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NHAN DAN REAFFIRMS VIETNAMESE RESOLVE TO WIN

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[Text] Hanoi VNA December 19--Marking the 23rd anniversary of the Nation-Wide Resistance Day (December 19, 1946) against the French war of reconquest, the Hanoi daily NHAN DAN in its editorial today reaffirmed the resolve of the Vietnamese people throughout the country to persevere in and step up the resistance to U.S. aggression for national salvation till complete victory.

The paper said: 23 years ago, on December 19, 1946, under the leadership of the party and government headed by President Ho Chi Minh, the Vietnamese people throughout the country resolutely stood up in arms to fight the French invaders and defend the independence of their fatherland and the gains of the August revolution. The entire Vietnamese people, irrespective of age and sex, with their steel-like determination rather to sacrifice all than lose their country and accept slavery undertook a holy war of resistance with high patriotism and complete dedication. In more than 8 years of hard but extremely heroic struggle, the Vietnamese people and their armed forces recorded glorious victories, wiping out nearly 560,000 enemy and completely liberated half of the country. Following the resounding Dien Bien Phu victory of the Vietnamese army and people, the French colonialists were forced to sign the 1954 Geneva agreements recognizing the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Vietnam.

NHAN DAN went on: The great victory of the resistance war against the French colonialists is the victory of the correct political and military lines laid down by the party and President Ho Chi Minh. This is the victory of ardent patriotism, of the determination to fight and to win, of the spirit of self-reliance and perseverance in resistance. The history of the Vietnamese people is also one of all nations struggling against imperialism for independence and freedom. The Vietnamese people have made worthy contributions to the cause of peace, national independence, democracy and socialism in the world, especially to stepping up the movement for national liberation and accelerating the collapse of the French colonialist system.

The paper continued: Refusing to draw a lesson from the French failure, the U.S. imperialists hastily plunged into a criminal adventure in an attempt to impose their neo-colonialist yoke on South Vietnam and perpetuate the partition of Vietnam. Over the past 15 years, from setting up a fascist regime to oppress and massacre the people with a view to turning South Vietnam into a new-type colony and military base, the U.S. imperialists waged a special war, fielding more than half a million puppet troops under the command of more than 30,000 U.S. advisers. Later they dispatched more than half a million U.S. troops and tens of thousands of mercenaries from U.S. satellites to start a local war in South Vietnam, at the same time used thousands of aircraft and warships to attack the north. They have spent more than 100 billion dollars and millions of tons of arms and ammunition in their extremely barbarous war of aggression.

For independence and freedom, the Vietnamese people have united as one man, fearing no sacrifices and hardships in a resolute fight to defeat the U.S. aggressors to liberate the south, defend the north and subsequently to reunify the country.

The heroic South Vietnamese people who had the honour to be the (?first) to confront the French colonialists, are again the first to rise up in the sacred resistance to U.S. aggression, for national salvation. Under the clear-sighted leadership of the N.P.L., the South Vietnamese people have overcome untold hardships and fought with sublime heroism.

Firmly grasping the directive of protracted resistance and relying mainly on their own strength, the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces have continuously attacked the enemy. They have gained strength in the process and won greater victories. The South Vietnamese people who had victoriously waged the 1945 general insurrection and the protracted resistance war against the French colonialists, are carrying forward their tradition a giving full play to their experiences in the current revolutionary war full of self-abnegation against the extremely cruel imperialist chieftain. The fight of the South Vietnamese people has developed to a high level revolutionary heroism, fighting with perseverance and tenacity, intelligence and creativeness, clever organization and diversified methods of fighting [as received]. The U.S. aggressors have brought to South Vietnam more than half a million U.S. troops and troops of its satellites, deployed enormous air and naval forces with every kind of modern weapon except nuclear weapons, to conduct an extremely cruel war of aggression. But all these colossal forces have been broken one after another. The U.S. special war was foiled. Two dry-season strategic counter-offensives of U.S. troops were defeated one after the other, the earth-shaking general offensive and simultaneous uprising of the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces have brought about a radical change to the general situation.

