confirm its obligation to and responsibility for the implementation of the privileges and immunities of the PRGRSV military delegation, must guarantee conditions for the normal activities of the PRGRSV military delegation and must adopt a serious negotiating attitude. Otherwise, negotiations are impossible and the Paris agreement cannot be effectively implemented. Maj Gen Hoang Anh Tuan pointed out that while the Saigon administration still refused to meet the legitimate demands of the PRGRSV military delegation, it nonetheless continued to demand that the JMC resume its work. The Saigon administration also set forth the cease-fire question with a view to avoiding the discussions on the implementation of the privileges and immunities of the PRGRSV military delegation. This was really a trick aimed at fooling public opinion and covering up the U.S.-Saigon maneuver to deliberately keep the JMC paralyzed, so that they may continue the war and sabotage the agreement. In the face of the Saigon administration's stubbornness, Maj Gen Hoang Anh Tuan was forced to declare the suspension of the meeting. The major general demanded that the Saigon administration reconsider its attitude and correctly meet the legitimate demands of the PRGRSV military delegation at the Friday morning session, 21 June 1974.

Meanwhile, at the Four-Party JMC meeting held on 18 June, the PRGRSV and DRV military delegations were also forced to declare the meeting suspended in protest against the stubborn, arrogant and provocative attitude of the U.S. and Saigon sides. Our delegation maintained that the United States and Saigon administration must be held fully responsible for the deadlock in the Four-Party JMC.

Four-Party JMC

Liberation Radio [Clandestine] in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0930 GMT 19 Jun 74 S

[Text] On 18 June 1974, at the Four-Party JMC meeting, our two military delegations raised the question of an agreement on guaranteeing the privileges and immunities as a basis for discussion. The Saigon delegation to the Two-Party JMC and the U.S. and Saigon delegations to the Four-Party JMC team also raised the same question, but they rejected the draft agreement put forth by our two military delegations on this matter. Moreover, they adopted a very insolent attitude.

Obviously, the United States and the Saigon administration have continued their scheme of sabotaging and paralyzing the JMCs in order to intensify the war. They have refused to pledge to guarantee the privileges and immunities so they can sabotage them whenever they want.

Faced with the stubborn, insolent and provocative attitude of the U.S. and Saigon administration, our two military delegations were forced to declare the suspension of the meeting in order to protest the poor attitude of the United States and the Saigon administration and declare that they must be held entirely responsible for the deadlocked situation of the Four-Party JMC team.

PRG, DRV SCORE SABOTAGE AT 20 JUN 4-PARTY JMC SESSION

LPA from North Vietnam [Clandestine] in English to East Europe and the Far East 1508 GMT
22 Jun 74 B

[Text] South Vietnam June 22 LPA--At a session of the Four-Party Joint Military Team held on June 20, 1974, the representatives of the military delegations of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam severely criticized the obdurate, insolent and provocative attitude of the representatives of the United States and the Saigon administration in the past sessions by refusing to discuss on the commitment to implement the diplomatic privileges and immunities.

Lieutenant-Colonel Vo Tho Son, head of the PRG military delegation, pointed out: "The U.S. and the Saigon administration representatives' refusal to discuss on a commitment to guarantee the implementation of the diplomatic privileges and immunities is part of their scheme of sabotaging the normal activities of the joint military organizations, with a view to undermining the Paris agreement so as to continue to intensify the war."

First Lieutenant-Colonel Nguyen Don Tu, acting head of the DRV Government's military delegation, sternly condemned the United States for distorting the Paris agreement and slandering the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the PRG of the Republic of South Vietnam with a view to covering up its scheme of continuing the war and directing the Nguyen Van Thieu warlike fascist administration in a bid to maintain the U.S. neo-colonialist regime in South Vietnam.

The PRGRSV and DRV Government's military delegations demanded that the United States and the Saigon administration have a serious attitude in the negotiations, end immediately their obstinate and insolent actions and declarations, and recognize clearly that the commitment to guarantee the implementation of the diplomatic privileges and immunities is their juridical responsibility and obligation as stipulated by the Paris agreement and the joint communique.

Saigon Reaction

Saigon VIETNAM PRESS in English 21 Jun 74 Evening Edition S

[Text] Saigon (VP) June 21--Clinging to the pretext of "immunities and privileges" to screen their sabotage of negotiation, the communists once again caused deadlock to the Four-Party Joint Military Team (FP-JMT) meeting Thursday.

