

FINAL ACTIVITIES, DEPARTURE OF HOANG QUOC VIET REPORTED

Interview With MAINICHI

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[Report on an exclusive interview with Hoang Quoc Viet, leader of the visiting DRV delegation, given at the Royal Hotel in Osaka on 8 November]

[Excerpts] [Question] Your tour of Japan is practically over. What is your impression of economic life here? What do you think Japan's economic aid should be?

[Answer] I knew that Japan is an economic giant, but I was really amazed at the wonderful industrial facilities and large towns. Japan's industrial and technological standards are surprisingly high. However, it is very foolish of Japan to go as far as Africa and South America in order to obtain raw materials and sell its products. Why not contact Southeast Asia, especially Vietnam, which is much closer? True, Vietnam has been too busy with the war to conduct any adequate surveys of its natural resources, but we are sure that we have plenty of them in our mountains and waters and underground. We hope that Japan, with its excellent techniques, will help us develop them. Japan is Asia's most advanced country. However, there is a great resemblance between the Japanese and the Vietnamese peoples in their way of living and thinking. If Japan truly respects the principles of democracy and national independence, unlike the colonialists, and introduces industrial techniques into our country in the spirit of brotherhood after the normalization of relations, it will be sure to succeed in Vietnam.

[Question] I understand there are subtle differences between the two governments with regard to the procedures for normalization. For instance, the Japanese Foreign Ministry has said that recognition of the Provisional Revolutionary Government is not the precondition for the opening of the embassies. I am afraid this is slightly different from what you said at the 7 November Japan Press Club meeting.

[Answer] The same day I said that at the Japan Press Club meeting the Japanese Foreign Ministry made its refutation. I was quite surprised. I made that statement to the Japan Press Club members, not to the Japanese Government. Recognition of the Provisional Revolutionary Government is of great importance to the normalization of relations between the two governments. The two countries have present and past problems (including the reparations problem) which they have to settle. If the Japanese Foreign Ministry contends that it is necessary to open the embassies first in order to resolve these problems, I say that might be one approach. I do not think there is any serious difference regarding this problem. I am scheduled to see the foreign minister on 9 November. I hope we can find out where we stand. Normalization is at the stage of diplomatic negotiations at present.

[Question] Would you say a few words on the DRV's postwar rehabilitation program?

[Answer] Following the signing of the peace accord, the rehabilitation of industry and agriculture has finally made a good start in Vietnam. The people's livelihood is gradually being stabilized. Our basic plan is to establish a firm economic foundation by 1975 and implement a state program during the 1976-78 period. In order to achieve this objective, however, we need foreign aid. In this regard, we have already received help from socialist countries, including the Soviet Union, and China, but we place great expectation on aid from Japan as well.

Surprised at the earlier-than-expected announcement of the text of the peace agreement by the Japanese Foreign Office, the governments of the three countries took immediate steps to make it public at 10 am Friday, U.S. eastern standard time

Why the text of the peace agreement was announced in Japan earlier than scheduled was believed to be [for] either of [the] following two reasons--the Japanese Foreign Office made a mistake in the time of announcement, or the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo notified the Foreign Office the wrong time.

The purpose of advance notification in Tokyo was presumably to keep the Japanese Government abreast of the latest efforts to work out an agreeable solution to the Mideast war.

Strong criticism was heard in political circles in Washington against the Japanese Government action.

The criticism was particularly directed on the point that Japan, which was not directly concerned with peace efforts to bring a solution to the Mideast war, to have interfered in the peace efforts by announcing the text of the peace accord earlier than scheduled [as published].

Some U.S. Government officials and foreign correspondents said this proved that the fear that the Japanese Government cannot keep a secret was not groundless.

They said that this fear was behind President Nixon's decision in 1971 not to give the Japanese prior knowledge of his proposed trip to Peking.

Nixon's China visit, therefore, came as a bolt from the sky to the Japanese and it became to be known here as the first "Nixon shokku" (shock).

The Japanese Embassy in Washington, embarrassed by the Foreign Office action, said it could not understand why such a thing happened.

In Tokyo, the Foreign Office said Saturday that it had received notification from the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo Friday that the time of announcement of the peace accord text was 10 am, U.S. eastern standard time.

The Foreign Office said that upon notification to the effect, it took necessary steps for the announcement of the text to be made on the hour designated.

Foreign Vice-Minister Shinsaku Hogen told a press conference that the Foreign Office had handed copies of the text of the peace agreement to reporters Friday night.

When the copies were handed over to the reporters, the Foreign Office made them promise that they would not release the copies before midnight Friday (Japan time), Hogen said.

The foreign vice-minister said that he deeply regretted the fact that the text was made public in Tokyo at an earlier hour than scheduled.

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JAPAN

Meeting With Ohira

Tokyo ASAHI EVENING NEWS in English 10 Nov 73 p 3 T--FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ohira, at a meeting Friday with a North Vietnamese leader in Tokyo, said that Japan was ready to extend economic cooperation in the reconstruction of the war-devastated country.

