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I. "THE RSVN PRG SEVERELY CONDEMNS AND ABSOLUTELY
REJECTS MR NIXON'S FRAUDULENT PEACE PROPOSALS"
SAYS HUYNH TAN PHAT

(LPA Interviews Huynh Tan Phat on Nixon Proposal, Liberation Press Agency, clandestine, in English to East Europe and the Far East 1715 GMT, 14 October 1970).

President Huynh Tan Phat of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam today granted an interview to GPA about the October 7, 1970, address of U.S. President Nixon.

Here are the questions and answers:

Question one: Mr. President, do you think that the October 7, 1970 proposals of U.S. President Nixon meet the urgent and legitimate demands of our people for a correct solution to the South Viet-Nam problem?

Answer: While the Vietnamese people together with progressive opinion in the United States and in the rest of the world are urging that the U.S. government seriously meet the fair and reasonable proposals of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam made in the September 17, 1970, statement of Mme Minister Nguyen Thi Binh, Mr. Nixon completely evaded these proposals in his address. President Nixon did not give any serious answer to the most basic and most legitimate problems of a correct solution to the South Viet-Nam problem, but only sought to mislead public opinion on those problems.

Everybody knows, the U.S. government has (word indistinct) sent U.S. expeditionary troops and troops of other foreign countries in the U.S. camp to South Viet-Nam to carry out the most brutal war of aggression in history, grossly trampling underfoot the basic national rights of the Vietnamese people and seriously sabotaging the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet-Nam. A basic and urgent question is being posed in order to quickly reach a correct solution aimed at ending the war and restoring peace in South Viet-Nam, that is the U.S. must cease its aggression, respect the basic national rights of the Vietnamese people, promptly withdraw all its troops and troops of the foreign countries in its camp from South Viet-Nam without posing any conditions. In order to pave the way for the U.S. to withdraw from its costly war, both in lives and wealth, (as received) in South Viet-Nam, our government, through the September 17, 1970, statement of Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, already declared without ambiguity: In case the U.S. government declares it will withdraw from South Viet-Nam 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 Viet-Nam of U.S. troops and those of the other foreign countries in the U.S. camp.

The question of releasing captured militarymen.

Mr. Nixon evaded announcing the timetable for the withdrawal of the U.S. troops, revealed his scheme of prolonging the withdrawal of the U.S. troops and protracting indefinitely the U.S. military occupation of South Viet-Nam, in an attempt to gain a position of strength through "Vietnamization of the War." Nixon pretended he wanted an early end to the war and no more losses of lives for any side. That is mere deception. Mr. Nixon proposed the release of all prisoners of war, journalists and civilians saying this is an "human act." But these hypocritical allegations cannot conceal monstrous crimes in South Viet-Nam, as well as so many sufferings and mournings caused to Vietnamese and American families by the U.S. aggressors.

Another basic problem of a correct solution is how to realize the South Vietnamese people's right of self-determination. The U.S. imperialists have rigged up in South Viet-Nam a stooge administration to serve their aggressive design, carry out U.S. neo-colonialism, and perpetuate the division of Viet-Nam. The Saigon Administration set up by the U.S., represents nobody. The elections organized by them under the gun muzzle of the U.S. cannot be free and democratic elections and are completely devoid of any value.

The Thieu-Ky-Khiem militarist clique at the head of the present Saigon Administration are a group of bellicose and fascist henchmen who live on the U.S. war of aggression. Obedient to the U.S. orders, they have massacred our compatriots, ravaged our country serving in the service of the very brutal and perfidious "Vietnamization of the war" plan of the U.S. They repress everybody who stands for peace, independence, neutrality and democracy regardless of political tendency and religious belief. They even repress persons in their own ranks who do not fall into their line. They oppose the proposal to set up a provisional coalition government with a large representation which would organize really free and democratic elections to set up a coalition government really representing all strata of the South Viet-Nam population.

They constitute the major obstacle on the way toward a political settlement in South Viet-Nam. The South Vietnamese people of all strata and tendencies are resolved to overthrow them. Many persons in the Saigon administration and in the U.S. political circles have also demanded that the U.S. government renounce them. A pressing and legitimate demand of the South Viet-Nam towns-people is to form in Saigon an administration without Thieu-Ky-Khiem, standing for peace, independence, neutrality and democracy. We have stated clearly that the RSVN PRG is prepared to talk with such an administration on a political settlement of the South Viet-Nam problem, and the provisional coalition government will include three components: persons of the PRG of the RSVN; persons of the Saigon Administration really standing for peace, independence, neutrality and democracy; and persons of various political and religious forces and tendencies standing for peace, independence, neutrality and democracy including those who, for political reasons have to live abroad. Yet Mr. Nixon has obstinately countered the realization of the South Viet-Nam people's genuine right to self-determination by slanderously charging the RSVN PRG with wanting to "take over" all power and "exclude whomever they wish from the government."

Mr. Nixon has himself exposed his obdurate stand and his lack of seriousness by proposing to "seek a political solution that reflects the will of the South Vietnamese people" while persisting in maintaining Thieu, Ky and Khiem whom the South Vietnamese people are resolved to topple.

