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U.S. LEADERS BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR SON MY

NHAN DAN 25 November

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 1533 GMT 26 Nov 69 B

【Text】 Hanoi VNA November 25---The Hanoi daily NHAN DAN today stressed that the chief-tains of the U.S. aggressors are the chief culprits of the massacre of more than 500 civilians in Son My village, Quang Ngai Province (central Vietnam) in March 1968.

The article said that there have been more and more concrete and undeniable evidences relating to this mass murder. Following the publication of pictures taken on the spot and first-hand reports by U.S. army correspondent Ronald L. Haeberle and the accounts given by the survivors, American papers have published depositions by G.I.'s directly involved in this massacre, such as Donald Lee Ridenhour, 23, specialist four, Michael B. Terry, 22, in a clean-up platoon, Bernhardt, 23, sergeant of Company C, 25th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 11th Infantry Brigade.... Recently, Paul Hecadlo, 22, ex-soldier of Company C, First Battalion of the same brigade, admitted in an ABC United States radio program that he saw about 370 Vietnamese men, women, and children killed at Son My and he himself shot at least 10 or 15 of them on orders (U.P.I. November 25)

The article continued: These evidences have fully exposed the barbarous features of the U.S. aggressors. Mankind is burning with indignation. In the current wave of protest that is sweeping the world, more and more voices have been heard right among the ruling circles in many countries such as Britain, Sweden, and India. Frightened by public opinion in the United States and the world, the U.S. aggressors had to declare on November 24 that Lieutenant William L. Calley would be court-martialed.

Naturally, those who directly commit murder are criminals. But the main responsibility rests with the instigators. Nixon is scheming to shift the responsibility for the crime on a few inferior commanders.

Who must bear the main responsibility? None other than those who have waged this atrocious war: They are the White House and Pentagon bosses. They are Johnson formerly and Nixon at present.

The Son My massacre is only one of the innumerable monstrous crimes perpetrated by the Vietnamese people. Such is the clear conclusion arrived at by the Bertrand Russell International Tribunal and many famed lawyers in the world and in the United States. This was asserted long ago by progressive mankind. The Son My massacre has further substantiated those conclusions and assertions.

The November 24 statement of the DRVN Foreign Ministry made clear: The question here is not only the responsibility of the criminals in Son My, of the U.S., puppet troops having perpetrated crimes in South Vietnam, of the American pilots having bombed and strafed the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, but the responsibility of the U.S. ruling circles who have unleashed a war of aggression against Vietnam and committed innumerable and abominable crimes against the Vietnamese people.

The war of aggression is at the origin of all the war crimes and the crimes of genocide. Only by putting an end to the U.S. war of aggression can the U.S. crimes against the Vietnamese people and mankind be brought to a stop. This is clear in the mind of millions of Americans and people of the countries taking part in the movement against the U.S. aggressive war in Vietnam, and of the whole progressive mankind who are resolutely denouncing the U.S. imperialists' crimes in Son My and demanding that the Nixon administration put an end to the war.

NHAN DAN said in conclusion: As was already said in the statement of the spokesman of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam and that of the DRVN Foreign Ministry, we call on the governments and peoples of the peace- and justice-loving countries in the world, the democratic international and regional organizations, various personalities in the world and the progressive people in the United States to raise their voices more powerfully and take measures to check the U.S. aggressors' bloody hands, resolutely demand the U.S. to put an end to its aggression, withdraw totally and unconditionally its troops from South Vietnam, and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their internal affairs.

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NIXON BANS ON CEW TO APPEASE PUBLIC OPINION

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1447 GMT 27 Nov 69 B

[Text] On 25 November, President Nixon declared at a press conference in Washington that henceforth the United States would not be the first to use chemical weapons and would use them only for retaliation. He also stated that he would direct the U.S. Department of Defense to begin to map out plans to dispose of existing stocks of bacteriological weapons. However, he added that the U.S. troops would continue to use tear gas and defoliating chemicals.

The U.S. propaganda machine has noisily publicized the aforementioned statements by Nixon, considering them an act of good will of the Nixon administration.

