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XUAN THUY L'HUMANITE INTERVIEW ASSAILS NIXON'S DISREGARD OF PEACE PLAN

Paris L'HUMANITE in French 5 Aug 71 p 3 L

[Unattributed interview with Xuan Thuy: "If Nixon Wants Peace, He Should Respond to the PRGRSV Plan at the Paris Conference"]

[Text] Xuan Thuy, DRV minister of state and head of the DRV delegation to the Paris conference, was kind enough to agree to be interviewed by L'HUMANITE. We are publishing this interview hereunder:

Question: One month has elapsed since Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, acting on behalf of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, made public the seven-point peace plan at the Paris conference. An important section of the U.S. population finds in the Vietnamese proposals aspirations similar to its own, that is, terms for a course--rapid, just and full of good will--which would enable the United States to extricate itself honorably from the "Vietnamese hornets' nest." Under these conditions, how can Nixon's failure to avail himself of this opportunity be explained?

Answer: The PRGRSV seven-point plan is completely consistent with the aspirations of the South Vietnamese population. At the same time it makes it possible for the United States to extricate itself honorably from Vietnam. The DRV Government endorses these seven points and fully supports them. Public opinion, both in the United States and throughout the world, believes they are logical and reasonable. However, the Nixon administration refuses to respond to them.

Not long ago, Nixon stated that he would fix a date for the complete withdrawal of the U.S. forces once he received assurance that the U.S. prisoners of war would be released. The recent PRGRSV peace plan is perfectly clear on that point: if the U.S. administration sets a final date in 1971 for the withdrawal of all U.S. troops, and also of the troops of other foreign countries belonging to the U.S. camp from South Vietnam, the release of U.S. prisoners of war will start and end on the same dates as the withdrawal of the above-mentioned troops. However, Nixon pretends to be ignorant of this precise point. There can be no doubt that his previous statements, according to which he was concerned about the problem of the prisoners of war, were aimed at deceiving U.S. and world opinion.

#### U.S.-Made Elections in Saigon

Furthermore, the U.S. President affirms his respect for the South Vietnam people's right to self-determination, declaring at the same time that he will not let South Vietnam fall into communist hands. Obviously, he contradicts himself. The seven points advanced by the PRGRSV advocate a peaceful, independent, neutral and democratic South Vietnam. But according to Nixon South Vietnam should not be allowed to be neutral: it should only be allowed to become Uncle Sam's game preserve.

It is generally known that the United States created Nguyen Van Thieu's Saigon administration and entrusted him with a military, police and administrative machine designed to repress the population and silence his opponents. Furthermore, this administration is supported and protected by hundreds of thousands of GI's and a CIA network extending throughout South Vietnam. Considering all this, it is easy to see the Nixon administration's duplicity when it pretends that it has no wish to interfere either in the August elections for the lower house or October presidential election. Its complicity in the preparations for these fraudulent elections is obvious considering its relentless activities aimed at setting up devices to maintain the warmongering dictator Nguyen Van Thieu and his team in their role as executors of Washington's policy.

It is no longer necessary to prove how ambiguous the Nixon administration is at a time when these efforts aimed at avoiding an answer to the PRGRSV's seven points are multiplying. The heavy defeats suffered so far do not seem to induce it to show more wisdom. It pursues its aggressive plans, refuses to withdraw all its troops and clings to the illusion that it may be able to establish neocolonialism in South Vietnam.

Question: Some commentators have mentioned another method used by Nixon to avoid the necessity of withdrawing all his troops from South Vietnam. There has been some question of encouraging the convening of an international conference on the problem of Indochina. Why is your side essentially in favor of keeping to the Paris conference framework?

Answer: The Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian people are united in their struggle against U.S. aggression, in conformity with the spirit of the statement issued by the Indochinese People's Summit Conference held in April 1970.

If the Nixon administration really wishes to see a peaceful settlement of the Vietnam problem it will have to respond in a serious manner to the PRGRSV seven-point plan at the Paris conference.

So far as the problem of Laos is concerned, Prince Souphanouvong advanced a new proposal on 22 June 1971.

As for the problem of Cambodia, there is the five-point statement of 23 March 1970 issued by Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

The DRV Government fully supports the proposals advanced by Prince Souphanouvong and Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

#### The Liberation Forces' Recent Exploits

Question: While Nixon is multiplying all kinds of maneuvers to evade the seven-point peace plan, how is the war in the field progressing? Is it true that the degree of intensity of the fighting in Indochina has abated, as the Americans suggest while blacking out news?

Answer: The United States is straining its ingenuity in order to pursue its "Vietnamization" policy, that is, in order to prolong and extend its war of aggression. Therefore, the Vietnamese people and other Indochinese people are carrying on with their struggle, determined to inflict heavy losses upon the aggressor.

In Vietnam, in the first 6 months of 1971, the South Vietnam People's Liberation Armed Forces accomplished numerous exploits: in western Nam Bo, 35,700 enemy personnel were put out of action, 200 airplanes and helicopters shot down, and 192 armed motor launches either sunk or destroyed by fire; in central Trung Bo, 62,696 enemy personnel were put out of action, 512 airplanes and helicopters shot down, and 2,486 military vehicles destroyed; in the northern provinces of Quang Tri-Thua Thien, 19,300 enemy personnel were put out of action, 508 airplanes and helicopters either shot down or destroyed; and 1,290 military vehicles destroyed; and on the high plateaus of Tay Nguyen, 15,000 enemy personnel were put out of action, 144 airplanes and helicopters shot down and 1,038 military vehicles destroyed. During this period the Lao and Cambodian people have also won resounding victories. The victories gained by the Indochinese people during the first 6 months of 1971 were of considerable strategic importance.

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Question: Nixon not only maneuvers with a view to gaining time but also tries to spread discord among the socialist countries. What are your views on this subject?

Answer: The nature of U.S. imperialism has not changed. It pursues its policy of aggression under various forms by using various maneuvers. It continually tries to set the socialist countries, the national liberation movement and the international workers movement at odds. In any case, the Nixon "doctrine" represents one of these maneuvers aimed at aggression and division.

Both our domestic and foreign policies are independent and sovereign policies. Furthermore, we work in favor of international solidarity and oppose any maneuvers aimed at aggression and division by U.S. imperialism. We firmly believe that our policy is correct. We are conscious of the fact that our people wage their just struggle both for their country's independence and freedom and for world peace and progress. This struggle will be successful.

At Vietnam's Side Until Complete Victory

Question: Could you tell us what the Vietnamese people now expect from their friends, of whom many millions throughout the world have sworn to remain at Vietnam's side until complete victory, and, in particular, what they expect from the French people?

Answer: We thank the socialist countries, the nationalist countries [as published, presumably countries waging national liberation struggles], and all peace-loving people throughout the world, including the American people, for the cordial support they have provided for the Vietnamese people against U.S. aggression. We especially thank the French Communist Party and its paper L'HUMANITE, French political, social, trade union, youth and women's organizations, French lawyers, doctors, scientists, artists and journalists, and all the French people for their enriching initiatives which can be placed within the framework of effective support provided for our people in the political, moral and material spheres.

We firmly believe that our friends throughout the world will intensify their activities in order to stigmatize with increased vigor the Nixon administration's war "Vietnamization" policy to demand that administration to rapidly provide a response to the PRGRSV's seven points, set a final date in 1971 for the withdrawal both of all U.S. forces and the forces of other foreign countries belonging to the U.S. camp, and cease to support the Saigon warmongering administration led by Nguyen Van Thieu. As for our French friends, we firmly believe that their initiatives in this direction will assume the most varied forms.