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MAY 11, 1972
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STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USSR - TASS

STATEMENT 1.

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT OF THE SOVIET GOVT. WAS PUBLISHED HERE. THE GOVT. OF THE UNITED STATES ANNOUNCED A NEW ESCALATION OF ITS AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS IN VIETNAM, THE ACTIONS THAT COMPLICATE FURTHER THE SITUATION IN SE ASIA AND ARE FROUGHT WITH SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY.

2. IN THE STATEMENT OF MAY 8 OF THIS YEAR THE U.S. PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED THAT HE GAVE AN ORDER FOR MINING THE ENTRIES INTO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE PORTS SO AS TO PREVENT SHIPS FROM REACHING THE PORTS, FOR INTENSIFICATION OF BOMBING OF THE DRV TERRITORY AND SPECIFICALLY, FOR HITTING FROM THE AIR RAILROADS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS. IN ITS WAY, THE UNITED STATES TRIES TO BREAK THE ECONOMIC, TRADE AND OTHER RELATIONS THAT THE DRV HAS DEVELOPED WITH OTHER STATES, TO DEPRIVE THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE AID FOR ITS PEOPLE, TO REBUFF THE U.S. AGGRESSION AND ALSO TO RECEIVE FOODSTUFF AND OTHER SUPPLIES FOR THE PEACEFUL POPULATION.

3. NO RPT NO MATTER WHAT FALSE PRETEXES ARE USED TO COVER UP THE ADVENTURIST ACTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES IN VIETNAM, THE REAL PURPOSE OF THESE ACTIONS IS OBVIOUS. IT IS NOT, REPEAT NOT, TO "SAVE THE UNITED STATES FROM HUMILIATION", BUT TO SAVE THE NOTORIOUS "VIETNAMIZATION" POLICY WHICH SUFFERS AN OBVIOUS FAILURE. IT IS NOT, REPEAT NOT, TO ENABLE THE VIETNAMESE TO REACH A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THEIR AFFAIRS BUT TO EXTEND THE MILITARY SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE ANTI-POPULAR PUPPET REGIME OF SAIGON. THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE BOMBING OF THE DRV TERRITORY AND WASHINGTON'S ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH SINGLE-HANDEDLY ITS OWN RULES OF INTERNATIONAL NAVIGATION CANNOT BUT CAUSE INDIGNATION AND STRONG CENSURE. THESE ACTIONS SHOW AGAIN FOR THE WHOLE WORLD THE PIRATIC NATURE OF THE WAR WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS UNLEASHED AND CONTINUES AGAINST THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE FOR MANY YEARS. ONE AGGRESSIVE ACTION LEADS TO ANOTHER AND MORE DANGEROUS ONES. THE BARBAROUS ACTS AND CRIMES ARE FOLLOWED BY NEW AND GRAVER ONES. AS A RESULT OF THIS, THE WAR ASSUMED SUCH A NATURE WHEN THE INTERESTS OF MANY COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES ARE AFFECTED IN AN EVER GREATER DEGREE.

4. THE MINING OF THE APPROACHES TO THE PORTS OF THE DRV, THE ATTEMPTS TO PREVENT FOREIGN SHIPS FROM ENTERING ITS TERRITORIAL AND INLAND WATERS CREATE A DIRECT THREAT TO SHIPS AND LIVES OF SEAMEN OF MANY STATES WHICH CARRY CARGOES FOR THE DRV POPULATION. NOBODY GAVE THE UNITED STATES THE RIGHT TO RESTRICT ANYBODY'S FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN HIGH SEAS. THE U.S. MEASURES ARE A GROSS VIOLATION OF THE GENERALLY RECOGNIZED PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION, NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT THE SIGNATURE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WAS PUT ALONGSIDE WITH OTHERS TO GENEVA CONVENTION OF 1958 ON MARINE LAW, WHICH SEALED THIS PRINCIPLE. THE SOVIET UNION CONSIDERS AS INADMISSABLE THE U.S. ACTIONS WHICH JEOPARDIZE THE FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND SECURITY OF SOVIET AND OTHER SHIPS WHICH ARE NAVIGATING OFF-SHORE OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. THE SOVIET UNION WILL DRAW FROM THIS APPROPRIATE CONCLUSIONS. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WILL BEAR THE ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF ITS ILLEGAL ACTIONS.

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5. VIOLATING THE GENEVA AGREEMENT, THE UNITED STATES THUS SHOWS ITS CONTEMPT FOR ONE OF THE MAIN DEMANDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW - THE OBSERVANCE BY THE STATES OF THE COMMITMENTS THEY ASSUMED UNDER INTERNATIONAL TREATIES. IT IS A DANGEROUS AND SLIPPERY ROAD. IT CAN LEAD ONLY TO A NEW COMPLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND TO LAWLESSNESS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF IN RESPONSE TO THE UNILATERAL ACTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES THREATENING THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF A NUMBER OF STATES AND SECURITY OF THEIR CITIZENS, THESE STATES SHOULD ACT THE WAY THE UNITED STATES NOW ACTS IN VIETNAM? A NEW ESCALATION OF THE AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS CANNOT SOLVE PROBLEMS OF INDO-CHINA, CANNOT BREAK THE WILL OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE. THE ACTIONS NOW TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES CAN ONLY SERVE TO DRAG OUT THE CONFLICT, TO CONTINUE THE BLOODSHED AND WILL INEVITABLY ENTAIL NEW LOSS OF LIFE AND DESTRUCTION.

6. THE ONLY REAL WAY OF SETTLEMENT OF THE VIETNAMESE PROBLEM IS TO RESPECT THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO DECIDE THEIR DESTINY THEMSELVES WITHOUT ANY INTERFERENCE AND PRESSURE FROM OUTSIDE. IF THE UNITED STATES IS REALLY READY TO DO SO, IT SHOULD RETURN TO THE TABLES OF NEGOTIATION IN PARIS. THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT RESOLUTELY INSISTS THAT THE UNITED STATES STEPS TO BLOCK THE COAST AND DISRUPT GROUND COMMUNICATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM BE CANCELLED WITHOUT DELAY, THAT ACTS OF U.S. AGGRESSION AGAINST THE DRV BE ENDED, THAT THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF INTERNATIONAL NAVIGATION AND TRADE BE RESPECTED. THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT THIS POINT OF VIEW IS SHARED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLES OF ALL PEACE LOVING STATES. THE SOVIET PEOPLE, LOYAL AS THEY ARE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONALISM, ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH THE STRUGGLE OF THE HEROIC VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. THE SOVIET PEOPLE HAVE BEEN GIVING AND WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE THE NECESSARY SUPPORT.