

Text of the North Vietnamese Comment on Nixon

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PARIS, May 9—Following, in unofficial translation from the French, is the text of an official commentary made public today by the North Vietnamese delegation to the peace talks here in reply to President Nixon's address last night:

Under the pretext of "protecting the lives" of G.I.'s still in South Vietnam, of "preserving the honor" of the United States, of "defending 17 million South Vietnamese" and of preventing a "Communist take-over" of South Vietnam, but with the aim of obfuscating the issue before American and world opinion, Mr. Nixon, in the evening of May 8, 1972, has taken adventurous decisions, intensifying more than ever the war of aggression in Vietnam, impudently infringing on the independence, sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

It is well known that the Vietnamese people and the DRVN have never sought to prejudice the United States, nor that nation's honor, nor the lives and property of its people. On the other hand it is the United States that, for

nearly 20 years now, has practiced a policy of intervention and aggression in Vietnam in disregard of the 1954 Geneva agreements, which consecrated the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Vietnam—agreements that the United States, moreover, was pledged to respect.

It is the Nixon Administration that has cast a slur on the honor of Vietnam, a nation with 4,000 years of history. The United States has committed innumerable crimes against the Vietnamese people in the two zones. It is that same Administration that continues to inflict suffering and mourning on numerous American families and which casts a stain on the honor of the American people.

Since his accession to power, Mr. Nixon has feverishly applied a policy of "Vietnamization of the war," that is, of intensifying the war of aggression in Vietnam and spreading it to the whole of Indochina, of violating the United States pledge to end, totally and unconditionally, the bombing and all acts of war against DRVN.

The Nixon Administration has stubbornly maintained the belligerent, corrupt group of Nguyen Van Thieu, which has been rejected by the population of South Vietnam. The Administration has done its utmost to sabotage the Paris conference on Vietnam, has opposed all reasonable and logical proposals of the delegations of the DRVN and of the provisional revolutionary government of South Vietnam as a basis for a political solution guaranteeing the basic national rights of the Vietnamese people, the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people and permitting an honorable and safe withdrawal of all American troops, the rapid return of captured American military to their homes. However, both in the plenary sessions and during private contacts, the American side has always maintained its position of a colonialist aggressor.

By obstinately opposing any negotiated solution to the Vietnamese problem, by deciding to mine all the DRVN's ports and to intensify air and naval attacks against the DRVN, Mr. Nixon

had taken the gravest step in escalation to date in the war, has thrown down an insolent challenge to the Vietnamese people, to the socialist countries, to all peace-loving nations, to the American people and to peoples the world over. Mr. Nixon has not only taken a stand against the DRVN, but also against the right of free navigation of countries in their relations with the DRVN.

The Vietnamese people are profoundly attached to peace. The Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government invariably advocated the road of negotiation with a view to a peaceful solution to the Vietnam problem. But the Vietnamese people will never accept Mr. Nixon's ultimatum. As long as the Nixon Administration continues its aggression in Vietnam, continues its policy of Vietnamization of the war and escalation of the war against the DRVN, all of the Vietnamese people, united as ever, will resolutely continue their resistance struggle until they reach their fundamental objectives, namely, independence, freedom and peace.