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PRGRSV FOREIGN MINISTRY SCORES SINKING OF DRV SHIP

LPA From North Vietnam [Clandestine] in English to East Europe and the Far East  
 1502 GMT 22 Jun 74 B

[Text] South Vietnam June 22 LPA--The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of South Vietnam June 21 issued the following statement condemning the Nguyen Van Thieu administration for ordering its planes and warships to assault and sink a civilian cargo ship of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam:

On June 20, 1974, the Nguyen Van Thieu administration ordered its planes and warships to encroach upon areas close to Cua Viet, located in the water territory of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam. Saigon planes and war vessels surrounded, held under pressure and sank the freighter LC-174 of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam which was ferrying food and foodstuffs for the South Vietnamese people. Besides, the Saigon administration arrested a number of personnel of the freighter.

To deceive public opinion and cover up its criminal actions, the Nguyen Van Thieu administration cooked up a story saying that the ship was transporting "weapons and munitions" to South Vietnam. The military spokesman of the Saigon administration arrogantly said that the sea area south of the 17th parallel belongs to its water space.

The above-mentioned action of the Nguyen Van Thieu administration is a serious war action and a brazen provocation against the PRG of the Republic of South Vietnam and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. It further proves that the Nguyen Van Thieu bellicose clique with the instigation of the United States has deliberately caused a tense situation in South Vietnam in a bid to realize its scheme of all-sidedly sabotaging the Paris agreement.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam resolutely rejects the above-said cooked up story and arrogant allegations of the Nguyen Van Thieu administration, vehemently condemns the latter's war actions and demands that the Saigon administration respect the territorial water of the PRGRSV and immediately end all similar war actions.

Fully supporting the June 21, 1974 statement of the Foreign Ministry of the DRV, the PRGRSV demands the Saigon administration to set free at once the arrested persons and bear full responsibility for the consequences arising from its actions.

RVN SPOKESMAN REJECTS DRV PROTEST ON SHIP ATTACK

Saigon VIETNAM PRESS in English 22 Jun 74 Evening Edition S

[Text] Saigon (VP) June 22--Government spokesman Bui Bao Truc this morning stated that it's impossible to release North Vietnamese communist sailors captured aboard North Vietnam's ship sunk by the RVN Navy on June 20.

Commenting North Vietnam's accusation that the RVN had violated the Paris agreement and provoked military actions in her sinking of the North Vietnamese craft, Mr. Truc said that the ship had moved within and thus violated RVN territorial waters. The most evident proof, he said, was that the area where the ship was sunk is under the control of the RVN army, and the ship was spotted at an area, 22 kilometers south of Cua Viet.

The spokesman also stressed other evidence that the sunk ship was well armed and, moreover, loaded with military gear and equipment to be supplied to the armed forces of communist North Vietnam in the south. The act, according to the spokesman, had blatantly violated article 7 of the protocol of the Paris agreement.

To another question of newsmen, Mr. Truc said that the communist aggressors' attacks against Dak Pek, An Dien, Binh Duong, Tay Ninh, Kontum etc...mean nothing but a generalized offensive on the RVN territory. Therefore, nobody would be surprised should communist North Vietnam use the case as a pretext for other actions to be taken.



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#### MEME BINH DESCRIBES PRG'S 'MILITANT' FOREIGN POLICY

LPA From North Vietnam [Clandestine] in English to East Europe and the Far East  
1505 GMT 23 Jun 74 B

["A Militant Foreign Policy" by Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, minister for foreign affairs of the RSV]

[Text] South Vietnam June 23 LPA--backed by a nationwide, legitimate and successful armed fight and an unflinching determination, the RSV foreign service--formerly the Committee for Foreign Relations of the National Front for Liberation, now the Foreign Ministry of the Provisional Revolutionary Government--has been bringing into full play, over the last 5 years, the sound foreign policy charted in 1961 by the NFL and, in close coordination with other branches of activity, has brought the anti-U.S. patriotic resistance to ever greater successes.

#### A Time-Tested Foreign Policy Consistent With the Trend of Our Epoch

Compelled to take up arms for their survival, the South Vietnamese people are nevertheless deeply attached to peace. More than anybody else, we know the price of war and are eager to live in friendship with all other nations. Sooner or later, the whole mankind, including the Americans will side with us against savagery, in defence of justice. The U.S. imperialists will not be able to conceal forever the inhuman and regressive nature of their aggression against our country--they will finally be isolated and defeated. Such a strong conviction of our people has been embodied in the foreign policy of the NFL and the PRG. It is the opinion of the PRG that in our national liberation war, we should try our best to win the sympathy and support of governments and peoples all over the world, considering this an indispensable factor for success. Reversely, our national liberation war should make a contribution of its own to world freedom and peace. Once U.S. aggression and intervention are fought back, South Vietnam will develop along its own lines and abstain from adhering to any military alliance and from allowing any foreign country to set up military bases or station troops on its territory. It will foster relations of friendship and cooperation in all respects with every nation regardless of its social and political regime and in accordance with the five principles of peaceful coexistence. The PRG is also of the view that while fighting for our national rights we should make, to the greatest extent, our modest contribution to the common battle of the world peoples and progressives against backward--and still obstinate--forces of imperialism, colonialism and racialism, for a finer and more equitable world. In a nutshell, ours is a foreign policy of peace, independence and neutrality, in keeping with the trend of our time.

It has been put into practice ever since the formation of the PRG. At the Paris conference closely watched by everybody, the PRG delegation advanced various peace initiatives, of which the most important is the draft "Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam." The persevering, resolute and flexible fight put up by the PRG and the DRV there, combined with the successes gained by the Vietnamese people in other fields and the strong backing of the whole world, finally forced the U.S. Government to sign the Paris agreement--a victory of historic significance of our nation's.