While continuing to elude the above fundamental questions of the solution, Mr. Nixon proposed a ceasefire without preconditions. The RSVN PRG's stand on this score has also been made clear in the statement of its delegation at the Paris Conference on September 17, 1970. We will, together with the other parties implement the modalities that will have been laid down for a ceasefire in South Viet-Nam after the parties have agreed on and signed accords aimed at putting an end to the war.

It is clear that by proposing a ceasefire while the U.S. has not announced a time table for the total withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Viet-Nam and still maintains the militarist Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique, Mr. Nixon wants to deny us our sacred right to self-defense and wants us to surrender unconditionally so that the American troops and troops of the other foreign countries in the U.S. camp may be free to occupy South Viet-Nam indefinitely, legalize the existence of a dictatorial and bellicose administration, an instrument of U.S. aggression in South Viet-Nam. This is an utterly insolent demand.

Question Two: Would you let us know your views regarding Nixon's proposal for an "international peace conference on Indochina?"

Answer: This is not a serious proposal. It is the U.S.'s stubborn aggressive stand that has caused the Paris Conference on Viet-Nam to remain in a stalemate. Mr. Nixon cannot evade his responsibility for prolonging the war in South Viet-Nam and expanding it to the whole of Indochina. The point is not the form of one conference or another, but whether or not the U.S. wants to end its aggression, withdraw totally and unconditionally its troops and those of the foreign countries in the American camp from South Viet-Nam, stop maintaining Thieu, Ky and Khiem, and let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves their internal affairs without foreign interference. The affair of each country in Indochina must be decided by her people. The South Viet-Nam issue must be settled on the basis of the 10-point overall solution of the NFL and the RSVN PRG, and on the elaborations made in the September 17, 1970, statement. The Lao problem must be settled on the basis of the five-point political solution put forth by the Lao Patriotic Front. The Cambodian problem must be settled in the spirit of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk's proclamation of March 23, 1970. Mr. Nixon's "peace initiative" is but a perfidious maneuver to cover up the U.S. imperialists' stubborn aggressive stand.

The South Viet-Nam people and the RSVN PRG fully support the October 11, 1970, statement of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia demanding that the U.S. halt its aggression against Cambodia, cease unconditionally, completely and immediately the bombings and strafings on Cambodian territory by the American Air Force and the puppets of the U.S., pull out totally, unconditionally and without delay the U.S. advisors and the puppet troops of Thieu-Ky-Khiem and Thanorn Praphas, end completely all acts of war, provocation and interference in Cambodia's internal affairs, and leave the Cambodian people alone to settle their own affairs without foreign interference.

The people and PRG of the Republic of South Viet-Nam fully support the October 13, 1970, statement of the spokesman of the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee demanding that the U.S. end its intervention and aggression against Laos, first of all totally cease the bombings of the whole Lao territory so as to create favourable conditions for the Lao parties concerned to meet and peacefully settle the Lao issue on the basis of the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos and the present realities of the situation in that country without foreign interference.

United in the common fight against the U.S. aggressors and their flunkies, the peoples of Viet-Nam, Cambodia and Laos are recording bigger victories than ever before. However obdurate and perfidious, the U.S. imperialists can in no way escape their total failure,

Question Three: Would you, Mr. President, would you comment on the reaction of the South Vietnamese people and the world people toward Mr. Nixon's October 7 address?

Answer: Endowed with a long tradition of indomitable struggle against foreign aggression and with a high political awareness, the South Vietnamese people certainly will not be fooled by Mr. Nixon's honey words and machiavellian tricks. The South Vietnamese people and the RVN PRG severely condemn and absolutely reject Mr. Nixon's fraudulent "peace proposals,"

We are deeply attached to peace, but this must be peace in independence and freedom. Implementing the sacred testament of great President Ho Chi Minh, loyal to their commitments contained in the Joint Declaration of the Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference, the South Vietnamese people, on the crest of the victories already recorded, are determined to persist in and step up the just fight till total victory, in order to achieve at all costs their aspiration and will for peace, independence, neutrality, democracy and national concord, and at the same time to unceasingly contribute to the strengthening of the bloc of militant solidarity of the Indochinese peoples.

Progressive opinion in the world, including the United States, has been warmly hailing the Eight Points announced by our government in the statement of September 17, 1970, of Minister Nguyen Thi Binh and strongly denouncing President Nixon's peace swindle. The American people, endowed with a tradition of peace and freedom-loving, certainly will not let themselves be deceived by Mr. Nixon's fraudulent words and will oppose with even more vigour the U.S. Government's stubborn policy of aggression. The socialist countries, the peace and justice-loving countries and our friends in all continents surely will increase support and assist more actively and in all fields the just fight of the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples against the U.S. aggressors till total victory.

[Editor's Note: The Hanoi press on October 15 featured the DRV Foreign Ministry statement reprinted as a Principal Reports "Special" on October 15, and the above interview with Huynh Tan Phat].