Delegates of communist North Vietnam and the National Liberation Front insistently demanded the RVN to sign a document giving them privileges and immunities similar to those reserved for a diplomatic mission before holding discussion on the FP-JMT function stipulated in Article 8B of the ceasefire agreement, that is searching for the missing military personnel in Indochina.

At the previous FP-JMT meeting the communist side had set forth the same pretext to walk out of the conference room, but later, for fear of public opinion's condemnation of their bellicosity, returned to the negotiating table. However, they only repeated their old stubborn arguments.

The RVN delegation has rejected all illogical demands of the communist side because it has been provided with all facilities and immunities such as liaison flights, telephone, press meets...which they had asked for.

HOANG ANH TUAN RAPS SAIGON'S STANCE AT 21 JUN JMC MEETING

Hanoi VNA in English 1552 GMT 22 Jun 74 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA June 22--A meeting of head delegates to the central Two-Party Joint Military Commission took place at Tan Son Nhut, near Saigon yesterday, according to GIAI PHONG PRESS AGENCY (LPA). Major General Hoang Anh Tuan, head of the military delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, speaking at the meeting demanded that the Saigon administration recognize and fully observe the privileges and immunities of the PRG delegation as its legal obligation under the Paris agreement on Vietnam. He also called for a serious attitude on the part of Saigon in the negotiations and an end to all its acts of sabotage of meetings of the commission.

The PRG head delegate pointed out: "In service of the U.S. scheme to continue intensification of the war and sabotage of the agreement, the Saigon administration has systematically and very seriously sabotaged the JMC, thus paralyzing this body and causing its failure in discussing and solving any problem at all.

"It has rejected all the sensible and logical proposals put forward by the PRG side, resorted to brazen moves to sabotage commission meetings, and prevented the PRG military delegation from expressing its opinion. Meanwhile, it has seriously infringed upon the privileges and immunities of the PRG delegation and placed obstacles in the way of any of its normal activities, thus preventing it from carrying out its responsibility in the implementation of all the provisions of the agreement."

The major-general stressed: "The PRGRSV has always called for the strict implementation of the cease-fire throughout South Vietnam, the return of all military and civilian personnel arrested and detained, and the strict implementation of all other provisions of the Paris agreement. The six-point proposal of March 22, 1974, made by the PRG on achieving peace and national concord once again reaffirmed that demand. However, in the well known circumstances that the work of the central Two-Party JMC has been seriously sabotaged by the Saigon side, the following conditions must be met by the Saigon side to help this body in the discussion and solution of the problems arising in its work, and to guarantee its normal activities:

"1. To affirm clearly the full implementation of the privileges and immunities of the PRG delegation as a legal obligation laid down in Articles 16, 17 and 18 of the protocol on the cease-fire in South Vietnam and on the joint military commissions, and Article 11A of the joint communique.

"2. To adopt a serious attitude in negotiations, stop all manoeuvres of sabotage against the meetings, and respond positively to the six-point proposal of March 22, 1974, put forward by the PRGRSV."

Major General Hoang Anh Tuan concluded: "The fact that the Saigon administration refuses to sign the PRG's draft agreement on guaranteeing of privileges and immunities proves that it is not yet ready to negotiate seriously, since it refuses to guarantee the conditions for the normal activities of the JMC and the PRG military delegation.

Saigon Reports 21 Jun 2-Party JMC Session

Saigon VIETNAM PRESS in English 22 Jun 74 Morning Edition S

[Text] Saigon (VP) June 21--The meeting of Two-Party Joint Military Commission [TPJMC] chief delegates on Friday morning gained no results because of the stubborn communist insistence on discussions of immunities and privileges that have already been re-instated for them by the RVN Government.

This was the 4th JMC meeting held since the RVN delegation to the TPJMC announced its decision to restore privileges and facilities for the communist delegates on June 7, providing the communist side a chance to return to negotiations which they had unilaterally suspended since May 10.

In a press release on Friday, the RVN delegation to the TPJMC said that due to pressure from public opinion, the communists had to come back to the conference table, but at the talks they claimed more immunities as preconditions to resume all JMC meetings at both chief delegate and subcommittee level. Before such an unreasonable attitude, the RVN delegates at the three previous meetings still showed goodwill by listening to and carefully studying the other side's proposal on new immunities and privileges presented at the June 14 meeting.