It is known that recently public opinion has vehemently condemned the U.S. aggressors' crime of massively using noxious chemicals to destroy crops and massacre the people in Vietnam and even in Laos. The U.S. imperialists' stockpiling of chemical weapons in foreign countries, such as Okinawa, the Philippines, and West Germany, has also been strongly condemned.

Nixon's statement of renunciation of first use of chemical weapons is a trick to appease public opinion, first of all, to soothe the indignation of the world's people who are energetically condemning the U.S. imperialists' crime at Son My village. Nixon's statement to the effect that the United States will use chemical weapons only for retaliation is a way to leave the door open for the U.S. imperialists to invent pretexts for using chemical weapons whenever they want to. In fact, the U.S. imperialists have on innumerable occasions attacked other countries--as in the case against Cambodia--under the pretext of self-defense and retaliation.

Nixon's statement that the United States will continue to use defoliating chemicals has unmasked his hypocrisy. It proves that the U.S. imperialists, in defiance of condemnation by world public opinion, are continuing to plunge deeply along the criminal path of massacring our South Vietnamese compatriots with noxious chemicals covered up under the label of defoliating chemicals.

U.S. LEADERS BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR SON MY

NHAN DAN 25 November

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[Text] Hanoi VNA November 25--The Hanoi daily NHAN DAN today stressed that the chiefs of the U.S. aggressors are the chief culprits of the massacre of more than 500 civilians in Son My village, Quang Ngai Province (central Vietnam) in March 1968.

The article said that there have been more and more concrete and undeniable evidences relating to this mass murder. Following the publication of pictures taken on the spot and first-hand reports by U.S. army correspondent Ronald L. Haeblerle and the accounts given by the survivors, American papers have published depositions by G.I.'s directly involved in this massacre, such as Donald Lee Ridenhour, 23, specialist four, Michael B. Terry, 22, in a clean-up platoon, Bernhardt, 23, sergeant of Company C, 25th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 11th Infantry Brigade. . . Recently, Paul Hoadle, 22, ex-soldier of Company C, First Battalion of the same brigade, admitted in an ABC United States radio program that he saw about 370 Vietnamese men, women, and children killed at Son My and he himself shot at least 10 or 15 of them on orders (U.S.I. November 25).

NHAN DAN 28 November

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0552 GMT 28 Nov 69 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 28--Under the title Nixon Cannot Shirk Responsibility, the Hanoi daily NHAN DAN today pointed out that Johnson and Nixon, ringleaders of the U.S. aggressors who have provoked the brutal war in Vietnam must bear chief responsibility for the Son My massacre and all the other crimes committed by U.S. troops in South Vietnam.

NHAN DAN said: In face of the indignation of the American people and public opinion in the world at the U.S. aggressors' crimes in Son My, the Nixon administration had to declare to court-martial Lieutenant William Calley. Immediately afterwards, on November 26, Nixon issued a statement on the affair, saying that such an incident as Son My is abhorrent to the conscience of all American people, and constitutes an illegal and inhuman act that must be severely dealt with. This means (?that Nixon is putting the blame on his inferiors.)

Nixon also claimed that the Son My slaughter took place before he came into office and that his Defense Secretary Melvin Laird was shocked and sick when he heard of it last April. This means that Nixon is trying to shift the responsibility to Johnson and Clifford.

NHAN DAN continued: That Nixon tries to evade responsibility has become too evident. But his contentions cannot hold water. The GI's involved in the this mass killing have confessed they had committed it on orders. Who gave them such an order? Some of the GI's said it came from division level.

One may ask, who gave orders to that division? The White House and Pentagon bosses cannot wash their hands of the crimes by laying the blame on their inferiors. Still, is it true that the reports did not reach Nixon and Laird until last April? The answer was given by U.S. House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford who said on November 25 that top army officials knew about the massacre shortly after it occurred but it was covered up. Thus, the affair had been hushed up by both the Johnson and Nixon administrations. The Nixon clique made it a point that he is not like Johnson as far as the way to conduct the war is concerned, and claimed that he did not tolerate such inhuman conduct as happened in Son My but his deceptions and evasive tricks have been laid bare.

