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U.S. ACTIONS ARE CAUSE OF CONTINUING WAR IN VIETNAM

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[Commentary: "The Ford Administration Feverishly Intensifies Its Involvement and Continues the War in Vietnam"]

[Text] There has been increasing evidence recently that the Ford administration is stubbornly and perfidiously intensifying its military involvement in South Vietnam and is maintaining the warlike and fascist lackey Nguyen Van Thieu clique as a tool to intensify the war, sabotage the Paris agreement on Vietnam and further pile up crimes against the Vietnamese people.

On 12 January, London's SUNDAY TIMES expressed fear that the punishment dealt by the PRGRSV to the Thieu clique's landgrabbing and pacification operations in Phuoc Long Province might be exaggerated by Saigon and the U.S. Defense Department to back President Ford's request to the U.S. Congress for an urgent increase in aid to Thieu, especially since Saigon had wasted the military aid appropriations already approved by Congress. The paper also denounced the fact that Kissinger supported the dispatch of a U.S. naval task force, including the aircraft carrier Enterprise, to the Vietnam coast. London's OBSERVER on 12 January carried an ironic cartoon showing President Ford standing before a mirror and trying on a Vietnam war helmet.

Obviously, public opinion has perceived U.S. intentions. Actually, it is not just recently that the United States tried on the Vietnam war helmet. In fact, since the signing of the Paris agreement, the United States has never taken off its war jacket. Everyone remembers that prior to the advent of the agreement Nixon--then the U.S. president--publicly declared that the U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam does not mean that when U.S. interests change the methods used to achieve these interests will change. Time and again Secretary of State Kissinger has admitted the deep U.S. commitments to the Thieu regime. The United States has also brazenly declared its recognition of the Nguyen Van Thieu clique as the sole legal government in South Vietnam. As for Ford, immediately after assuming the presidential office he clearly declared he would follow the Nixon doctrine and support Thieu.

Along with these statements go billions of dollars in arms, bombs, shells and materiel, together with tens of thousands of U.S. military advisers in civilian guise illegally and massively sent in to abet the Thieu clique. What is all this if not an attempt to enable Thieu to continue the war with his "territorial expansion" program and pacification plan, to bomb the PRGRSV-controlled liberated areas, continue the detention and maltreatment of hundreds of thousands of patriotic people and, at the same time, intensify his fascist policy against the people in the areas under U.S.-Thieu control?

So far the Nguyen Van Thieu clique--supported and encouraged by the United States--has committed more than half a million cease-fire violations, killed tens of thousands of our compatriots, herded millions into concentration camps and destroyed hundreds of hamlets and villages.

It is no coincidence when the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE observes that U.S. aid allows Thieu to disregard the Paris agreement. U.S. public opinion also decries that in 1973--the first year after the signing of the Paris peace agreement--the United States spent huge amounts on military activities in South Vietnam, second only to that spent in 1972 when fighting in South Vietnam was most intense. U.S. Representative Aspin recently pointed out: Since the advent of the Paris agreement on Vietnam, the United States has spent \$8 billion on its henchmen in Southeast Asia, especially in Vietnam, to wage war.

However, reality over the past 2 years has eloquently shown that the deeper its military involvement in the south, the more ignominious setbacks the United States will court and the more new and greater difficulties it will confront. The U.S. people as well as progressives throughout the world continue to severely condemn the U.S. policy in Vietnam, despite Kissinger's deceitful appeal that "all Americans forget Vietnam."

The more painful their defeats, the more stubbornly and blindly the U.S. imperialists will pursue the criminal path in Vietnam. Therefore, faced with grave defeats in all respects, especially with the appropriate counterblows dealt by the southern PIAF to punish the Saigon army for its landgrabbing and rice-looting operations aimed at continuing the war, the U.S. rulers are pursuing their evil scheme even more intensely. For instance, they have urged the U.S. Congress to provide the Thieu clique with \$300 million in additional aid and have sent many generals and field-rank officers together with many bigshots--most recently Deputy Secretary of State Maw and U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff David Jones--to Saigon to plan tricks and schemes for the Thieu clique. At the same time, the Ford administration has brazenly ordered an illegal, massive movement of weapons, bombs and shells from Thailand and the United States to the Thieu clique. Even worse, it has also sent U.S. aircraft to conduct direct reconnaissance missions and guide Saigon aircraft in barbarously bombing Loc Ninh township.

On the other hand, the United States is once again using gun-boat diplomacy to threaten our people. The world knows about the so-called U.S. naval task force--including the nuclear aircraft carrier Enterprise and many warships--which is headed for South Vietnam's waters. Meanwhile, the United States has placed its 3d Marine Division in Okinawa on alert because of "the tense situation in South Vietnam." However, this obsolete farcial threat has been criticized by U.S. public opinion. On 7 January, Senator McGovern observed that any new intervention by U.S. forces in Indochina would be altogether idiotic. The Ford administration's attempts to apply pressure for more aid to Thieu also faces fairly strong opposition from the U.S. Congress, at a time when the U.S. economy faces recession and serious inflation. On 9 January, Senator Manfield stressed: More aid to Thieu will mean more death and more fighting. It is time to end this.

Obviously, the Ford administration has exposed itself as favoring the continuation of the war and sabotage of the Paris agreement on Vietnam through its tool, the warlike Nguyen Van Thieu clique. This is the very cause of the extremely critical situation in South Vietnam at present. Therefore, the urgent problem, as pointed out in the 8 October PRGRSV statement, is that the United States completely and strictly end all its military involvement and interference in the internal affairs of South Vietnam and withdraw all U.S. military personnel in civilian disguise, and that Nguyen Van Thieu and his gang--the main obstacle to the settlement of the present political issue in the south--must be toppled so an administration which advocates peace, national reconciliation and concord and which scrupulously implements the Paris agreement on Vietnam, can be established in Saigon.

In the short run, this is the only way open to the United States. If the United States stubbornly opposes these imperative demands and blindly repeats its great errors in Vietnam--like Ford's predecessors--it will certainly court only even more ignominious defeats and serious consequences.