At the June 18 session, the RVN delegates pointed out sound and reasonable reasons to reject the entire communist proposal and then asked them to consider 1) the total restoration of JMC activities, 2) realization of the four-point ceasefire proposal set forth by the RVN on Jan. 15, 1974 and 3) discussion of the RVN suggestion on the return of captured military and civilian personnel within 60 days, as suggested on March 26, 1974.

The communists Friday again made little account of the viewpoints and proposals presented by the RVN delegation at the previous meeting and kept on demanding immunities and privileges, although they are enjoying all of them.

As a matter of fact, the National Liberation Front delegates now have regular telephone lines, used RVN aircraft twice for liaison flights on June 13 and June 17 and held two press conferences on June 8 and June 15.

After refuting all arguments by the communists side, Brig. Gen. Phan Hoa Hiep, RVN chief delegate to the TPJMC, proposed that the communists discuss the ceasefire and prisoner exchange problems that were raised by the RVN delegation at the June 18 meeting.

To justify the need of such discussions, Brig. Gen. Hiep laid stress on the present critical situation on the battlefield due to the communists' war escalation with large-scale offensives and wanton shellings in provinces and populated areas throughout the RVN territory.

The next meeting of JMC chief delegates was scheduled for Tuesday June 25.

VNA CITES LPA REPORT ON 20 JUN CANCELLATION OF LIAISON FLIGHT

Hanoi VNA in English 1446 GMT 21 Jun 74 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA June 21--Giving "technical reasons" as a pretext, the Saigon administration yesterday morning again cancelled the weekly liaison flight between Saigon and Loc Ninh which was resumed after strong protests from the PRG side. This is reported by GIAI PHONG PRESS AGENCY (LPA).

"This is a new attempt to deny the privileges and immunities of the PRG delegation, which Saigon has committed itself to guarantee, and to prevent the delegation from functioning normally," LPA pointed out.

Saigon Refutes Charge

Saigon VIETNAM PRESS in English 23 Jun 74 Morning Edition S

[Text] Saigon (VP) June 22--The RVN military delegation to the Two-Party Joint Military Commission (TPJMC) Saturday denounced that the communist side is stepping up its efforts to sabotage activities of the TPJMC and tear down the Paris ceasefire agreement in order to continue their war of aggression.

The RVN military delegation said, following the RVN Government's decision to re-instate privileges and immunities to the communist delegations, on June 7, Saigon-Loc Ninh flights have been provided regularly to NVN and NLF representatives.

Meanwhile, the communist side slandered that the RVN delegation is trying to create difficulties to these liaison flights just because the June 20 flight was late due to technical trouble.

The act of distortion against the RVN delegation, along with communists' unserious attitude at the TPJMC conference in recent days implied that the other side has intention to jeopardize activities of this body and tear up the Paris accord while carrying out their war of aggression against the republic.

SAIGON NOTES SUSPENSION OF 4-PARTY JMC NEGOTIATIONS

Saigon VIETNAM PRESS in English 24 Jun 74 Morning Edition S

[Text] Saigon (VP) June 23--The North Vietnam and National Liberation Front delegations Sunday announced their suspension of participation in military negotiations with the RVN and the U.S. delegations to the Four-Party Joint Military Team [FPJMT].

This was the second time since May 10 that the two communist delegations have adopted a stubborn attitude with a view to jeopardizing the Paris agreement through unilateral suspension of the talks.

The communist stubbornness, of course, hindered the FPJMT from gaining any concrete results.

Therefore, talks on the search for Americans missing in Indochina have been deadlocked in nearly 17 months since the Paris agreement went into effect.

A NLF statement Sunday gave an unacceptable pretext for their suspension that the United States and the RVN have not shown serious attitude in the FPJMT meetings and have continued to intensify the war.

In reality, the communists have refused to accept serious negotiations and regularly used the conference table for propaganda purpose. Besides, every one knows that communist North Vietnam has infiltrated men and weapons to launch a general offensive and step up terrorist and sabotage activities throughout the RVN territory.

On the contrary, the RVN and U.S. delegations to the FPJMT have always showed utmost goodwill in negotiations with the hope that the communists would accept serious negotiations and strictly implement provisions of the Jan 27, 1973 Paris agreement.

Through the unilateral suspension of the talks, the communists have evidenced their intention to endanger the Paris agreement to which they are signatories.