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IV. NHAN DAN CONTINUES TO
ATTACK NIXON PROPOSALS

(Nhan Dan commentator on Hanoi VNA International Service in English, 0530 GMT, 10 October 1970)

In a commentary signed "The commentator" today, the Hanoi daily Nhan Dan said that the U.S. President's October 7 address and his "five-point proposal" were merely a piece of propaganda for his party in the forthcoming congressional election. (In--Ed) the article headlined "President Nixon's election propaganda," the paper drew a parallel between the stand of the U.S. aggressors and that of the Vietnamese people concerning the fundamental questions to be solved with a view to a correct political settlement of the South Vietnam problem in particular and the Vietnam and Indochina problems in general.

The paper said: Regarding the withdrawal of U.S. troops, the 10-point overall solution and the points elaborated on September 17 by the RVN PRC made clear that the U.S. must stop its aggressive war and withdraw all its troops and troops of the foreign countries in the U.S. camp from South Vietnam without posing any conditions whatsoever.

In case the U.S. government declares it will withdraw from South Vietnam all its troops and those of the other foreign countries in the U.S. camp by June 30, 1971, the people's liberation armed forces will refrain from attacking the withdrawing troops of the United States and those of the other foreign countries in the U.S. camp, and the parties will engage at once in discussions on the question of ensuring safety for the total withdrawal from South Vietnam of U.S. troops and those of the other foreign countries in the U.S. camp and the question of releasing captured militarymen.

This principled stand on the withdrawal of U.S. troops, which is also fair and reasonable, highlights the good will and serious attitude of the Vietnamese people. It responds to the legitimate demands and aspirations of the South Vietnamese people, the American people and the world's people for the cessation of the U.S. aggression and the war and withdrawal of the U.S. troops and those of the other foreign countries in the U.S. camp from South Viet Nam in a reasonable period of time. It also corresponds to the American people's concern for the fate of their sons sent to fight in South Viet Nam.

In contrast to the correct stand of the Vietnamese people, President Nixon in his October 7 speech still refuses to withdraw all U.S. troops from South Viet Nam unconditionally. Nixon still persists in his policy of piecemeal and prolonged withdrawal of troops. As can be inferred from Nixon's speech, by mid-1971 there will remain about 300,000 U.S. troops

and 60,000 troops of its satellites who will be continuing to commit crimes in South Viet Nam. Nixon still refuses to set a **timetable** for the withdrawal of all U.S. troops, but urges "negotiations" on that matter in accordance with the "principles" set by the U.S. itself. This, in fact, boils down to the old demand for "mutual troops withdrawal," putting on an equal footing the U.S. aggressors and the Vietnamese people who are resisting aggression and setting conditions for the U.S. ' stopping the war and withdrawing its troops.

As regards the implementation of the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, Mme Minister Nguyen Thi Binh in her September 17 statement pointed out: The restoration of genuine peace in South Viet Nam necessitates the formation in Saigon of an administration without Thieu-Ky-Khiem, an administration which stands for peace, independence, neutrality and democracy. The RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government is prepared to enter into talks with such an administration on a political settlement of the South Viet Nam problem so as to put an end to the war and restore peace. A provisional government of broad coalition is indispensable for the organization of really free and democratic general elections during the transitory period between the restoration of peace and the holding of general elections. The provisional coalition government will include three components: persons of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, persons of the Saigon administration really standing for peace, independence, neutrality and democracy, persons of various forces and tendencies standing for peace, independence, neutrality and democracy.

The aforesaid stand of the RSVN PEG has enjoyed sympathy and support from broad public opinion in the country and in the world including the United States which looks upon it as a correct, reasonable, logical, clear and adequate proposal, reflecting the spirit of national concord and broad solidarity and conforming to the present realities.

Yet, in his so-called "peace initiative" on October 7, Nixon described the proposals of the RSVN PEG on this problem as 'unreasonable' and 'unacceptable,' and obstinately urged maintenance of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique as an instrument to materialize U.S. neo-colonialism. Nixon also again hypocritically declared that "we stand firm for the right of all the South Vietnamese people to determine for themselves the kind of government they want." In fact, it is clear that the U.S. has been using force to compel the South Vietnamese people to accept the traitorous, anti-popular, war-like and rotten clique which the South Vietnamese people are determined to overthrow.

