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22 May 68 - ~~of May 22~~

Pravda's article/by Observer "A Practical Path for Resolving the Vietnam Problem" was the first authoritative Soviet press comment on Paris talks ~~in~~ President Nixon's speech of May 14. After commenting on and   
 after   
 (containing his 8-point proposals)

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endorsing NLF 10-point program, article mentioned President's proposals and criticized them by employing quotations from Hanoi and NLF spokesmen. However, it implied that NLF proposals were not necessarily to be considered the framework for the final peace settlement but simply constituted "a constructive approach" that could promote a solution to the Vietnam question.

(Note: the bulk of Soviet commentaries characterized the President's proposals as inadequate and unacceptable to DRV and NLF)

20 May 68 -

Kosygin's speech ~~of May 24~~ during visit to Kabul:

"The continuation of the imperialist aggression in Vietnam has caused anxiety among nations. The negotiations in Paris have not led to a positive result. The practical and positive proposals of the NLF of South Vietnam and of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam have unfortunately not encountered a positive reaction of the other side."

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May 15

Izvestiya ~~of 15 May 68~~ carried article by "Observer", "Vietnam: the Path to a Settlement: Important Proposals of the NFLSV" endorsing the NLF 10-point peace plan and ~~concluding~~ with the following paragraph:

"Formerly, the world and American public could hope that the aggression in Vietnam was the policy of the former Washington administration, bequeathed to the new administration. But months have passed now and the policy remains the same, only its interpretation being changed. But the situation is not improved by this: the war continues in Vietnam, carrying many more and more victims; The new NFLSV proposals place the question of ending the war on realistic lines; it points out a completely possible way to peace in Southeast Asia. They are warmly supported by the friends of the Vietnamese people and by all to whom peace and security are dear. These proposals have met with the full approval of the Soviet Union, whose people see their international duty as rendering every possible assistance to their Vietnamese brethren in their just struggle."

(Note: This article was ~~not~~ written and published without reference to President Nixon's speech of 14 May on Vietnam.)