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ADDITIONAL REPORTAGE ON RAMSEY CLARK'S ACTIVITIES IN DRV

Interview With Hanoi Radio

Hanoi in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 0530 GMT 14 Aug 72 B

[Text] When the third team of the International Commission for Inquiry Into U.S. War Crimes in Indochina was in Vietnam, this station's reporter interviewed team member Ramsey Clark, an American lawyer and former U.S. attorney general.

Replying to a question on U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater's statement that the dikes might have been damaged by exploding North Vietnamese missiles, lawyer Clark said: Senator Barry Goldwater said that the dikes might have been damaged by exploding North Vietnamese missiles which fell there. How could he know this? He does not even know what the dikes look like. He has never been here, and yet he talks nonsensically about missiles hitting the dikes. Let me ask a question: At what targets were the North Vietnamese missiles aiming? U.S. planes? What were the U.S. planes doing here? It is a fact that the country of Vietnam has suffered unprecedented damage, but it is sheer nonsense to say that this damage has been caused by North Vietnamese missiles. Obviously, the allegations are wrong.

Referring to his impressions of his visit to North Vietnam, lawyer Clark said: I visited the DRV for 2 weeks. In the past, I have visited many countries and all the continents. I have seen countries in Africa, Europe and the Western Hemisphere as well as many other countries. The people of those countries were hospitable and friendly, but I have been particularly impressed by the reception accorded me in Vietnam. I am an American. Although the United States is waging a war against Vietnam and its people, I am still an American. U.S. planes have bombed the cities and villages of this country. But even so, I have visited cities and villages during the day and at night, and I have traveled more than 1,000 kilometers and met thousands of people. I have met and talked with leaders at the municipal, provincial, and central levels. Yet, nowhere have I ever seen an angry face or heard an unfriendly word. On the contrary, wherever I have gone I have been given a friendly reception, because I was told by the Vietnamese people, old and young as well as high-ranking government officials, that the Vietnamese people clearly distinguish between the American people and (the people in the U.S. Government who are resorting to violence to kill them). They have told me that the Vietnamese know that the American people also love freedom, independence, and peace. I say they are right.

Lawyer Clark said: There is no doubt that the Vietnamese people have an unyielding spirit. Bombs and (death) will only strengthen their resolve to fight to the end. Therefore, I believe that the bombing is not only inhuman, but also very stupid. It must be stopped immediately. Continuing the bombing can only mean continuing violence. Besides, this kind of bombing cannot subdue the Vietnamese people. It can only make them more determined than ever before, since they have announced to the world that their struggle is just.

Visit to Thanh Hoa

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1115 GMT 13 Aug 72 S

[Text] During his visit to the north, Mr Ramsey Clark, lawyer and former U.S. attorney general, together with other members of the International Committee for Inquiries Into U.S. War Crimes in Indochina, visited Thanh Hoa Province, one of the areas which has been violently attacked by U.S. aircraft. This was his third trip: He also visited Thai Binh and Haiphong.

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On the morning he arrived in Thanh Hoa city, Mr Ramsey Clark immediately witnessed barbarous U.S. crimes. Many U.S. aircraft coming from the sea violently struck the city and surrounding areas. The earth was shaken by violent bomb explosions. Coconut leaves waved violently as if facing a typhoon. Columns of fire and smoke rose skyward. Mr Ramsey Clark turned on his tape recorder to record one of the thousands of barbarous crimes by the bloodthirsty Nixon clique against the people of Thanh Hoa. Thus Mr Ramsey Clark was able to see with his own eyes and hear with his own ears, and gain more proof of the U.S. crimes in Vietnam, which he will denounce before progressive U.S. public opinion.

Mr Ramsey Clark visited the Thanh Hoa hospital, the greatest hospital in the province, built in 1963. Here Mr Clark could see the cruelty of the U.S. war maniacs. The hospital area with rows of red-roofed one-story and two-story houses and equipped with many machines and all kinds of commodities to serve the patients, was severely damaged. Bomb craters were clustered together. Everything from the big gate with the red cross signboard to the consultation room, the emergency room, the operation room, the X-ray room, and the rooms where patients were treated in Western or oriental fashion are now reduced to heaps of debris.

After the air attack on the hospital on 26 December 1971, many foreign guests and journalists came to witness the barbarous crimes of the U.S. imperialists. Since then, the U.S. aggressors have continued to step up their crimes. On 27 April 1972, U.S. aircraft hurled some 40 large demolition bombs, thus completely destroying the hospital and killing many physicians. Standing on a heap of debris in the X-ray room, Comrade Le Thiet Nghi, head of the hospital, told lawyer Ramsey Clark:

[Recording] Our 350 bed hospital was equipped with modern machines and equipment to serve the people throughout the province. While we were trying to build and develop this hospital, the U.S. imperialists attacked us twice. This is the office of the head of the hospital. There is the X-ray room. All were hit by bombs and all the machines were destroyed. May I invite you to see the other buildings.

