

PHÁI ĐOÀN VIỆT-NAM CỘNG HÒA

TẠI HỘI NGHỊ GIỮA HAI BÊN
MIỀN NAM VIỆT-NAM

Délégation de la République du Viêt-Nam

101, AVENUE RAYMOND POINCARÉ
PARIS 16^e

TÉL. : KLE. 40-36
KLE. 40-37

No O36/PDVN/P2
Unofficial translation

S T A T E M E N T

BY

M. NGUYEN-XUAN-PHONG

ACTING CHIEF OF THE DELEGATION

OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM

AT THE 36TH SESSION

OF THE OFFICIAL MEETINGS BETWEEN

THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES

Friday, January 11, 1974

Dear Compatriots,

At the last meeting which marks the beginning of 1974 the Delegation of the Republic of Viet-Nam has made a special effort to establish a serene and conciliatory climate at the conference table by our courteous statements. It has also tried to lead the Conference into the path of concrete and serious discussions by clearly reasserting the Government of the Republic of Viet-nam's position on the issues to be solved here, issues that the Paris Accord has clearly defined.

Our Delegation has made great efforts at this session so as to help the Conference get out of the present deadlock namely by presenting extremely simple, realistic and fair proposals as follows :

- 1) Our two parties should agree immediately upon a definite deadline to terminate the elaboration and sign an Accord on the internal problems of South Viet-Nam.
- 2) Our two parties should also agree immediately upon a reasonable and realistic deadline to solve all problems, military as well as political, according to a precise process and calendar in which the date of general elections is clearly specified.

In addition, with a view to offer a concrete and realistic basis likely to permit our two sides to engage into genuine negotiations the Delegation of the Republic of Viet-Nam has explained in detail its viewpoint and its position upon the content of the following issues as well as on the way they should be solved.

- the general elections
- the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord (NCNRC)

- the guarantee of democratic liberties and
- the issue of vietnamese armed forces in South Viet-Nam.

Besides, concerning the two problems of the "cease-fire" and the "release of captured personnel" we have pointed out to your side that those problems are of the competence of the Two-Party Joint Military Commission and of the International Commission of Control and Supervision (ICCS) as clearly stipulated by the Paris Accord and the related Protocols.

As for the issues we have to solve at this Conference table you have not let us know in a precise and direct way what you think of the proposals we have presented here.

On the issue of general elections the Delegation of the Republic of Viet-Nam has proposed to your side an universal suffrage, direct and secret ballot by which the South Vietnamese people will elect a sovereign organ to decide of the political futur of South Viet-Nam.

With regard to the conditions in which will take place the general elections as well as modalities and procedures relative to their organization, the Delegation of the Republic of Viet-Nam has been very explicit when presenting its position on problems of the NCNRC, of the "guarantee of democratic liberties", on the way to solve the issue of "vietnamese armed forces in South Viet-Nam".

On the issue of the NCNRC the Delegation of the Republic of Viet-Nam has stated at the last meeting that the NCNRC will study and set the procedures and modalities of the general elections.

The Delegation of the Republic of Viet-Nam has also reminded you that the two SVN parties will agree by negotiation on the number and way of designation of representatives of the

components within the NCNRC. Each of the two SVN parties will decide of its component, the remaining one will be agreed upon by the two parties.

On the issue of the guarantee of "democratic liberties" the Delegation of the Republic of Viet-Nam has explained during the last meeting that parallel to a satisfactory settlement of the issue of the "vietnamese armed forces in South Viet-Nam" as stipulated at art.13 of the Paris Accord and a strict implementation of the clauses relative to the cessation of hostilities as stipulated in the Paris Accord and the subsequent documents the Government of the RVN advocates that the two SVN parties put an end to the restrictions due to war situation concerning the exercise of democratic liberties when the two parties reach a global settlement in which is clearly specified the date of general elections.

As for the issue of the "vietnamese armed forces in South Viet-Nam", our Delegation has stated at the last meeting that the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam advocates a settlement on the basis of reduction of military effectives and demobilization of the armed forces thus reduced.

