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PRG AMBASSADOR NGUYEN MINH PHUONG INTERVIEWED IN CUBA

[Interview; Havana Radio, Spanish, 0038 GMT, 20 December 1969]

Question: Mr Ambassador, what is the present situation in South Vietnam?

Answer: (PRG ambassador answers all questions in Vietnamese, followed by Spanish translation--ed.) this year the ninth anniversary of the founding of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam (NFLSV) is celebrated at a time when all our Army and people are transforming suffering into revolutionary actions. Our people are resolved to realize the sacred testament of President Ho Chi Minh by intensifying the struggle on all fronts. During the past 9 years the South Vietnamese people, united as one single man under the leadership of the NFLSV, have faced the most ferocious enemy in all history and the main enemy of peace-loving people.

After 9 years of hard struggle the Vietnamese people have had many great victories, not only on the battlefield and politically but also in the field of diplomacy. Beginning with the general offensive and the uprisings which occurred in the spring of 1968 the Army and people of South Vietnam have day by day developed a position of strength and offensive which has created a new and extremely favorable situation for the anti-Yankee struggle for national salvation.

This has pushed the Yankee aggressors and their lackeys to a state of failure and disintegration from which they are unable to escape. But in spite of their serious losses the Yankee aggressors still remain recalcitrant as well as astute. The Nixon administration still has not resigned itself to learning the bitter lessons of Johnson and as a result had laid down an ambitious plan for Vietnamizing the war, and is continuing to intensify the brutal war of aggression with a madness which had never before been seen. This action continues for the alleged purpose of obtaining a position of power on the battlefield so as to be able to exert pressure at the conference table.

In view of the wave of indignation and the energetic repudiation of the American people, Nixon on 15 December 1969 once again presented his people with the false promise of slowly withdrawing the troops, and thus demonstrated his good will for peace as a Christmas present for the American people. But, as is well known by everyone, in his speech of 3 November 1969 Nixon had already disclosed his policy of Vietnamizing the war. This policy converts the North American war, which is made by the North Americans, into a North American war which will be put into the hands of the puppet government, but with the dollars, arms, and leadership of the United States. This is an attempt to prolong the war of aggression and realize the neocolonialism of South Vietnam. This demonstration of Nixon comradeship constitutes a new and insolent challenge to the people of Vietnam, the North American people, and all the peoples of the world who love peace and justice and who are demanding the end of the North American war of aggression in Vietnam.

Question: Mr Ambassador, what can you tell us about the massacre which was committed by North American troops in Song My?

Answer: The reports and pictures give irrefutable proof, and have given rise to a terrible indignation among people throughout the world concerning the crimes which have been committed by the Yankees in South Vietnam. This massacre has shaken the world. The American press itself has recognized that the reports concerning the massacre are burning the conscience of North Americans and that the massacre is a stain on the honor of the United States. The flight of Apollo 12 to the moon was overshadowed by the bloody hands of Yankee imperialism in South Vietnam. We applaud honorable North Americans and the people of the world who have struggled decisively to denounce the crimes of Yankee imperialism and to demand the end of the North American war of aggression in South Vietnam. The massacre of Song My and the [?abhorrent] character of the aggressive war of the United States in Vietnam fill the world with hate and emotion and awaken the conscience of humanity.

Question: What does the presence of five South Vietnamese fighters in Cuba signify during this 10-million-ton harvest?

Answer: First of all I would like to declare that the presence of the five fighters of the People's Liberation Armed Forces and of the five young men who belong to a workers union of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is a beautiful picture of the strong militant solidarity between our two countries, Cuba and Vietnam. The attention of the Cuban people and their beloved and respected leader Prime Minister Fidel Castro to this fact demonstrates that in the struggle as well as in the construction of the country our people are always shoulder to shoulder.

In this glorious 10-million-ton harvest, which is the pride of the Cuban people and of all the revolutionary people of the world, the people of South Vietnam are honored to be able to send some of their outstanding sons to contribute with a grain of sand to this revolutionary offensive

in sister Cuba--first free territory in America. Our fighters, when they have returned, will take with them to the front lines, which are engulfed in flames in the battlefields of South Vietnam, the Cuban machetes together with the glorious news of the 10 million tons of sugar. We shall win!

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