The paper went on: The U.S. local war having met with heavy setbacks, the U.S. aggressors had to de-escalate and end their air war of destruction in North Vietnam and withdraw part of the U.S. troops. They publicly admitted having lost all chances for a military victory, acknowledging thereby that their aggressive war has basically been defeated. Since the spring general offensive and widespread uprisings in 1968, the South Vietnamese people and armed forces have further strengthened their position of strategic offensive, attacking the enemy in force and continuously while consolidating their forces in all fields. They have put out of action large U.S. and puppet liye forces, destroyed a large quantity of enemy war means and consolidated and broadened the liberated areas. The upward trend of the resistance war is as vigorous as steady. The founding of the Provisional-Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam has added strength to the people's combat strength. Reluctant to admit their failures, the U.S. imperialists are stubbornly carrying on their aggressive scheme through perfidious manoeuvres to prolong the war such as the piecemeal withdrawal of U.S. troops and strengthening the puppet army in the hope of reducing U.S. losses and expenditures and realizing its policy of using Vietnamese to fight Vietnamese. The Vietnamization of the war is a scheme which, however, indicates the unavoidable failure of the U.S. aggressors. The stubborn attitude of the U.S. at the Paris conference stems from the scheme of the aggressive circles in the United States to prolong the war and secure a position of strength on the battlefield as well as at the conference table, in an attempt to force our people to accept their arrogant terms. The fact is that they want to end the war only on condition that they can maintain the present rotten Saigon puppet administration as a tool to carry out their neo-colonialist policy.

So long as the enemy has not given up his aggressive designs, so long as he refuses to bring all U.S. troops home, the fight of the Vietnamese people will continue, the paper stressed.

DRV EXPECTS LONG WAR DUE TO VIETNAMIZATION

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[Text] Hanoi Dec 18 KYODO--By Tatsuo Tsuda, KYODO staff correspondent--North Vietnamese leaders appear to be prepared for a prolonged war with the U.S. because of the American attempt to 'Vietnamize' war in Vietnam.

Through contacts held with several Hanoi leaders since my arrival here last week, I gained the impression that they were deepening their confidence that the Vietnam war was developing in a way favorable to North Vietnam. These leaders paid particular attention to the fact that the Song My massacre case in South Vietnam was brought to the open by American soldiers themselves. They stressed that the monthly rate of American troop withdrawals from South Vietnam was not increasing at all despite the announcements by U.S. President Richard M. Nixon that troops would be withdrawn on a gradual basis.

The U.S. policy is a mere trick for prolonging the Vietnam war by slowing the tempo of troop withdrawals from South Vietnam while trying to impress on the world as well as the people in the U.S. that the country has been enlarging the scale of the withdrawals, they said.

Nixon is trying to propagate his good will through such troop withdrawals; they pointed out, but what is important for the Vietnamese people is not the number of American soldiers withdrawn but that of those remaining in the battlefields, they said.

The leaders emphasized their "permanent" demand that the U.S. aggressor troops and their satellite forces be immediately, promptly, and unconditionally pulled out of South Vietnam, President Nixon, they said, has for some time been claiming that the situation in Vietnam was being improved as a result of the "Vietnamization" of the Vietnam war. But actually he has suffered a serious blow and encountered various difficulties, they remarked.

They went on to say that public opinion in the U.S. was strongly critical of Nixon's policy of continuing the war. But he is still holding on to South Vietnam and trying to continue American neocolonialist rule in South Vietnam by strengthening its puppet regime and troops, they said.

Therefore, he often speaks of peace, announces troop withdrawals by bits and eventually attempts to soften the American people's criticism of his war efforts through "Vietnamization" of the war and [thus] prolong the war of aggression, according to these North Vietnamese leaders.

They said they were prepared to intensify their war of resistance against the U.S. and [for the] salvation of their country and fight until the last aggressor soldier is wiped out.

They said they were confident that they could eventually win the war in view of their experiences gained through fighting against the aggressor over a long period, although they would have to be prepared for more difficulties and sacrifices in the future.

The Song My incident may not be called a very big massacre case compared with other acts committed by American soldiers and their puppet troops in South Vietnam, they pointed out.

However, they stressed that the significance of the Song My incident lay in the fact that it was confessed to and exposed to the public by U.S. soldiers who had directly participated in the mass killing of South Vietnamese women and children.

They said the parents of these American soldiers probably did not imagine that their sons would commit such acts of massacre in South Vietnam. This incident, they noted, has demonstrated to the whole world that even American youths who had conscience before coming to South Vietnam would become wicked and commit brutal acts one after another while fighting in Vietnam.

President Nixon has charged that American prisoners of war were being manhandled by North Vietnam in order to continue the Vietnam said. But, they said, they do not regard the American soldiers arrested by North Vietnam as prisoners of war. Rather, they said these Americans were considered criminals invading North Vietnam without declaring war and committing various crimes.