[Male voice with American accent speaking in English fading into Vietnamese translation] Were there any patients killed during the 27 April bombings?

[Le Thiet Nghi] At that time there were not many patients because most of them were taken to underground shelters. [Words indistinct] around this hospital there is nothing but ricepaddies. It is thus obvious that the U.S. imperialists have tried to destroy the human environment by attacking our hospital, a place where we are working hard to relieve the pain caused by the U.S. imperialists' aggressive war against the people. This is an extremely barbarous act. [end recording]

Lawyer Ramsey Clark carefully viewed each demolished house and destroyed machine, and took pictures of this evidence of the U.S. imperialists' barbarous crimes. Before leaving the hospital he thanked the physicians at the hospital for providing him with concrete and undeniable proof of the U.S. aggressors' crime of completely destroying the hospital.

On his way to Xuan Ai hamlet, a hamlet which was completely levelled by U.S. B-52's, Mr Ramsey Clark had to walk many kilometers through ricepaddies to arrive at the hamlet. Bomb craters, demolished houses and destroyed gardens are the proof of the Nixon administration's crime of striking this hamlet on the night of 13 April.

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On behalf of the people in the hamlet old man Nguyen Van Tai told lawyer Ramsey Clark: [Recording] On the night of 12-13 April we were awakened from a sound sleep by the roar of aircraft. Then we were blinded by flashes and deafened by bomb explosions. Houses were burned down and trees torn from their roots. We had 23 killed including 11 children, and 33 wounded also including 11 children and 5 old people. Many entire families were wiped out by the bombings, for instance the family of Mrs Ha Thi Khoi. All three people in the family were killed. Mr Bang's family included six people. His wife and three children were killed. Both he and his child were wounded. As for the compatriots' properties such as houses, cattle, farming tools and so forth, all were destroyed by the bombs.

[Male voice with American accent in English fading into Vietnamese translation] Thank you very much for telling me about this crime. I deeply sympathize with the Vietnamese people's suffering. It must be very difficult for you to relate the suffering to us. I will do my best to tell the U.S. peace-loving people to demand an immediate end to the bombing. I hope that you forgive us. [translation ends]

Following is a report by Nguyen Xuan Luc, 16 years old, an excellent student whose family of nine members had two killed and five wounded: [Recording] [Words indistinct] Hearing the rumble of aircraft, all my family ran out of our house. When we reached our yard we heard bomb explosions and our entire house was destroyed. All of us immediately lay on the ground. Our mother had one of her legs broken. Cadres came to give her first aid. My four younger brothers and sisters were wounded too. I saw that I must [words indistinct]. [recording ends]

Ramsey Clark also met 15 year old Nguyen Xuan Nam, whose entire family was killed. Mr Clark asked both Luc and Nam: In such a situation what would you do? Luc and Nam answered: We will continue our studies through college--both of them are excellent students--however, if the U.S. aggressors are still here after we have grown up, we will join the army to avenge our families, villages and hamlets.

Mr Clark said that he did not understand how Nixon could wantonly bomb and destroy a village located deep in ricefields. He promised he would question Nixon about this genocidal, biocidal crime. As an American, Nixon's crimes against the villagers causes him pain. He also showed surprise and admiration at the villagers' vigorous strength when he saw that they were rebuilding their houses, transplanting rice seedlings and planting trees on the devastated land and that young Luc and Nam hated the U.S. aggressors so deeply and were so resolute.

Typical bloody crimes by Nixon can be seen at the Thanh Hoa hospital and Xuan Ai hamlet. From 13 April to 15 July, the Nixon clique's aircraft made more than 1,150 sorties to drop more than 15,700 demolition bombs on Thanh Hoa, whose area and population comprise one-tenth of the north, and to drop poison on the Quan Hoa area. In the meantime, warships fired more than 5,000 artillery shells on the coastal areas. The bombings and shellings hit 22 districts and provincial capitals, many of which were raided many times. The U.S. aggressors also attacked water conservation projects 37 times. They destroyed the (Loc Xuy) culvert, Quang Xuong district, which conducts water to nearly 2,000 hectares of ricefields.

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They raided the Ngoc Quang culvert on the left bank of the Chu River and cut up many portions of dikes. In raiding dikes of the Chu River in Dong Hung village they killed and wounded hundreds of persons repairing dikes. Nixon's crimes are really indescribable.

