

II. 16 Apr 68

NORTH VIETNAM

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U.S. SHOWS LACK OF GOOD WILL BY DELAYING TALKS

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1115 GMT 15 Apr 68 S

[Commentary: "It is obvious that the United States lacks good will"]

[Text] Nearly 2 weeks have elapsed since our government issued the 3 April statement on the U.S. limited bombing of North Vietnam. The correct stand and good-will attitude of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam Government, manifested in this statement, have been warmly acclaimed and vigorously supported by broad public opinion in the world and progressive U.S. public opinion during recent days.

The statement of our government pointed out: The U.S. Government has not seriously and fully met the legitimate demands of the DRV Government, progressive American opinion, and world opinion. However, for its part, the DRV Government declares its readiness to appoint its representative to contact the U.S. representative with a view to determining with the American side the unconditional cessation of the U.S. bombing raids and all other acts of war against the DRV so that talks may start.

And what about (?U.S. sincerity)? The U.S. Government has manifested an insidious, crafty, and stubborn attitude aimed at delaying preliminary contacts between the DRV and the United States.

On 8 April, our government indicated to the U.S. side its selection of Phnom Penh, capital of the Cambodian Kingdom, as a site for ambassadorial-level preliminary contacts between the two sides in order to prepare for official talks. Everyone knows that Cambodia is a peace-loving, neutral country. Cambodian Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk stated that he would be glad to create all favorable conditions for organizing contacts between the DRV and the United States in Phnom Penh. Yet the U.S. Government has sought every means possible to reject this and to advance inappropriate reasons, such as the United States having no diplomatic relations with Cambodia, Cambodia disliking U.S. newsmen, or communications and other facilities not being favorable.

On 11 April, our government, showing its good will that contacts should be made soon, while stressing that Phnom Penh continues to be an appropriate site for preliminary contacts, pointed out another site--Warsaw, capital of the Republic of Poland. It is obvious that in making this new suggestion our government paid particular attention to the U.S. view about so-called technical difficulties. The Government of the Polish People's Republic warmly acclaimed the selection of Warsaw as the site for preliminary contacts and has been ready to create necessary conditions for contacts between the two sides.

On 12 April, the U.S. Government once again showed its unwillingness to select Warsaw as the site for contacts. The U.S. Government set forth new conditions, according to which contacts must be made in a neutral country in which the two sides have representation and adequate communications facilities.

Through these facts, one can clearly see that every time the DRV Government has made a suggestion about a site for preliminary contacts between the two sides, the U.S. Government has set forth conditions of all kinds with the aim of creating difficulties in the selection of a site for contacts and of delaying the meeting of the two sides.

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We are in complete accord with the just demands specified in the 13 April statement-- that is, the U.S. Government must unconditionally cease its bombing and all other acts of war against the entire DRV territory and withdraw U.S. and satellite troops from South Vietnam so that the South Vietnamese people can settle their internal affairs themselves.

If the U.S. Government really wants to talk with the DRV Government, it must put an end to its maneuvers that create difficulties in the selection of a site for preliminary contacts, thus delaying the talks between the two sides.

NHAN DAN Article

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0544 GMT 16 Apr 68 B

[Text] Hanoi--The Hanoi daily NHAN DAN, in an article today, condemned the U.S. lack of good will in refusing to agree to the sites suggested by the DRV for preliminary contacts between the two sides. This attitude of the United States is drawing strong criticism from world public opinion, the paper said.

After recalling that Western newspapers had pointed to the groundlessness of the reasons given by the United States for rejecting the DRV Government's proposals concerning the site of preliminary contacts, the paper said: The U.S. Government has been widely condemned at home and abroad because it has failed to match its deeds with words. Let us recall one of Johnson's many statements:

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT on 1 July 1966 quoted Johnson as saying in Des Moines: The communist leaders in North Vietnam do not have to doubt what we mean by this or that statement If they will only let me know when and where . . . I will have my closest and most trusted associates at that time and at that place in a matter of hours. There need only be a room and a table and people who are willing to talk to each other respectfully. That is just about as simple as a farm boy knows how to make it.

This statement is big sounding and allows no misunderstanding. Yet, after making many such statements, the Johnson administration now changes tune. When our government rejected it [as received] on the pretext that the United States does not have diplomatic representation there, then our government proposed that the contacts be held in Warsaw, where the United States has its embassy and has many contacts with other countries. But the U.S. Government again refused, alleging that Poland is not a neutral country.

The truth is that the United States will not meet any difficulty concerning the location or communications facilities if the contacts take place in Phnom Penh or Warsaw. Cambodian Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk on 10 April declared that he would create all favorable conditions for the contacts. The Polish press agency on 13 April issued a communique affirming the Polish Government's readiness to create every necessary and adequate condition for the contacts between the DRV and the United States.

The paper added: The U.S. refusal to make Phnom Penh or Warsaw the venue for contacts between the two parties stems from its lack of good will. In fact, how can the U.S. President's declaration that the United States is ready to go anywhere at any time, and that there need only to be a room and a table, be reconciled with the fact that the United States now gives one absurd reason after another and even sets two minimum standards for the site?



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Denouncing Johnson's lack of good will on the site of contacts, U.S. Senator McCarthy on 11 April said this attitude showed that the U.S. Vietnam policy was unchanged. The U.S. military activities in Vietnam over recent days have convinced everybody that the United States still persists in its aggressive policy.

Along with preparations for the dispatch of additional U.S. troops to South Vietnam and the increase of appropriations for the war in Vietnam, the U.S. and puppet troops have launched big operations against the people and patriots in South Vietnam. In North Vietnam, the United States continues to send aircraft and warships to step up attacks against the areas from Thanh Hoa to Vinh Linh, and continues to send aircraft on reconnaissance missions all over North Vietnam. On 13 and 14 April, U.S. reconnaissance planes flew many missions near Hanoi capital. Yesterday, 15 April, U.S. aircraft raided an area in the southwestern part of Ninh Binh Province, and one of them was shattered by our people's air force.

The paper continued: The U.S. aggressive acts in both zones of Vietnam, and the deliberate delay by the United States of contacts between representatives of the DRV and the United States, have shed more light on the U.S. Government's scheme to carry on its war of aggression and prove that the United States does not sincerely want to move toward peace, as U.S. President Johnson claimed in his speech of 31 March.

While the United States refuses to contact the DRV at the places proposed by the latter, the spokesman for the U.S. President claimed that contacts between the DRV and the United States on the question of the site are continuing. This is yet another trick of the United States to delay contacts and appease public protest.

In his statement on 13 April 1968, the spokesman of the DRV Foreign Ministry reaffirmed the correct stand and serious attitude of the Government of the DRV and, at the same time, denounced the United States for continuing its policy of aggression against Vietnam and postponing the contacts. The statement pointed out that if the U.S. Government (?really wants) talks with the Government of the DRV, it must stop creating difficulties in the choice of a place for preliminary contacts, which only delay the talks between the two sides.

This is also the urgent demand of world public opinion and the American people. It is certain that the Johnson administration cannot continue to run counter to this legitimate demand or betray its previous statements.