The first meeting ever between the foreign minister and an important political figure from Hanoi was held in the form of a "courtesy call" since Mr. Viet is not in a capacity to represent the Hanoi government.

At the meeting, Mr. Ohira lauded the establishment Sept. 21 of bilateral diplomatic relations, describing it as "a memorable event for the two countries and of great significance for peace and amity in Asia."

Asked by Mr. Ohira about the recent economic situation in North Vietnam, Mr. Viet said, "Our country was heavily damaged by the war, but reconstruction is well under way, thanks partly to assistance from the governments and peoples of friendly nations." Mr. Ohira then said, "Your people have ended a difficult war, so I am confident you can rebuild your nation. If there is anything we can do for the reconstruction of your country, we are willing to do it."

Delegation Departs

Tokyo KYODO in English 1105 GMT 10 Nov 73 T

[Excerpts] Tokyo Nov 10 KYODO--A seven-member North Vietnamese goodwill mission left Tokyo Saturday after an 11-day visit to Japan. The mission led by Hoang Quoc Viet, acting chairman of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, came here at the invitation of the Japan Socialist and Communist parties and four civic organizations.

Before leaving, the mission and the Japanese hosts issued a joint statement calling on the Japanese Government to "make amends for Japanese aggression of Vietnam during World War II." It also urged the government to recognize the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam.

[Tokyo JPS in English at 0912 GMT on 12 November in a similar report adds: "The delegation and representatives of the six organizations that invited the delegation, held a press conference at the lobby of Haneda airport before its departure, announcing joint communique entitled 'On the Visit of the Vietnam Fatherland Front to Japan on an Invitation by Six Japanese Organizations.' The communique calls for continuous full efforts for strengthening of the support for the Vietnamese people as the most important international task. The communique also points out that the Vietnam Fatherland Front delegation's visit to Japan has achieved great success."]

CABINET RESHUFFLE EXPECTED AFTER KISSINGER VISIT

ASAHI EVENING NEWS Report

Tokyo ASAHI EVENING NEWS in English 12 Nov 73 p 1 T--FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Excerpt] A reshuffle of ministers of the Tanaka cabinet and executive officers of the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP) is expected to be carried out in the latter half of this week or in the first half of next week. Prime Minister Tanaka's principal objectives in effecting the shakeup is to appoint officers who will expertly handle Diet affairs and ensure enactment of government-proposed legislative measures and also realign his power base within the LDP ranks in preparation for the Upper House election next year.

After meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger on Thursday, Mr. Tanaka will hold a round of talks with LDP factional leaders to secure their approval to freely select any members of their groups for appointments.

The prime minister's primary concern is how to ensure a LDP victory in the Upper House election. To avoid intensified factional strife in the party over personnel affairs, he has made it clear that the four strongmen in his cabinet--Takeo Fukuda, Masayoshi Ohira, Takeo Miki, and Yasuhiro Nakasone--and the three top executive officers of the government party will be retained.

In view of the desires voiced by Mr. Tanaka, veterans who have shown their competence in administrative affairs and Diet steering will be named to ministerial or LDP executive posts in the coming reshuffle.

Great Importance

The Upper House election next summer is of overriding importance for Mr. Tanaka because of the possibility that the opposition parties may win a majority in that chamber.

The prime minister's emphasis on competent Diet steering officials stems from the fact that a series of blunders forces the special session of the Diet to be extended to the extraordinary length of 280 days.

Before initiating the reshuffle, Mr. Tanaka and other government leaders will make policy decisions on matters confronting the nation, such as consumer price of rice, a comprehensive anti-inflation program, and measures to deal with the oil crisis, partly to calm intra-party discontent and expedite the shakeup.

'Blitzkrieg'-Like Shakeup Seen

Tokyo KYODO in English 0857 GMT 11 Nov 73 T

[Excerpts] Tokyo Nov 11 KYODO--Party sources said Sunday Tanaka is most likely to carry out the [cabinet] reshuffle in a 'blitzkrieg' fashion immediately after a two-day visit here of United States Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, enroute home from Peking. Tanaka hinted at a possibility of changing his cabinet a week ago during a stumping tour in Nagano on November 4. However, his cabinet colleagues and party executives threw a damper over his plan. Among them were Yasuhiro Nakasone, minister of international trade and industry; Takeo Fukuda, director general of the Administrative Management Agency, and party Vice President Etsusaburo Shiina. Nakasone has advised Tanaka to make all-out efforts to combat inflation now and put off a cabinet reshuffle. Shiina also cautioned party Secretary General Tumisaburo Hashimoto who is Tanaka's close aide against the planned personnel change.

Yet, government and party leaders believed that a reshuffle of the cabinet and LDP leadership would now be inevitable. Unless Tanaka refreshes the cabinet and party leadership, his leadership will weaken and he will have difficulties in steering the government and party effectively, they said.

LDP Factions View Reshuffle

Tokyo THE DAILY YOMIURI in English 11 Nov 73 p 1 T--PCR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Each faction of the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP) is carefully watching moves by Prime Minister Tanaka toward a possible cabinet reshuffle and personnel changes among LDP leaders this month.