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IMPLEMENTATION OF PARIS PACT ONLY COURSE FOR FORD

Liberation Radio [Clandestine] in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 1400 GMT 15 Mar 75 BK

[Feature: "Editor's Notebook"]

[Text] Dear friends, Thieu has said on many occasions that bones and blood are not problems, that only U.S. dollars and weapons are needed and that he has plenty of bones and blood and only lacks dollars.

This is obviously the language of a death merchant. True to his word, Thieu has launched a massive campaign of troop upgrading and pressganging, shooting monks at the feet of Lord Buddha statues, hauling youths and students away in military vans and dumping them into military training centers and arresting and detaining thousands of young believers of the Hoa Hao religious sect.

The death merchant, Nguyen Van Thieu, however, was not completely satisfied. On 12 March, at the meeting of his security council, he decided to step up the troop upgrading and pressganging campaign. With this decision, scenes of fathers losing their sons, wives losing their husbands, and old mothers leaning against lampposts on Cong Ly Streets meaning, "Where is my son? Give my son back to me!", as once described by Saigon newspapers, have become common and are more tragic than ever.

Our compatriots, however, have never consented to sit idly by and allow Thieu to throw their loved ones into the meatgrinder of war. On the contrary, they have fiercely struggled by every available and various means against Thieu's pressganging and for their relatives' safety.

What is the purpose of Thieu's feverish blood-plundering campaign? DAI DAN TOC, on 18 February, gave the following answer: "Thieu wants to turn all of South Vietnam into a huge blood transfusion center in exchange for U.S. dollars." This means that he is contributing blood and the United States is contributing money and arms to step up the war and intensify the terror campaign against and massacre our compatriots. Loaded with U.S. dollars and weapons, Thieu has committed bloody crimes in every corner of South Vietnam. We would like to cite the case of Ban Me Thuot as an example.

For 2 years now the Thieu clique has turned this city and adjacent military subsectors into a staging base for thousands of operations to terrorize and massacre the people. Thieu has transformed this city into a lair of tyrannical agents and its suburban areas and vicinity into a system of agricultural development centers and strategic hamlets to mistreat tens of thousands of our compatriots. Of Ban Me Thuot's 80,000 inhabitants, no less than 2,000 sisters have had to live the humiliating and wretched lives of prostitutes. The city boasts of 11 brothels but has only one school for every 12,000 inhabitants. Thus, every inch of Ban Me Thuot, every cluster of its plants and every patch of its grassland are deeply engraved with crimes committed by the U.S.-Thieu clique.

Naturally, our compatriots could not remain idle in view of their wretched life and this clique's towering crimes.

Duly punishing the U.S.-Thieu clique for its crimes, our people of various nationalities in Ban Me Thuot city closely coordinated their actions with the armed forces in rising up and launching attacks. On 11 March they gained complete control of the city and the military subsectors and district capitals of Buon Ho and Hoa Binh. This mighty uprising and attack by the people and PLAF in Ban Me Thuot city is an inevitable outcome of the process of struggle against the U.S.-Thieu fascist regime and the more than 2 years of struggle to defend the Paris agreement. This is the crystal-clear truth. However, to calm and boost its troops' morale, the Thieu clique at first noisily claimed that it still controlled Ban Me Thuot. This morning, it became less emphatic but still equivocally contended that neither side has complete control of the city and that fighting is continuing.

This Goebbels-like propaganda trick can deceive no one. Our people throughout the country and progressive world public opinion are greatly elated over the due punitive blows dealt by our armed forces and people to the U.S.-Thieu clique in Ban Me Thuot as well as at Tien Phuoc and Phuoc Lam in Quang Nam Province, Dak Song, Dak Sak, Nui Lua and Duc Lap in Quang Duc Province, and many other places.

In view of the situation in which the U.S.-Thieu clique has intensified the war, sabotaged the agreement and has piled up crimes, our people in the south have no choice but to mete out due counterblows to safeguard the Paris agreement. This is our people's legitimate, sacred and unalienable right.

The criminal must pay for his crime; this is a rule. However, under the fitting punitive blows dealt by our armed forces and people, the U.S.-Thieu clique has made noisy protests. Today, the so-called office of the Saigon National Assembly issued a deceitful communique claiming that communists have sabotaged the agreement. Yesterday, Thieu's Foreign Ministry in Saigon and Secretary of War Schlesinger in Washington once again echoed this allegation by advancing false accusations and distorting the truth to mislead public opinion and obtain \$300 million in supplemental military aid for Thieu. The U.S. ruling circles, however, cannot mislead public opinion so easily.

In his efforts to obtain more money for Thieu and Lon Nol, Ford has suffered four successive painful blows in the past 2 days alone. First, on 12 March, with a two-thirds majority vote, the democratic representatives in the House of Representatives rejected Ford's request for more aid to Thieu and Lon Nol. Second, on 13 March, by a majority of votes, the Democratic senators also turned down Ford's request for increased aid. Third, the House Foreign Affairs Committee voted 18 to 15 against Ford's proposal. Fourth, the entire House of Representatives rejected Ford's proposal to tie aid to Thieu and Lon Nol to the \$3.5 billion foreign aid bill this fiscal year.

At a time when Ford has been unsuccessful in obtaining money in Washington, his lackey cliques in Saigon and Phnom Penh have encountered increasing difficulties. JEUNEL AFRIQUE on 14 March compared the Lon Nol clique with a rotten fruit hanging on a frail branch which represented the United States.

Also while Ford is faced with the current situation, the beaten General Westmoreland met him on 13 March and offered the nonsensical and outdated advice that Ford should use the might of B-52 bombers and mine the Haiphong Harbor. An international news service quoted Australian journalist Wilfred Burchett as saying, "I think that the PRG is telling Ford, 'You are heading for disaster. You got a good agreement. Why don't you go back to it?'"

Which path will Ford follow? Obviously, only by following the path of strictly respecting and scrupulously implementing the Paris agreement and ending his military involvement and interference in the internal affairs of South Vietnam can Ford save himself from falling into the past quagmires of defeat that Johnson and Nixon suffered.

RVN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT ON LEANDRI INCIDENT

Saigon VIETNAM PRESS in English 18 Mar 75 Morning Edition SG

[17 March government spokesman statement]

[Text] Saigon March 17 (VP)--Concerning the death of Mr Paul Leandri, the assistant bureau chief of AFP in Saigon, which occurred on March 13, 1975, I would like to state the following:

1--This was an accident caused by public security personnel in the discharge of their standing security orders. The whole incident is regrettable and unfortunate though it occurred in the most unexpected circumstances.

2--The prosecutor to the Saigon tribunal of the first instance has been immediately apprised of the affair and has personally carried out the investigations.