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PEACE-TALK MANEUVERS SHOW U.S. CUNNING

Liberation Radio (Clandestine) in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 1100 GMT 17 Apr 68 S

[LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY commentary: "The U.S. Government has exposed its cunning, warlike, and obdurate nature"]

[Text] Following the irretrievable, heavy U.S. defeats on the Vietnamese battlefield and in the face of the violent waves of indignation from progressive U.S. and world people demanding that the United States halt the criminal aggressive war against the Vietnamese people and in view of the multitude of internal difficulties in the political, economic, and social fields, on 31 March 1968 Johnson was obliged to deliver a speech on limiting the bombing of North Vietnam.

On 3 April, the DRV Government issued a statement pointing out that the limited bombing of the North is a defeat on the part of the United States but at the same time is a cunning trick by the U.S. Government to placate public opinion. The statement affirmed our people's unshakable position of defending independence and peace and their determination to fight until final victory to defend the north, liberate the south, and proceed toward the reunification of the fatherland.

While the U.S. Government has not yet seriously and adequately met the just demands of the DRV Government and progressive U.S. and world opinion the DRV Government has expressed its good will by stating that it was ready to send its representative to make contact with his American counterpart with the aim of determining with the United States the unconditional halt of the bombing and all other acts of war against the DRV Government so that talks could begin. This correct and firm position, as well as a serious attitude proving the good will of the DRV Government, have been sympathized with, supported, and energetically welcomed by world opinion, including that of progressive U.S. people.

On 8 April, 1968, the DRV Government suggested Phnom Penh, capital of the Cambodian Kingdom, as the site for the (?preliminary) contact aimed at preparing for official talks. Cambodian chief of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk said he was delighted to accept this proposal and would create every favorable condition for the meeting between the DRV Government's representative and that of the U.S. Government. But the U.S. Government rejected it, and raised ill-founded reasons such as lack of diplomatic relations with Cambodia, lack of facilities, and Cambodian dislike of U.S. reporters. Clearly, these reasons are contrived and have therefore been criticized by world public opinion.

The South Vietnamese people completely agree with Prince Sihanouk who, in his very correct remarks, exposed the craftiness of the U.S. Government's arguments. Despite Johnson's delaying tactics, on 11 April the DRV Government, in a move to get the talks started, again proposed Warsaw as the site for a bilateral meeting.

The government of the People's Republic of Poland welcomed the choice of Warsaw and said that it was ready to provide every necessary condition for the contact between the two sides. But once again the U.S. Government turned it down and demanded that the preliminary contact be organized in a suitable neutral country with appropriate communications facilities.

This contrived, crafty, and stubborn attitude of the U.S. Government is completely contrary to its earlier statements. Everybody still remembers that on 29 September 1967 in San Antonio, Johnson said: I am ready to talk even tomorrow.

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I am ready to send a representative to any place on this earth to talk openly or secretly with the spokesmen of Hanoi. On 17 March 1968 in Minneapolis, Johnson reiterated: We want peace and we are ready to attend a meeting right now, at this very moment, and he added that he needs no other facilities than a conference hall, a table, and men for the talks.

On 31 March 1968, while declaring that the United States would restrict the bombing of North Vietnam, Johnson brazenly added that he would send his representative anyplace, anytime. This crooked attitude of the U.S. Government obviously contradicts the historic statements made to date by the U.S. President concerning peace, good will, and so forth. This is just a bluff, no more no less. World and American public opinion has unmasked the U.S. Government's stubborn stand [words indistinct].

It should be noted that while seeking to hamper contacts for peace talks, the U.S. Government has considerably intensified the bombing of the DRV. On 15 April it dispatched aircraft to commit crimes in Ninh Binh; our people's air force punished them appropriately by downing one aircraft. Meanwhile, the dispatch of U.S. expeditionary troops to South Vietnam continued.

The Thieu-Ky puppet clique was ordered to proclaim a general mobilization to step up the war. Recent various operations, which the U.S. aggressors claimed as the biggest to date, were conducted to commit extremely barbarous crimes against the South Vietnamese people. The recent conference between the United States and its satellite countries in Wellington, New Zealand, revealed the U.S. aggressors' belligerent, stubborn, cruel, and aggressive nature. While Johnson ran the old peace talks show, Dean Rusk, presiding over the Wellington conference, called for intensification of military activities in Vietnam, paying no heed to the outlook for peace talks, as reported by REUTERS on 11 April.

The South Vietnamese people unanimously and thoroughly sympathize with and support the DRV's clear-cut and correct stand, sincerity, and good will, and condemn the stubborn and cunning U.S. behavior.

The South Vietnamese people demand that United States cease unconditionally the bombing and all acts of war against the DRV, withdraw all U.S. and satellite forces from South Vietnam, and let the Vietnamese people settle their own initial affairs.

If the United States continues its barbarous aggression, the 14 million South Vietnamese people, under the leadership of the NLFV pledge to stand shoulder to shoulder with the 17 million North Vietnamese kith-and-kin compatriots, despite any hardship and sacrifice, and to fight until the last aggressor is driven out from this dear country, in order to liberate the south, defend the north, and advance toward achieving national unification through peaceful means.