However, criminals are punished. The Thanh Hoa armed forces and people have downed 35 aircraft, including the 300th downed by Thanh Hoa, and two B-52's. Braving the bombings and shellings, the local production and life activities have been steadfastly maintained and have developed.

Lawyer Ramsey Clark came here from the enemy's country. He is eager to understand all this. He visited Thieu Minh village, which has been raided many times. Following is a conversation between him and Comrade Hoang Van, chairman of this village:

[Male voice with American accent in English fading into Vietnamese translation] Last February, 18 year old youths in the United States had to register for military service, but my son opposes this war and, therefore, refuses to participate in it. He is taller than I am.

[Hoang Van] [Words indistinct] We know that the peaceloving people in the United States have supported us. I hope that you will understand our Vietnamese people's determination to fight and [words indistinct]. I wonder whether the American people know that we are fighting for a just cause and for freedom.

[Male voice with American accent in English fading into Vietnamese translation] As for me, I can say that the American people have jeopardized your just undertaking. Several million Americans want a complete U.S. troop withdrawal from Vietnam and an end to all bombings and strafings of Vietnam. Those who want a withdrawal of all U.S. troops have realized the mistakes and inhuman acts committed by the United States in this war. As for Nixon, he has not yet realized his mistakes so that he can act with reason. [End translation]

Lawyer Ramsey Clark slept one night at old Mr Hai's home. He worked with the peasants and visited many other peasant families. He was entertained at a dinner by old Mr Hai. Perhaps this was an unprecedented dinner in his life.

[Male voice with American accent in English fading into Vietnamese translation] So far, have you ever been visited by an American?

[Mr Hai] This is the first time you come to visit my home.

[Male voice with American accent in English fading into Vietnamese translation] I am very happy to be warmly welcomed by you.

[Mr Hai] You are thousands of miles from us and vice versa. Now you are coming here to visit our Vietnamese people. As you see, this is the normal life of a Vietnamese family. There is nothing extraordinary. We raise poultry in these cages. We have to buy part of our foodstuffs, but we are self-sufficient in vegetables and rice. This is our normal dinner.

[Male voice with American accent in English fading into Vietnamese translation] I am very happy to be entertained at this dinner. [Recording ends]

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Here, a lawyer Ramsey Clark could observe our people's hospitality, familial harmony, optimism and confidence in the final victory of the struggle. He realized that the Vietnamese masses could distinguish the bellicose Nixon clique from the U.S. progressives who oppose Nixon's brutal war. Through the most commonplace people, he could see that our people's determination to fight and win would never change.

Concluding his significant trip to Thanh Hoa Province where he witnessed Nixon's crimes against our people, lawyer Ramsey Clark said: [Male voice with American accent in English fading into Vietnamese translation] My impressions on this trip are very strong and numerous and cannot be fully expressed. However, my most profound observation is that I have clearly seen the contrast between peace and war. Despite bombs and shells, the Vietnamese people have maintained their will and their beautiful way of life. Yesterday and this morning I visited Theiu Minh village, a beautiful village with 2,900 inhabitants which was built 500 years ago. We can see that this village has made progress in many aspects. The local people have confidence in themselves and are looking toward their objectives. Care has been given to the health of adults and children. They enjoy a healthy spiritual life and familial harmony. Agricultural production and education are developing. This has created a deep impression in my mind. In the ravaged areas, many persons have manifested the unsubmissive will of the Vietnamese people. No strength can subdue this will.

Visit to Thai Binh

Hanoi in English to Southeast Asia 1000 GMT 5 Aug 72 B

[For a VNA International Service English report on this visit see page K-1 of the 7 August DAILY REPORT]

[Text] [Announcer] A team of the International Commission for Inquiries Into U.S. War Crimes in Indochina has just toured Thai Binh, a rice rich province in North Vietnam's delta. Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general and a member of the team, visited the Lan sluice, which was completely destroyed by U.S. bombs on July 29. The sluice is an important hydraulic work. Its construction began in 1961 and was completed in 1963 at a cost of 1 and a half million dong and millions of work days. The project [words indistinct] of paddy fields in the southern district of the province.

Lan sluice had been bombed and rocketed on July 19, 24, and 28 of this year but had been repaired. The last U.S. attack reduced it to rubble. Seeing the destruction, Ramsey Clark had this to say: [Follows male voice with American accent] "(?I see) the sluices are strategic in the utilization of water for tens of thousands of acres, and hundreds of thousands of people, and their livelihood depends on it, so it is obviously quite a critical target, and when you hit it, you endanger the lives of all those people and you destroy this good earth that, uhh, has given (?them livelihood). [Words indistinct] facility and, uhh, vital in the regulation of, umm, the water level on the tens of thousands of acres which support, uhh, hundreds of thousands of people. So, the jeopardy to their lives and livelihood is quite clear from hitting this target.