Recently, Representative Lionel Van Deerlin interpellated the Pentagon and asked it to investigate a (?report that a company) of the 9th Infantry Division fired into Dong Tam village, in the Mekong Delta, for target practice, killing many civilians in June this year.

Senator Goodell also made known that he had documents on other mass slaughters like Son My and asked Congress to consider the new denunciations. Since Nixon came into office, many new, brutal massacres of civilians have taken place in South Vietnam such as the ones in Ba Lang An, Kon Horing, Poulo Condor, Tay Ninh, Thu Duc and Dong Tam.

The crimes of war and genocide committed by the U.S. aggressors are piling like mountains. The U.S. aggressive war is the biggest crime; it is the source of all crimes against the Vietnamese people and humanity. Those who must bear chief responsibility for the Son My slaying as well as all other crimes are the ringleaders of the U.S. aggressors who have provoked this atrocious war. The chief culprits are Johnson and Nixon.

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NORTH VIETNAM

The Nixon clique are obdurately dragging out the aggressive war and continue to pile up their war crimes and crimes of genocide. The Vietnamese people resolutely lay bare Nixon's sordid designs and energetically denounce to world public opinion the chief culprit responsible for the dirty war launched by the U.S. imperialists in South Vietnam.

U.S. APOLOGY FOR DAK DAM ATTACK HYPOCRITICAL

Hanoi in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0100 GMT 28 Nov 69 S

[Commentary: "A Bandit Who Insolently Slanders the Houseowner"]

[Text] Faced with the strong denunciation and condemnation of Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk, the Cambodian Royal Government, and Khmer public opinion over the U.S. attack on the Dak Dam post, on 26 November the U.S. State Department spokesman hypocritically expressed regrets over the losses caused to Cambodia by U.S. planes, adding that the U.S. military command in Vietnam was conducting an investigation into this affair. Parroting the U.S. State Department, the U.S. press is reporting this affair hinted that the U.S. forces attacked a Cambodian frontier defense post with Cambodian tacit agreement and that the U.S. forces acted in self-defense.

On 25 November, the Secretariat of Cambodian Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk issued a statement officially protesting these brazenly slanderous reports of the U.S. press.

Obviously these arguments of the U.S. State Department and the U.S. press are the deceitful arguments of a bandit who breaks into a house, uses violence to extort money from the owner, and kills him, then later expresses regret over his bandit action. Moreover, the bandit insolently adds that the houseowner allowed him to perform his bandit action and that an investigation will be conducted into this affair. This is a bandit's logic intentionally aimed at confusing the aggressor, U.S. imperialism, and he who resists aggression, Cambodia. This is also a crude violation of the Khmers' honor and sovereignty. This is also a malignant trick aimed at slandering the Cambodian Royal Government's policy of resolutely safeguarding its independence, sovereignty, neutrality, and territorial integrity. Cambodian territory belongs to the Khmers who have a glorious thousand-year-old history. U.S. troops have no reason to act in self-defense on any area of Cambodian territory. U.S. troops have the right to defend themselves only on U.S. territory. The U.S. argument that U.S. soldiers exerted their self-defense right in attacking the Dak Dam post is a bandit's insolent and haughty argument aimed at covering up the unjust and illegal nature of the unprecedentedly savage U.S. aggressive actions against the Cambodian kingdom. Using the same self-defense label, the U.S. military command in South Vietnam has, several times, ordered U.S. troops to illegally infiltrate Laotian and Cambodian territories.

This argument cannot justify the aggressive U.S. policy toward the Indochinese countries. It is necessary to stress that this U.S. aggressive act was intentional, as the Cambodian Kingdom Chief of State pointed out in his 22 November speech. Col Vacsouk Vasam, acting chief of the general staff of the Cambodian Royal Armed Forces, asserted at a press conference that the attacks from 6 to 8 November on the Dak Dam post were planned and prepared in advance and closely combined.