These criminals will be handled in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, they declared. They said that these Americans were being accorded humanitarian treatment and added that the facts would be made known in due course.

47TH SESSION OF PARIS PEACE TALKS REPORTED

VNA Account

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[Text] Hanoi VNA December 18--The Paris conference on Vietnam held its 47th plenary session today, according to our correspondent in the French capital.

The first to speak, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, foreign minister, head of the R.S.V.N.P.R.G. delegation, denounced the Nixon administration for plotting to torpedo the Paris conference, stepping up the Vietnamization of the war in an attempt to obtain a military victory, and piling up its crimes against the South Vietnamese people.

She condemned the U.S. for stubbornly sticking to its colonialist aggressive stand which had kept the Paris conference in a deadlock during the past 11 months. Recently, she added, the U.S. downgraded the conference as a measure to press the South Vietnamese people to accept its terms. U.S. President Nixon has declared that the Vietnamization of the war will bring the war to an end regardless of what happens on the negotiating front. This proves that Nixon has opted for the Vietnamization of the war which means to seek a military solution to the South Vietnam problem and prevent a correct settlement of the South Vietnam problem through negotiations.

Mme Nguyen Thi Binh denounced the piling crimes the U.S. aggressor army in South Vietnam, which crimes have been severely condemned by public opinion all over the world. She also exposed the bellicose and fascist nature of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration, a stooge of the U.S. imperialists, which is carrying out downright repression of the South Vietnamese people of all strata and has threatened to behead anyone advocating coalition and neutrality. By maintaining such a corrupt and cruel lackey administration, the U.S. has grossly trampled upon the right of self-determination of the South Vietnamese people.

Nguyen Thi Binh recalled the process of founding and development of the South Vietnam N.F.L. and the birth of the R.S.V.N. P.R.G., the genuine and legal representative of the South Vietnamese people, who is fully competent to settle every problem concerning South Vietnam. [as received] She analyzed the correct and reasonable character of the 10-point overall solution of the N.F.L. and the P.R.G. of the R.S.V.N., in which there are two fundamental problems, namely, the U.S. must stop its aggression, withdraw all its troops and those of the other foreign countries in its camp from South Vietnam without setting any conditions, the U.S. must renounce the Thieu-Ky-Khiem lackey administration set up by itself, so that the South Vietnamese people may settle their own affairs by themselves. The representatives of various strata of the people and political forces that advocate peace, independence and neutrality in South Vietnam would hold a consultative conference to form a provisional coalition government which is responsible for the organization of free and democratic general elections to determine the political regime in South Vietnam. The provisional coalition government does not belong exclusively to any force as falsely claimed by the U.S. and the Saigon puppet administration. On the contrary, it is a government reflecting a broad national concord of the South Vietnamese people.

Once again, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh reaffirmed that if the U.S. accepted the above-mentioned principles on troops withdrawal and the formation of a provisional coalition government, any concrete problem might be brought to discussion for settlement. If the U.S. government declared to withdraw all its troops and those of the other foreign countries in its camp from South Vietnam within six months, all the parties will discuss a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops and troops of the other foreign countries in the U.S. camp, and at the same time discuss the guarantee for the security of the withdrawal of those troops.

Nguyen Thi Binh said: The 10-point overall solution and the above-mentioned concrete declarations clearly reflect the correct stand, serious attitude and good will on our part in the peaceful settlement of the South Vietnam problem. They create an opportunity for the U.S. to stop its costly war and pull out of South Vietnam in an honorable, rapid and safe manner, thus responding to the desire of the American people to see their sons return safe and sound to their families as soon as possible they open the way for this conference to discuss the concrete problems, advancing towards the conclusion of agreements aimed at stopping the war and restoring peace.

The U.S. Government has repeatedly declared its desire to see the war come to an early end, so why is it unwilling to withdraw all its troops within six months, instead tries to drag out the withdrawal from year to year?

The U.S. Government has not ceased to insist on the importance of ensuring a safe withdrawal of its troops, so why has it sought to evade the question any time we proposed the way to ensure withdrawal of U.S. troops?

The U.S. Government has not ceased to speak of its interest in concrete problems, so why does it refuse to discuss our concrete, realistic, just and reasonable proposals?

The fact that the U.S. Government has hastily rejected our proposals clearly shows that it is not in the least interested in having serious negotiations, as it has often said. It only wants to continue and prolong the war.