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**BIG MINH CALLS FOR 'IMMEDIATE' NEGOTIATIONS IN INTERVIEW**

Paris LE FIGARO in French 2 Apr 75 p 4 LD

[Francois Nivelon interview in Saigon with Gen Duong Van Minh: "We Must Negotiate Very Soon"--no date given]

[Text] Gen Duong Van Minh said when he received me: "The military situation is disastrous and Saigon is threatened. There is only one solution, to negotiate and very soon."

Question: Can President Thieu stay?

Answer: In the nation's interest, he must withdraw. Everyone wants him to go. A new government must be formed and a solution to the Vietnamese problem must be found immediately.

Question: A military solution?

Answer: Absolutely not. It must be a political and humane solution.

Question: That is?

Answer: The setting up of a government consisting of new and suitable men who want peace. Thieu chose war; he cannot talk peace. As soon as another government has been set up, "the other side" will have no further reason to refuse to return to the conference table. I believe that the PRGRSV recently made a statement to this effect in Paris.

Implement the Paris Agreements

The most urgent thing, General Minh continued, is a cease-fire, a real cease-fire. After that, the restoration of peace will have to be discussed within the framework of the Paris agreements. Of course there are ambiguous points in these agreements, and perhaps even secret agreements between the United States and Hanoi of which the PRGRSV have been informed, but of which the people of South Vietnam know nothing. I, for instance, know nothing of these agreements, but they may well exist.

Question: What can be done for all those wretched people in Danang and for all those wandering on the roads?

Answer: I spoke to you just now of a political and humane solution. The humane solution is in the Paris agreements--absolute freedom of movement immediately after the cease-fire. But there again we must act very quickly. I am thinking above all of the despair of all the families who are separated and split up; those of Ban Me Thuot, Pleiku, Kontum, Hue, Danang and elsewhere. I am thinking of the tens of thousands of lost children who must be returned to their parents.

Question: What do you think of the political process carried out since 15 March by several prominent people outside the government to modify the team in power?

Answer: The Buddhists do not want this formula, which seems to me useless and insufficient.

Question: What do you think of General Ky's action?

Answer: Nothing has changed between Ky and myself. We are both soldiers. But after all he did to the Buddhists in 1966, the Buddhists and all the people of the south have not forgotten. What we need is a government possessing the support of the masses and of everyone--the Buddhists, the Catholics, the other religions and the army.

Question: What should be the role of the South Vietnamese Army?

Answer: It has a role to play in the restoration of peace--to reestablish order and maintain security. But it must be given new confidence; its command must be changed. Our army is good and it has proved itself. But it has lost all morale because it is badly commanded; General Thieu must go.

And, without my asking him, the general concluded: "France can and must plan an important role in the reestablishment of peace. It is on good terms with Moscow and Peking, it has diplomatic relations with Hanoi and there is a PRGRSV delegation in Paris."

CATHOLIC LEADER CALLS ON THIEU TO QUIT 3 APR

Hong Kong AFP in English 1325 GMT 3 Apr 75 BK

[Excerpts] Saigon, April 3 (AFP)--The head of the South Vietnamese Catholic Church today called on President Nguyen Van Thieu--himself a Catholic--to step down.

Archbishop Paul Nguyen Van Binh of Saigon said President Thieu should respond to popular calls for his resignation and should take heed of a vote in the Senate yesterday for a change of national leadership.

Archbishop Binh's appeal, which was hastily distributed to press agencies today, comes at a time of growing rumours that the South Vietnamese leader is under increasing pressure to hand over smoothly to a new political and military team.

Late today, thousands of Catholics gathered in suburban churches to add their weight to the calls for President Thieu's departure. At Tan Sa Chau church, Father Tran Huu Thanh, head of the anti-corruption movement, condemned the betrayal of the people, the soldiers and the fatherland by President Thieu.

Opposition deputy Nguyen Van Kim, who represents the now communist-controlled northernmost province of Quang Tri, declared: "Mr Thieu has handed over to the communists, with their hands tied, 200,000 of our best soldiers--marines, rangers and infantrymen. He has unscrupulously sold out half of our territory. Two military regions, with 6 million inhabitants, have been handed over."