We have also stated that to allow the SVN people to fully exercise their right of self-determination without interference or coercion from outside the non-South vietnamese vietnamese armed forces must withdraw from SVN and return to their origin country. Parallel to that withdrawal, South VN will demobilize an equal military effective .

Those are some of the main aspects of the extremely concrete, realistic and fair proposals that our Delegation put forth at the last meeting. We see no valid reason why your side should refuse to discuss those proposals in a serious and correct way. But instead of making efforts, as we do, to create a conciliatory atmosphere at this conference table, instead of constructively

responding to our realistic and fair proposals, your side persists in its aggressive attitude and continues to keep the Conference in a deadlock. You continue your ignoble campaign of biased propaganda so as to distort our statements and level groundless accusations in a crude and unbecoming language.

As we pointed it out to you at the last meeting, one needs only to put side by side the two sides' statements to notice the goodwill and the genuine desire of the Republic of VN to make this Conference progress, while your side only uses this conference table as a propaganda forum to deceive and stir public opinion instead of seriously negotiating.

Dear Compatriots,

The way you have been acting here since the beginning of the Conference is not that of people genuinely desirous to search for a peaceful settlement to the conflict and to reach an agreement with the adversary so as to re-establish a just and lasting peace in the strict respect of the right of SVN people to self-determination.

Your acts and words at this Conference table during the last nine months let everybody see clearly that you are not here to negotiate seriously, but only to support your military efforts on the field in order to achieve your unchanged objective of seizing power in SVN by force and subversion.

Instead of trying to settle the differences which are dividing us in a peaceful and satisfactory way for all parties concerned, you have come here only to present absurd demands, baseless accusations and calumnies. Your leaders do not cease to openly state their will to "keep up the struggle until final victory" to "build socialism" and to "fully implement their sacred internationalistic obligations" etc...

All the documents seized by our side on your cadres and agents show that the directives given by your side, before as well as after, the signature of the Paris Accord, aim all at intensifying your armed struggle, at taking advantage of the cease-fire to increase your military activities that you term "strategic attacks" for the time being, with a view to grab more land and population with the hope to create to yourself a position that until now you have been unable to obtain either on the territory or among the SVN population, for you own your very existence to the massive and illegal presence of over 400,00 regular NVN troops in SVN.

All your activities since the signature of the Paris Accord show clearly that you persist in the path of violence that has always been yours. All your acts and words at this conference table show that you are not desirous to settle the conflict by peaceful negotiated means and that you are seeking to achieve by force your unchanged objective, in defiance of the right of self-determination and yearn for peace of the SVN people.

The negotiations will continue to mark time as long as your side does not realize its responsibilities, blindly sticks to its dogma and does not put the higher interests of the nation above its partisan interests.

That accounts for the lack of progress at this conference. That explains why you have not positively responded to our efforts aimed at getting this Conference out of last year's impasse. That also explains why you have eluded all serious discussion on the concrete and fair proposals we have not ceased to put forth here at every meeting.

If your side continues to level baseless accusations, to make biased propaganda and slander your adversary, if you have come here to only present unilateral demands, your side will naturally

bear all the responsibilities of the present deadlock, for such an attitude is not at all that of negotiators searching for peace.

The Delegation of the Republic of Viet-Nam has reasserted its extremely open and conciliating position. Meanwhile it has put forth a series of concrete, realistic and fair proposals that include equal obligations for the two parties and do not cause any particular prejudice to either side.

These proposals are likely to help the Conference achieve rapidly a negotiated settlement to the conflict. For its part, the Delegation of the RVN is always ready to examine all constructive proposal and to respond it in an appropriate manner.

If in the contrary you continue to put forth biased and calumnious statements, in a purely propaganda purpose, and to set unilateral demands that are contrary to all negotiation spirit, our Delegation will be compelled to flatly reject all your undeserving statements and in the same time strongly condemn those systematical sabotage acts of the Conference by your side.

I have finished. / -

7