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Commentator's Column: THE REAL REASON FOR THE
PROVOCATIONS

By Valerian Skvortsov

Reports from South Vietnam in recent days indicate that the situation along the cease-fire lines has taken a sharp turn for the worse. Thieu's air force bombed liberated areas to the northwest of Saigon, and, off the coast of Quang Tri, his ships attacked fishing vessels flying the flag of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam...

Armed provocations against the liberation forces, which are safeguarding the achievements of the national democratic revolution, occur every time the U.S. Congress discusses the amount of military aid for Thieu in the next fiscal year. On August 6, the House of Representatives approved only \$700 million for Saigon instead of the \$1.6 billion requested by the Pentagon. It was right after this, when a final decision was about to be reached, that Thieu gave the order to stage an especially large military demonstration...

Saigon has another reason for whipping up war hysteria. By representing the current deterioration of the situation along the cease-fire lines as the result of a mythical "communist offensive," Thieu is hoping to silence that portion of sober-minded people in his regime who want to resume political consultations with the P.R.G....

(From Current Digest of the Soviet Press)