"We have recently had, uhh, some terrible floods in the United States, particularly in the northeastern part, where the states of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland, Washington D.C., uhh, experienced, uhh, the most severe floods in many, many years, and of course there was the, uhh, tragedy and disaster in Rapid City, South Dakota, earlier in the year.

"So the American people know something about, umm, the human suffering and loss of life that can result, uhh, from flooding.

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But I think the--the risk of flooding to the people of, uhh, the Democratic Republic of North Vietnam is, uhh, is much more serious because the--the life of this country depends upon its--its ability to grow the foods that, uhh, require the very careful regulation of water levels. Particularly, uhh, with rice it's important that there be plenty of water, but, uhh, not be too much water, or there will be no rice crop, and, uhh, people will starve.

"So it's imperative that, uhh, the, uhh, people of this country, uhh, of North Vietnam be able to regulate, uhh, their water, and this requires a very intricate system of dikes, pumps, sluices, and dams. And if there's injury to this system, then the crops, uhh, will perish. This, uhh, this province of Thai Binh is, uhh, a rich agricultural area. The highest point in the whole province is only 2 meters above sea level, so you can see immediately that, uhh, not only will the food upon which life depends be lost if there is flooding here, but life itself will be lost immediately because, uhh, homes and, uhh, villages can be flooded. Therefore, attacks on the dikes, the sluices, and the pumping stations that are essential, uhh, are attacks on the very economic basis, on the very life, of this country, and they should never, never be done."

[Announcer] Ramsey Clark also visited the bomb damaged hospital for lepers and a secondary school in the province. He made these remarks: [Same American accented male voice] "This morning, Friday, August 4th, the first place we visited (?was) the small village of Phu Vang, (?where) two airplanes attacked on the 31st of July and dropped approximately 20 bombs in the area generally. Among the places damaged, there were, uhh, a hospital for lepers called (Le Phong), which is more than a hundred years old and which cares for a thousand people suffering from leprosy. The bombs that hit there killed three people and injured three, in addition doing great damage to the hospital facility itself.

"We also visited a secondary school which was, umm, had been quite an attractive building, uhh, only completed in 1966, and we visited there with six of the teachers. The bombs there injured the principal of the school as well as four of the teachers. But fortunately, the children were away on vacation, so no children were injured.

"It's not, umm, possible for me to make a final judgment as to what was intended by the pilot at that time. It would be necessary to first attain all possible evidence as to targets in the area, and perhaps, uhh, uhh, from the, uhh, Air Force of the United States there would be some statement as to what they claim they were trying to do here.

"But one thing is very clear, and that is that when military aircraft bomb a country, uhh, where there is no military engagement going on, where there is no actual battle being engaged in, they will inevitably, unnecessarily, uhh, kill innocent people, kill civilians, and destroy schools and hospitals, as we have seen this morning. And the lesson, of course, is that the bombing should be stopped immediately, should never have been done in the first place, and should never be done again."

[Announcer] The former U.S. attorney general said further about the U.S. attack on dikes: [Same American accented male voice] "We visited, uhh, one site yesterday, that uhh--where a dike had been, umm, bombed directly--(?I think) that a bomb had hit directly on the top of the dike and had torn, uhh, a large crater in the dike there and had done damage nearby. In fact, that bomb, uhh, killed a mother and her--and her daughters and left, uhh, husband without a wife and a son without a mother and sisters.

"When we arrived, there were many, many people already working to repair the dike-- the people of North Vietnam are very hard workers--and they had, uhh, carts--there were both men and women--and they had, uhh, shovels, and they had, uhh, what we call (?tamps) I guess--what you pound the earth down with--and uhh, they never stopped while we were there. They kept, uhh, working, uhh, constantly." [recording ends]

You have just listened to former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, now in North Vietnam, speaking about U.S. bombing raids in Thai Binh Province.

