

HANOI CONDEMNS U.S. ON CHILDREN

Premier Says Big Airlift
Is a 'Criminal Action'—
Hails Events in South

By Agence France-Presse

HANOI, North Vietnam, April 6—Premier Pham Van Dong of North Vietnam charged today that the American plan to evacuate thousands of South Vietnamese children was a criminal operation that his people would never tolerate.

"I am truly indignant," the 70-year-old Premier declared after voting in elections for a new National Assembly. "Our people will never tolerate such a criminal action."

"The American plan is unhealthy and abominable," he added. "There is nothing human in it. It is pure irony."

'History on the March'

The Premier said that public opinion must be aroused over this issue.

The Premier added that events in South Vietnam were unfolding satisfactorily.

"History is on the march," he declared. "Its hour has come. The people are determined to have their word."

The Premier said that the elections, in which all Vietnamese over the age of 18 are eligible to vote for 529 candidates for the 425-seat National Assembly, were being held

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under historic conditions.

"They are taking place during a happy moment for our people because we are winning significant victories in the south," he went on. "Sometimes events converge and this is not just a question of chance."

"Today the spring has a triple significance," the Premier said. "There are elections, there is the situation in the South and the current international situation, which you already know about."

Ford Is Criticized

The Premier's comments on the international scene were echoed today in Nhan Dan, the Communist party newspaper, which commented that President Ford's recent news conference on Indochina brought out "his obstinate opposition to the irreversible evolution of the situation even though he was forced to admit his failure and the limited possibilities open to him for action."

The newspaper linked the visit to Saigon last week of Gen. Frederick C. Weyand, the United States Army Chief of Staff, to the reprimands administered to South Vietnamese officers and the arrest of political figures by President Nguyen Van Thieu "after a long silence maintained inside a fortified palace."

"All these facts show that the U.S. is stubbornly maintaining its commitment and its interference in South Vietnamese affairs," the newspaper said.

It described President Thieu's recent speech pledging to win back lost territory "as smacking of charlatanry" and said that a proposal by Walt W. Rostow to send two United States Marine divisions to North Vietnam "was stupidity coming from the mouth of a mentally abnormal person."

Airlift Attacked

The newspaper also attacked the plan to evacuate Vietnamese children.

"The immediate aim of the airlift," Nahn Dam said, "is to try to make people throughout the world believe that many Vietnamese are anti-Communists to provide a pretext for perpetuating [United States] action in our country."

"The second aim," the newspaper went on, "is to use our compatriots by the million as instruments in the service of

the imperialists and American capitalism."

The Premier was one of the first voters to cast his ballot today. He trudged through the rain to the polling station, shaking hands with a large crowd of well-wishers to vote in Hanoi's residential Hai Ba Trung quarter, where he is himself a candidate for an assembly seat.

A number of candidates are not Communist party members. For example, in the Premier's constituency, three of the eight people running for seven seats are not party members. Party members have made up one-quarter to one-third of previous assemblies.

Among the 420 members of

the outgoing assembly were 94 people listed as workers, 90 peasants, 80 intellectuals; 27 soldiers, 63 members of non-Vietnamese ethnic groups, eight members representing Roman Catholics, Protestants, Buddhists and members of the Cao Dai sect, eight artisans and five "dignitaries" of the previous regime. There were 125 women in the old assembly.

Whooping Crane Census Up

REGINA, Saskatchewan (AP)—The world whooping crane population has risen to 73, an increase of four from last year, the Saskatchewan Department of Tourism and Renewable Resources reported.