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NORTH VIETNAM

SOUTH DETERMINED TO ELIMINATE THIEU CLIQUE

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[Commentary: "Overthrowing the Thieu-Ky-Huong Clique Is an Urgent Slogan of Action for All Strata of Southern Urbanites")]

[Text] The people- and country-selling Thieu-Ky-Huong clique has come to a deadend. Its day of doom is drawing near. This fact is obvious to everyone, including those still in the puppet administration and army. A politician in Saigon told the AFP correspondent: "Thieu's golden era is over."

The Thieu-Ky-Huong clique, no matter how blind and stupid it may be, knows its fate is like a burning candle exposed to the wind. It has done its packing. Recently, a U.S. paper revealed that Thieu's wife bought a house in Switzerland and sent their children to Italy.

However, inherently stubborn and ruthless, and hating the revolution to the end, the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique blindly opposes our people's aspiration for independence and peace. After the Midway meeting with his master, Thieu has proved most cruel and wicked. He threatens to punish all those who talk about a coalition government. He has brazenly declared that as long as he and his clique exist, there will not be a coalition government, nor a peace cabinet, nor a provisional government, nor thiso-called reconciliation government.

Along with these insolent statements are the most brazen terrorist acts, such as closing newspapers, imprisoning journalists, and arresting those who talk about peace. Anyone--ranging from high school and college students, intellectuals, businessmen, industrialists, and religious people to even the civil servants and officers of the puppet administration and army--who discuss the just aspirations of the majority of urbanites of all strata and of all southern people is a target of the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique's terror.

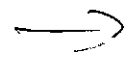
In its predicament, while creating an extreme panic, the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique has perpetrated the most unpopular acts to save itself from its doom. Recently, Thieu brazenly insulted the intellectuals, calling them "this or that guy" and saying that their patriotism is less sublime than that of the village elders' councils, and that they capitulate more quickly than those who education is limited.

These words, which were spoken by a man who calls himself President and boasts about his respect for the spiritual value and human dignity, have shown the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique's ugly and despicable face, as well as the impotence, isolation, and distress of a band of lackeys who have become extremely fascist and are plunging quickly into the abyss of annihilation. Recently, the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique performed another unpopular act: increasing the equalization tax levied on imported goods still stored in public warehouses and controlling unsold goods. This new measure was designed to pick the last cent from the people's pockets, to estrange businessmen, and to drive workers, servicemen, and civil servants into misery.

As was pointed out by a deputy of the Saigon puppet National Assembly, with this tax, Thieu, Ky, and Huong are escalating another rung in exploiting and taking money from the South Vietnamese people in order to serve the aggressive U.S. war and to fill their corrupt, bottomless pockets.

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The Thieu-Ky-Huong clique's passing of a new fascist draft law against the press is another unpopular act. According to this draft law, they will fine or imprison those who publish theories which they consider to be advantageous to communists and neutralists. Also, according to this draft law, they will sue both publishers and journalists and printing house owners and authors of newspaper items. With this draft law, Thieu, Ky, and Huong want to tighten another chain around the neck of the press in areas under their temporary control.

In truth, before they gave birth to this draft law, Thieu, Ky, and Huong had mercilessly repressed and terrorized the press circles. One must bear in mind that with this law they will merely legalize their fascist acts against the press. It is also necessary to know that the repression and terrorization of the press is only one of a series of fascist measures aimed at completely eliminating all rights to freedom and democracy.

Under the Thieu-Ky-Huong regime, freedom and democracy have long become special rights and interests of the hooligan lackeys whose livelihood is dependent on the U.S. imperialists' aggressive war. Under this regime, the rights to freedom and democracy have been completely eliminated. British lawyer Johnson, returning home from a visit to South Vietnam, said: "No democratic activity can be carried out under Thieu's regime."

With their violent words and acts, Thieu, Ky, and Huong have placed themselves in a posture of fierce opposition to all strata of compatriots in areas under their temporary control, including those within their decayed ruling machinery. Facts clearly prove that as long as Thieu, Ky, and Huong exist, none of the southern people's aspirations for peace, independence, and democracy can materialize.

Therefore, toppling Thieu, Ky, and Huong and establishing a peace cabinet have been and are an urgent struggle slogan which all strata of southern urbanites have set forth and are determined to carry out. Toppling Thieu, Ky, and Huong means smashing the U.S. imperialists' prop for prosecuting the neocolonialist aggressive war.

Toppling Thieu, Ky, and Huong means eliminating a main obstacle on the path of advance toward materializing a correct political solution to the South Vietnam problem and achieving the southern people's right to self-determination. The Thieu-Ky-Huong-toppling slogan--the immediate objective of all strata of southern urbanites--has exerted an increasingly convincing effect even on those who are in the ranks of the puppet armed forces and administration.

Therefore, the tendency of opposition to or separation from Thieu, Ky, and Huong has increasingly developed and the spirit of opposing Thieu, Ky, and Huong has become increasingly stronger. The path of coalition with the people in toppling Thieu, Ky, and Huong is the sole correct path.

In the light of the 12-point program of action of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, all strata of southern urbanites, closely united in a broad front, are advancing with formidable fury, determined to eliminate the people-betraying and country-harming Thieu-Ky-Huong regime and to open the way for the materialization of the southern people's basic aspirations for independence, democracy, peace, neutrality, and prosperity, and for advancing toward peaceful national reunification.