Clark Comments on Haiphong Bombing

Hanoi in English to Southeast Asia 1000 GMT 6 Aug 72 B

[For a VNA International Service English version of this report see page K-4 of the 9 August DAILY REPORT]

[Text] On August 5 American lawyer Ramsey Clark and other members of the visiting team of the International Commission for Inquiry Into U.S. Crimes in Indochina were in Haiphong city to gather facts about U.S. crimes. Asked to comment on what he had seen, the former U.S. attorney general said: [Follows recorded male voice with American accent]

"Obviously there is massive destruction in this part of Haiphong. Uhh, just standing here on top of this debris you can see, umm, that many, many buildings were totally destroyed. We can be fortunate, I guess, that more people weren't killed. It's-- it's quite amazing that, uhh, when you look at the dimension of the destruction here --all this area--that, uhh, many, many people, uhh, weren't killed and so tragic as it is in any world--it could have been hundreds, umm--or even thousands (?of hundreds that) could have been killed in, uhh--in such, umm, terrible bombing and destruction in the living area of the city of Haiphong as we see here.

"Well, we know this--whether accidental or on purpose, uhh, you can stop the accidents as well as the purpose, and, uhh, there is absolutely, uhh, no excuse for bombing, of North Vietnam. There never has been and, uhh, it should never have happened, it should stop immediately, it should never happen again.

"I can't judge in any particular case, uhh, until I have all the facts and I will not judge until I have all the facts whether a particular situation was a mistake. Uhh, we intend to get as many of the facts as possible and, and we'll then make our judgment."

[Announcer] About the destruction of Phuoc Loc hamlet on the outskirts of Haiphong by U.S. warplanes on April the 16th last, Ramsey Clark had this to say: [Recorded male voice with American accent] "Well of course there can never be any justification for what happened here at Phuoc Loc. It's so pitiful that, uhh, the violence of technology would be used to destroy the lives of such a gentle and simple and beautiful people. We must learn the lessons of these tragedies and, umm, know that we create determination in the hearts of all people that there shall be peace and rules of law that can be firmly enforced to prevent these tragedies from every happening again.

"I've known Tony Lewis for many years and he's an extremely sensitive person. He was here at the village of Phuoc Loc shortly after the bombing occurred, and I agree fully [cough] what he said. Well, I feel very badly.

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The--the tragedy is the same, umm, whoever, umm, is the offender, and, umm, the thing we have to know is that, uhh, there is still this enormous capacity in man to kill. America has shown its capacity to kill many times in many ways, and if we do not set aside our violence, we'll destroy ourselves." [recording ends]

CRIMES INVESTIGATOR MACBRIDE CALLS BOMBING 'DELIBERATE'

Havana International Service in English 0210 GMT 11 Aug 72 C

[From the "Voice of Vietnam"]

[Text] I am convinced that the bombing of portions of North Vietnam's dikes that we have visited was deliberate, declared Sean MacBride, former foreign minister of Ireland and president of the international committee on human rights. In an interview for the "Voice of Vietnam" and PRELA news agency, MacBride said that (?on) his visit to Nam Ha Province, he saw a dike bombed in various places along a stretch he would estimate as almost a mile long. We concentrated our efforts on determining whether what Nixon has said about the dikes is correct or not, and after this visit, he said, I can affirm without a doubt that the hydraulic system of North Vietnam has been bombed deliberately. The attacks have been concentrated. They have been directed, not only at the top of the dikes, but also along the (?bases) to undermine their foundations. This bombing operation is being carried out in the rainy season, thereby endangering the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and is designed to destroy crops as well, said MacBride.

Sean MacBride was foreign minister of Ireland from 1947 to 1951, and also held an important position in the republican army. Just like in the Second World War, he said, here we have found cities completely destroyed, like Nam Dinh, the third most important city of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. We have visited villages and hamlets. I don't have even the slightest doubt that a systematic and deliberate bombing is being carried out against the civilian population, stressed MacBride. One of the factors we have been able to confirm on our visit is that churches and hospitals have also been attacked. Hanoi's main hospital was bombed. How can one argue that this was by error if this was a hospital well-known for years? I was in Phat Diem MacBride continued, the Catholic center of Vietnam. Here the churches occupied some 20 square acres. Construction of the churches began in 1842 and they formed a beautiful fusion of gothic and Asian sculpture. The principal church here was bombed. Others were seriously damaged from the attacks. It is evident that there is no military objective in the vicinity of Phat Diem.

Why are these bombings being carried out? This is the question which must be asked of the U.S. authorities by public opinion and a precise answer demanded, declared MacBride, going on. These are deliberate attacks whose victims are mostly old people, women, and children. Today we saw a child burned by napalm. This is an insult to humanity and public opinion everywhere.

U.S. IMPERIALISM CALLED NUMBER ONE ENEMY OF ASIAN PEOPLES

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 14 Aug 72 B

[Station commentary: "Let Us Heighten Vigilance and Powerfully Fight Against U.S. Imperialism, the New Fascism of the Era"]

[Text] On 15 August 1945, more than 3 months after the annihilation of German fascism, the Japanese fascists unconditionally surrendered.