

L 01256 MOSCOW TASS INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN RUSSIAN 1247 GMT
9 MAY 72 L

(TEXT) WASHINGTON, 9 MAY--U.S. PRESIDENT, RICHARD NIXON, HAS MADE A STATEMENT ON RADIO AND TV ON THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM. HE ASSERTED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS "FACED AT PRESENT WITH A DIFFICULT CHOICE BETWEEN THREE COURSES OF ACTION: IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL AMERICAN TROOPS, FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS, OR, AS HE PUT IT, DECISIVE MILITARY ACTIONS TO PUT AN END TO THE WAR."

NIXON ADMITTED THAT THE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS ARE IN FAVOR OF THE FIRST COURSE OF ACTION--THAT IS, NEGOTIATIONS. THEY FEEL, STATED THE PRESIDENT, THAT TO PUT AN END TO THE WAR, THE UNITED STATES MUST LEAVE VIETNAM AND "REMOVE THE THREAT TO THE AMERICAN TROOPS REMAINING THERE BY SIMPLY WITHDRAWING THEM."

DESPITE ALL THIS, HOWEVER, RICHARD NIXON ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD GIVEN AN ORDER FOR THE APPROACHES TO NORTH VIETNAMESE PORTS TO BE MINED AND HAD INSTRUCTED THE U.S. ARMED FORCES TO STRIKE AT INTERNAL TERRITORIAL WATERWAYS, RAILWAYS AND OTHER DRV COMMUNICATIONS. AIR AND NAVAL FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES, THE STATEMENT SAID, HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CONTINUE THEIR STRIKES FROM THE AIR AND FROM SHIPS.

NIXON TRIED TO JUSTIFY THESE OPEN AGGRESSIVE ACTS, SIGNIFYING INCREASED AMERICAN INTERFERENCE IN VIETNAM AND VIOLATION OF THE NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, BY THE NECESSITY TO "SAVE THE LIVES OF 60,000 AMERICAN SOLDIERS," THE EXISTENCE OF "THE COMMUNIST THREAT TO SOUTH VIETNAM," ALL THE THINGS TO WHICH AMERICAN PROPAGANDA HAS RESORTED AND CONTINUES TO USE TO JUSTIFY ACTS OF ESCALATING THE WAR AGAINST THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE.

IN HIS STATEMENT, NIXON ALLEGED THAT "THESE ACTIONS ARE NOT DIRECTED AGAINST ANY OTHER COUNTRY." HE DECLARED THAT "AS SOON AS THE POW'S ARE RELEASED AND AS SOON AS A CEASE-FIRE UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMES INTO EFFECT, THE UNITED STATES WILL CEASE ITS MILITARY ACTIONS ON INDOCHINESE TERRITORY. THEN, RICHARD NIXON SAID, THE UNITED STATES WILL SET ABOUT THE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL AMERICAN TROOPS FROM VIETNAM WITHIN 4 MONTHS. THESE TERMS, THE PRESIDENT ASSERTED, DO NOT REQUIRE THE CAPITULATION OR HUMILIATION OF ANY SIDE. IT MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO DEPART WITH HONOR."

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH CONTAINS QUITE A NUMBER OF REASSURANCES THAT THE UNITED STATES "WANTS TO PUT AN END TO THE WAR" IN VIETNAM AND "RETURN ITS TROOPS HOME." THE ACTUAL STEPS, INCLUDING THE MEASURES WHICH THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED TODAY, HOWEVER, SPEAK OF SOMETHING QUITE DIFFERENT.

9 MAY 1333Z DT/CAJ*****