

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FBI'S TRENDS
6 AUGUST 1969

- 1 -

VIETNAM

INTRODUCTION

Vietnamese communist attention to President Nixon's Asian tour includes attacks at the Paris talks on 31 July by both the PRG and DRV delegates. But only PRG Foreign Minister Mme. Binh acknowledged--and deprecated--the President's statement in Saigon that it is time for the communists to respond to allied initiatives. Xuan Thuy claimed that by talking about "problems after the Vietnam war," President Nixon is trying to make people believe that peace will come soon. President Thieu's 11 July proposal for elections in which the NFLSV would participate was again attacked at the session on the 31st. And propagandists as well as the communist delegates castigate Ambassadors Lam and Lodge for repeating their "unreasonable demands" for mutual troop withdrawal and "so-called" free elections and for refusing to accept the NFLSV 10-point proposal.

VNA on 4 August reports that the three American prisoners of war, whose pending release had been announced on 3 July, had been handed over to U.S. representatives of a peace organization. VNA reports that Mme. Bui Thi Cam, identified as a member of the Secretariat of the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity with the American people, said captured U.S. personnel "are treated in accordance with the humanitarian policy" of the DRV.

Attention to the situation in the North includes propaganda commemorating the fifth anniversary of the Tonkin Gulf incident (2 August) and the coincident 14th anniversary of DRV Navy Day (5 August). Hanoi also marks the 22d anniversary of "war invalids day" (27 July) with "instructions" from Premier Pham Van Dong on observance of the anniversary and a QUAN DOI NHAN DAN editorial claiming good results in implementing the policy toward war dead and disabled and their families.

Hanoi makes more claims to have downed U.S. planes, with the alleged downing of an unmanned reconnaissance plane over Nam Ha Province on the 6th bringing the total to 3,313.

The lull in the fighting in the South is reflected in a paucity of battle reports. But a VNA item on 1 August claims that during July the PLAF and the people in the South "continued their unremitting and powerful attacks on the enemy in all battlefields." Hanoi on 29 and 31 July broadcasts a review of the military situation by "Quyét Thang" (Determined to Win) which reportedly is also published in the July issue of the QUAN DOI NHAN DAN magazine.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Approved for Release

Date

26 SEP 1997

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FBIS TRENDS
6 AUGUST 1969

- 2 -

Attention to political developments in the South includes the 2 August LPA report of a PRG communique, dated 24 July, on an "ordinary session" of the Council of Ministers on the 22d and 23d which heard a report on the Paris talks from Tran Buu Kiem. Reports of additional provincial revolutionary committees are broadcast, but there are still contradictory propaganda claims as to the total number. The recent arrest of many GVN personnel suspected of being a part of a communist espionage ring is treated as further evidence of a policy of terror and repression by a government which, propagandists claim, is rent with rivalry and disunity.

PARIS TALKS

THIEU At the 28th session of the Paris talks on 31 July, Mme.
PROPOSAL Binh once again voiced the PRG's rejection of President Thieu's election proposal; and this time she called the "rejection" a serious one "stemming from the responsibility of defending the real right to self-determination of the South Vietnam people." DRV delegate Xuan Huay expressed his "full agreement" with Mme. Binh's analysis of the question of the Vietnamese people's right of self-determination. Both delegates said the election proposal is aimed at consolidating and maintaining the GVN, and Mme. Binh repeated the charge that proposed elections would be "fraudulent and void" like those held by the Diem regime and, more recently, by the Thieu-Ky government. She also claimed again that the Thieu proposals require that the South Vietnamese "people" lay down their arms while the GVN uses its army and police to "control" the elections. She made no reference to Thieu's provision for an electoral commission, although this had previously been acknowledged and denounced.

The VNA account of the session says GVN delegate Pham Dang Lam "again rehashed the shopworn allegations about the so-called proposal for free elections" made by President Thieu, a proposal which "has been laid bare and flatly rejected" by the PRG and DRV. It notes that Ambassador Lodge also "repeated his old arguments aimed at dolling up" Thieu's proposal and that he "responded negatively to the logical and reasonable" 10-point proposal of the NFLSV and "tried to dodge the demand" for an unconditional troop withdrawal.

A 2 August Liberation Radio commentary claims, inaccurately, that the allied ambassadors at the 28th session said "the last concessions" had been offered. Mme. Binh in her presentation noted the President's remarks in Saigon that the allied side has gone far enough to open negotiations leading to peace and that now it is the other side's turn to respond. She went on to denounce the United States for continuing and intensifying the war, adhering to its "position of a colonialist aggressor," opposing the legitimate demands of the Vietnamese people, and "unceasingly" obstructing the Paris talks.

Approved for Release
Date _____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

26 SEP 1997

Xuan Thuy did not acknowledge the President's remarks on a settlement, but VNA notes that he said the trip to Saigon was clearly "of no use for the settlement of the South Vietnam problem." VNA says Thuy "analyzed Nixon's latest deceitful allegations about peace," which by dealing with questions that would arise after the Vietnam war "were designed to make believe that peace would come soon." Thuy charged that this was "only a crafty move to appease Americans and world public opinion."

U.S. "OBSTRUCTIONISM" Both the PRG and DRV delegates again pointed to communist "goodwill" and claimed that it is the United States which is obstructing progress at the talks, and this charge is repeated in the Liberation Radio commentary on the 2d. Mme. Binh stressed those sections of the NFLSV's 10-point solution and its call for a provisional coalition government as representing the correct basis on which the people can express their political self-determination. Xuan Thuy hailed the "good will" of the NFLSV and PRG, which had proposed the formation of a provisional coalition government that will "organize and control the free general elections to elect an official coalition government." He declared that this is the "most correct, reasonable and appropriate measure to settle the problem." Mme. Binh, in a defensive aside, denied as "mere invention and distortion" the view that the proposed coalition government would be the government of a single group or political force.

Both the VNA and LPA accounts note Mme. Binh's remark that if the United States really wants to settle the war, it must, on the basis of the 10 points, "hold direct talks" with the PRG, "the genuine and competent representative of the South Vietnamese people.*"

In charging U.S. obstruction of the talks, Xuan Thuy stressed that the DRV had come to Paris "with good will and a serious attitude to find, together with the other parties, a peaceful solution to the Vietnam problem." In an apparent response to Ambassador Lodge's charge at the last session, on 24 July, that the other side was unwilling to negotiate on the basis of the proposals before the conference and had in fact rejected them flatly, Thuy said "we have carefully studied and analyzed all the proposals put forth by the representatives of the United States and the Saigon administration." Thuy continued, according to VNA, that "not only refusing these proposals," the DRV Government had

* This demand for direct U.S. talks is recurrent. It is contained in Article 1 of the PRG's 10 June program and was last raised by both Mme. Binh and DRV delegate Ha Van Lau at the 12 June Paris session. It was also made in a 16 July LPA release of a "war crimes" communique, and by Mme. Binh in an unpublicized interview which appeared in the NEW YORK TIMES on 20 July.