

III. 12 Apr 72 **USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

(D- D-1)

ASIA & PACIFIC

BREZHNEV RECEIVES DRV ENVOY, DISCUSSES COOPERATION

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 12 Apr 72 L

[Text] Comrade Brezhnev, the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has received Comrade Vo Thuc Dong, the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in the Soviet Union. During the conversation an exchange of opinions took place on the question of Soviet-Vietnamese cooperation.

In the name of the Vietnam Workers Party [VWP] Central Committee, the DRV Government and all the Vietnamese people, DRV Ambassador Comrade Vo Thuc Dong expressed sincere thanks to the CPSU Central Committee, the Soviet Government, and the fraternal Soviet people for the support of the struggle of the Vietnamese people, who are fighting shoulder to shoulder with the peoples of Laos and Cambodia in the defense of their national rights, and for the large and valuable aid to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in the construction of socialism.

Comrade Brezhnev has passed to the VWP Central Committee, to the DRV Government, and to the fraternal Vietnamese people, wishes for further success in the cause of the defense of freedom and independence of their motherland and in the construction of socialism.

The CPSU and all the Soviet people unswervingly follow the course of international solidarity with struggling Vietnam and with all the patriots of Indochina and will continue to give them aid and support. The Soviet people resolutely condemn the U.S. aggression in Indochina and demand an immediate end to the bombings of the DRV.

The meeting passed in an atmosphere of fraternal friendship and cordiality.

LAIRD PROMISES RETALIATION AGAINST VIETNAM PATRIOTS

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1445 GMT 11 Apr 72 L

[Text] U.S. Defense Secretary Laird, speaking at the Pentagon, announced that the United States will send additional air and naval forces to Southeast Asia this week. Laird tried to present this stepping up of military power in Southeast Asia as retaliation for the heightened struggle of the patriotic forces against the American interventionists and their Saigon puppets. The head of the Pentagon again uttered direct threats against the Vietnam patriots and declared that the United States would take all necessary measures in order to defend the remaining U.S. troops in South Vietnam. As is known, Washington is using this excuse to justify the present escalation of U.S. aggression in Southeast Asia.