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✓ XUAN THUY INTERVIEWED ON INDOCHINA DEVELOPMENTS

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[Text] Paris 29 April--PAP correspondent in Paris, Pavel Wasielewski, interviewed chairman of the D.R.V. delegation to the Paris Vietnam talks, Minister Xuan Thuy, in connection with the latest developments on the Indochina peninsula.

Asked for his opinion about the extension by imperialist forces of the Vietnam conflict over whole Indochina, Minister Xuan Thuy said: "Since his coming to the White House President Nixon has been sending aircraft over North Vietnam to make reconnaissance flights and bomb the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam between the 17th and the 19th parallels. In the meantime, in South Vietnam, the Nixon administration is stepping up "clearing operations," air and artillery attacks, and chemical warfare. Furthermore, the administration intensifies "special war" in Laos, has provoked a coup d'etat in Cambodia in an attempt to spread aggressive war operations over the whole Indochina peninsula. All these moves of the United States are a serious violation of the 1954 Geneva agreements on Indochina and of the 1962 Geneva agreements on Laos.

They are an insolent attempt on the independence and sovereignty of the Indochina countries and a major threat to peace in South-East Asia. Closely united as they are, the Vietnamese, the Laotian and the Cambodian nations are determined to resist all manoeuvres and acts of aggression from American imperialists. The latter are trying hard to set at loggerheads the nations of the Indo-China peninsula.

But, on the initiative of the head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk, a summit conference of the Indochina nations was held on April 24th and 25th after which a communique was issued stating that the Indochina nations have tightened their solidarity, strengthened the support of each other, and are determined to fight against imperialist American aggressors and their stooges. This came undoubtedly as a surprise to American imperialists.

The Lon Nol group slanderously claims, acting on orders from the United States, that Vietnamese communists are allegedly launching aggression against Cambodia. The Lon Nol group makes these slanderous accusations in order to cover up the truth about the United States crimes and the recent infamous American actions. Recently, the Lon Nol group committed a great massacre on the Vietnamese citizens living quietly in Cambodia, among them women, children and old people. It was a hideous and bloody crime condemned by all honest people.

Giving next an evaluation of the present Nixon's Vietnam policy, Xuan Thuy said: The harder President Nixon is trying to gain a "position of strength" the deeper is his position of weakness. He recommends a solution to the Vietnam problem through "Vietnamization" of the war, in an attempt to force Vietnamese to fight Vietnamese with an assistance from the United States. Such a solution will not stop the war; quite the contrary, it will prolong it, increase the number of fresh crimes against the Vietnam people, augment American human and material losses. If more half-a-million American soldiers were not able to defeat liberation forces of the Vietnamese nation, how will the puppet armed forces be able to replace American troops?

That is why "Vietnamization" of the war is doomed to failure. But for all that, in his recent speech of April 20th President Nixon still recommended "Vietnamization" and refused to make a total and quick withdrawal of American troops from South Vietnam.

Nixon announced the withdrawal of 150 thousand American troops in 12 months but he did not specify how many soldiers will be withdrawn every month. This leaves open the war for various pretexts in order to withdraw only insignificant number of troops. Anyway, even if the promised number is withdrawn there will still remain in Vietnam over 280,000 American soldiers and more than 60,000-strong army from satellite countries. President Nixon does not say clearly when he intends to withdraw the remaining troops. Obviously, his administration is seeking to mislead the public opinion of the United States and of the entire world, while its true objective is to protract the war and prolong armed occupation of South Vietnam.

As for the political situation in South Vietnam, President Nixon maintains the Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration set up by the Americans themselves in forged elections, an administration which is a tool in the hands of American neocolonialism in South Vietnam. In his speech President Nixon threatens the Vietnamese, giving to understand that the Vietnam people must not make use of their right to a necessary defence. But the Vietnamese nation does not heed such threats. It is determined to bring into effect the will of the late President Ho Chi-Minh, to strengthen its unity and go on fighting against American aggression on all fronts--on the political, military and diplomatic fronts--to regain at any price independence and true peace.

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Assessing the results of the Paris conference on Vietnam, the minister declared: Our delegation unconditionally supports a complete solution defined by the 10 points presented by the National Liberation Front and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam. This solution is logical and reasonable, insofar as the proper settlement of the Vietnam problem is concerned.

However, the Paris conference is making no progress solely because of the United States which has sent its troops across the ocean to launch aggression against Vietnam and stubbornly clings to its unreasonable demand of "reciprocal withdrawal." But, in fact, it does not intend to withdraw all its troops from South Vietnam. It endorses the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique and demands for it the right to organize general elections. Since the United States was unable to impose its neocolonial and aggressive stand on the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and on the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, it reduced the significance of the conference by recalling the head of the American delegation without appointing his successor. The U.S.A. is manoeuvring and sabotaging the conference in order to secure for itself a "position of strength" also on the battlefield. We declared many a time that Mr Nixon was speaking of peace but was waging a war. He speaks of respecting the right of the Vietnamese nation to self-determination, but in fact is trampling this right.

The Nixon administration must bear complete responsibility for the deadlock of the Paris conference on Vietnam. If some results are to be attained at the conference, the Nixon administration must renounce its colonial and aggressive objectives, must renounce its desire to negotiate from a position of strength, withdraw from South Vietnam--at the earliest possible moment and without any conditions--All American troops and the troops of foreign states belonging to the American camp, it must get rid of the Khiem clique and give the South Vietnamese population an opportunity to create a provisional coalition government which will organize general, truly free and democratic elections in South Vietnam.

In conclusion Minister Xuan Thuy said: Both in its war of resistance and, presently, in its struggle against American aggression, for national survival and construction of socialism, the Vietnamese nation has always enjoyed a firm and unfailing support of the Polish United Workers' Party and of the Polish Government in all domains. The Vietnamese nation will be always grateful for this assistance.