Along with reiterating the colonialist war-mongering stand and extremely stubborn attitude on the aforesaid fundamental questions, President Nixon also raised a number of other problems aimed at misleading public opinion and

sowing illusions among certain strata of people in the United States and elsewhere.

Nixon proposed a "cease-fire-in-place" at a time when the Vietnamese people and the world's people are demanding that the U.S. stop its aggression and withdraw all its troops unconditionally. To cease fire at a time when the U.S. government still refuses to stop its aggression and still keeps nearly 400,000 troops in South Vietnam would mean recognition of the occupation by the U.S. expeditionary corps and abolition of the Vietnamese people's sacred right to defend themselves against aggression.

Regarding this problem, Minister Nguyen Thi Binh's statement of September 17, pointed out the Vietnamese people are ready to implement the modalities of the ceasefire after the parties had agreed upon the total withdrawal of U.S. troops and troops of the foreign countries in the U.S. camp, and renouncement of Thieu-Ky-Khiem and the setting up of a provisional coalition government to organize really free and democratic general elections. Only in such conditions can a ceasefire meet the necessity to end the war of aggression waged by the U.S., and ensure the independence and the right to self-determination of the people and guarantee genuine peace.

The U.S. President also proposed an international conference to discuss peace in Indochina. He said: "The United States has never sought to widen the war. What we seek is to widen the peace". How cynical he is. It is Nixon who has been escalating the war in Laos, invading Cambodia and widening the war to the whole of the Indochinese peninsula. And it is Nixon who has breathed life into his placemen in Vientiane and Phnom Penh and ordered them to oppose the Lao and Cambodian peoples who are resisting U.S. aggression to save their countries. The key problem is whether or not the U.S. agrees to stop its aggression against the three Indochinese countries, not the forms of conference. The Nixon administration refuses to accept the 10-point overall solution of the PFG of the Republic of South Viet Nam, opposes the five-point declaration of March 23, 1970 by Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, rejects the five-point solution proposed by the Lao Patriotic Front and creates obstacles to the meeting between the representatives of Prince Souphanouvong and Prince Souvanna Phouma.

Viewed against such an aggressive and bellicose stand, Nixon's proposal for an Indochina peace conference is a mere piece of deception.

The problem of "prisoners - of - war" was once again raised in Nixon's address. In this connection, Minister Nguyen Thi Binh's statement of November 17 already said: In case the U.S. Government declares it will withdraw from South Viet Nam all its troops by June 30, 1971 the parties will engage at once in discussions on the question of releasing captured militarymen. The U.S. President has not answered this constructive proposal but used empty talks on "peace" and "humanity" to deceive public opinion and cover the extremely barbarous crimes of the U.S. in Vietnam.

[Editor's note: Hanoi Radio in Vietnamese Broadcast a similar Nguoi Binh Luan commentary to South Viet Nam, 0100 GMT, 10 October 1970]

In short, Nixon's October 7 address and his "five-point proposal" is in no way "new and major peace initiative". It is a crafty manoeuvre aimed at realizing the "Nixon doctrine", stepping up the "Vietnamization of the war" program and gaining "position of strength" on the battlefield and at the conference table in order to force (as received) the peoples of the Indochinese countries to accept a solution on U.S. terms.

His speech was not at all aimed at seeking a correct peaceful solution for the Viet Nam problem. Instead, it was aimed at soothing the growing anti-war movement in the United States, and gaining political influence for Nixon and company in the forthcoming U.S. congressional elections.

The paper stressed: The Vietnamese people's fight is shining with justice. The stand of the Vietnamese people is correct. The Vietnamese people cherish peace but it must be a genuine peace in real independence and freedom, not a Nixonian peace. So long as the U.S. continues to invade Viet Nam, the Vietnamese people will fight on. The fight of the Vietnamese people as well as that of the Cambodian and Lao people is developing very favourably. As the joint statement of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples has pointed out, the peoples of the three Indochinese countries are resolved to strengthen their unity, fight persistently to defend their sacred national rights, defend the basic principles of the 1954 and 1962 Geneva Agreements on Indochina and Laos and make Indochina really become an independent and peaceful area in conformity with the aspiration of the peoples of the three Indochinese countries and the interests of peace in Southeast Asia and the world.