

HỘI NGHỊ GIỮA HAI BÊN
MIỀN NAM VIỆT NAM
PHẢI ĐOÀN VIỆT NAM CỘNG HÒA

101, AVENUE RAYMOND POINCARÉ
PARIS 16^e

TEL. : KLE. 40-55
KLE. 40-67

No : 027 /PDVN/E

Informal translation

S T A T E M E N T

B Y

HIS EXCELLENCY DR. NGUYEN LUU VIEN
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
CHIEF OF THE DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
AT THE 27TH SESSION
OF THE OFFICIAL MEETINGS BETWEEN THE
TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1973

September 27, 1973
Unofficial translation

Dear Compatriots,

Today I wish to especially draw your attention to the following statement :

During the previous meetings our side has solemnly and strongly protested against the way your side not only has ceaselessly violated the cease-fire, intensified war activities as well as acts of terrorism and sabotage aimed at innocent civilian population but has furthermore illegally continued to infiltrate huge quantities of men and war materiel from North to South-Vietnam.

Along with exhortations for "total victory" and "intensifying the struggle" etc... your side has not ceased to increase your war potential by building and repairing airfields and many other military installations.

Since our meeting of last Thursday, your side has committed an act of war of extreme gravity. On 22 September 1973 at 10.00 A.M the following Communist North Vietnamese units : 26th regiment, 20th battalion of sappers, K.2 battalion and 360th artillery battalion were launched by your side against the Lê-Minh base, held since many years by the 80th Special Forces battalion, Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, and located 40 kms west of Pleiku.

After an intensive pounding of thousands of artillery shells, your troops, supported by tanks, have totally destroyed that base, and killed even old men, women and children of the garrisoned soldiers.

That barbarous act by your side and North Vietnam communist troops was reported in detail in vietnamese and foreign newspapers and has raised an extreme indignation and horror in public opinion in Vietnam as well as abroad.

Today at this 27th meeting of the Conference between the two South-Vietnamese parties we strongly protest against that barbarous attack of Lê-Minh base and severely condemn it.

That bloody act shows that members of the Canadian delegation were right when they used the word "barbarous" with regard to your side.

For our part we have constantly shown our goodwill and sincerity at this conference table, in our quest for a just negotiated settlement to this conflict.

But before such overtly provocative and bellicose acts from your side we are compelled to reaffirm once more that you will be held entirely responsible for all the disastrous consequences which may result for the people and the country.

The responsibility for the prolongation of the war with its mournings, sufferings and destructions rests entirely with your side.

I have concluded./-

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