AGREEMENT ON ENDING THE WAR AND RESTORING PEACE IN VIETNAM

The parties participating in the Paris conference on Vietnam, with a view to ending the war and restoring peace in Vietnam on the basis of respect for the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, and to contributing to the consolidation of peace in Asia and the world, have agreed on the following provisions and undertake to respect and to implement them:

Chapter I
The Vietnamese People's Fundamental National Rights

ARTICLE 1
The United States and all other countries respect the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Vietnam as recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam.

Chapter II
Cessation of Hostilities, Withdrawal of Troops

ARTICLE 2
A cease-fire shall be observed throughout South Vietnam as of 2400 hours G.M.T., on Jan. 27, 1973. At the same hour, the United States will stop all its military activities against the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam by ground, air and naval forces, wherever they may be based, and end the mining of the territorial waters, ports, harbors and waterways of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The United States will remove, permanently deactivate or destroy all the mines in the territorial waters, ports, harbors and waterways of North Vietnam as soon as this agreement goes into effect.

The complete cessation of hostilities mentioned in this article shall be durable and without limit of time.

ARTICLE 3
The parties undertake to maintain the cease-fire and to insure a lasting and stable peace.

As soon as the cease-fire goes into effect:
(a) The United States forces and those of the other foreign countries allied with the United States and the Republic of Vietnam shall remain in place pending the implementation of the plan of troop withdrawal. The Four-Party Joint Military Commission described in Article 15 shall determine the modalities.
(b) The armed forces of the two South Vietnamese parties shall remain in place. The Two-Party Joint Military Commission described in Article 17 shall determine the areas controlled by each party and the modalities of stationing.
(c) The regular forces of all services and arms and the irregular forces of the parties in South Vietnam shall stop all offensive activities against each other and shall strictly abide by the following stipulations:

 chapter III
The Return of Captured Military Personnel and Foreign Civilians, and Captured and Detained Vietnamese Civilian Personnel

ARTICLE 8
(a) The return of captured military personnel and foreign civilians of the parties shall be carried out simultaneously with and completed not later than the same day as the troop withdrawal mentioned in Article 5. The parties shall exchange complete lists of the above-mentioned captured military personnel and foreign civilians on the day of the signing of this agreement.
(b) The parties shall help each other to get information about those military personnel and foreign civilians of the parties missing in action, to determine the location and take care of the graves of the dead so as to facilitate the exhumation and repatriation of the remains, and to take any such other measures and may be required to get information about those still considered missing in action.
(c) The question of the return of Vietnamese civilian personnel captured and detained in South Vietnam will be resolved by the two South Vietnamese parties on the basis of the principles of Article 21 (b) of the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities in Vietnam of July 20, 1954. The two South Vietnamese parties will do so in a spirit of national reconciliation and concord, with a view to ending hatred and enmity, in order to ease suffering and to reunitie families. The two South Vietnamese parties will do their utmost to resolve this question within 90 days after the cease-fire comes into effect.

Chapter IV
The Exercise of the South Vietnamese People's Right to Self-Determination

ARTICLE 9
The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam undertake to respect the following principles for the exercise of the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination:
(a) The South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination is sacred.
ARTICLE 13

The question of Vietnamese armed forces in South Vietnam shall be settled by the two South Vietnamese parties in a spirit of national reconciliation and concord, equality and mutual respect, without foreign interference, in accordance with the postwar situation. Among the questions to be discussed by the two South Vietnamese parties are steps to reduce their military effective and to demobilize the troops being reduced. The two South Vietnamese parties will accomplish this as soon as possible.

ARTICLE 14

South Vietnam will pursue a foreign policy of peace and independence. It will be prepared to establish relations with all countries irrespective of their political and social systems on the basis of mutual respect for independence and sovereignty and accept economic and technical aid from any country with no political conditions attached. The acceptance of military aid by South Vietnam in the future shall come under the authority of the government set up after the general elections in South Vietnam provided for in Article 9 (b).

Chapter V

The Reunification of Vietnam and the Relationship Between North and South Vietnam

ARTICLE 15

The reunification of Vietnam shall be carried out step by step through peaceful means on the basis of discussions and agreement between North and South Vietnam, without coercion or annexation by either party, and without foreign interference. The time for reunification will be agreed upon by North and South Vietnam.

Pending reunification:

(a) The military demarcation line between the two zones at the 17th Parallel is only provisional and not a political or territorial boundary, as provided for in paragraph 6 of the Final Declaration of the 1954 Geneva Conference.

(b) North and South Vietnam shall respect the demilitarized zone on either side of the provisional military demarcation line.

(c) North and South Vietnam shall promptly start negotiations with a view to re-establishing normal relations in various fields. Among the questions to be negotiated are the modalities of civilian movement across the provisional military demarcation line.

(d) North and South Vietnam shall not join any military alliance or military bloc and shall not allow foreign powers to maintain military bases, troops, military advisers and military personnel on the respective territories, as stipulated in the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam.

ARTICLE 16

(a) The parties participating in the Paris conference on Vietnam shall immediately designate representatives to form a Four-Party Joint Military Commission with the task of insuring joint action by the parties in implementing the following provisions of this agreement:

(i) The first paragraph of Article 2, regarding the enforcement of the cease-fire throughout South Vietnam.

(ii) Article 3 (a), regarding the cease-fire by U.S. forces and those of the other foreign countries referred to in that article.

(iii) Article 3 (c), regarding the cease-fire between all parties in South Vietnam.

(iv) Article 5, regarding the withdrawal from South Vietnam of U.S. troops and those of the other foreign countries mentioned in Article 3 (a).

(v) Article 6, regarding the dismantling of military bases in South Vietnam of the United States and those of the other foreign countries mentioned in Article 3 (a).

(vi) Article 8 (a), regarding the return of captured military personnel and foreign civilians of the parties missing in action.

(b) The Four-Party Joint Military Commission shall operate in accordance with the principle of consultation and unanimity. Disagreements shall be referred to the International Commission of Control and Supervision.

(c) The Four-Party Military Commission shall begin operating immediately after the signing of this agreement and end its activities in 60 days, after the completion of the withdrawal of U.S. troops and those of the other foreign countries mentioned in Article 3 (a) and the completion of the return of captured military personnel and foreign civilians of the parties.

(d) The four parties shall agree immediately on the organization, working procedures, means of activity and expenditures of the Four-Party Joint Military Commission.

ARTICLE 17

(a) The two South Vietnamese parties shall immediately designate representatives to form a Two-Party Joint Military Commission with the task of insuring joint action by the two South Vietnamese parties in implementing the following provisions of this agreement:

(i) The first paragraph of Article 2, regarding the enforcement of the cease-fire throughout South Vietnam, when the Four-Party Joint Military Commission has ended its activities.
Chapter VII

Regarding Cambodia and Laos

ARTICLE 20

(a) The parties participating in the Paris conference on Vietnam shall strictly respect the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Cambodia and the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, which recognized the Cambodian and the Lao peoples' fundamental national rights, i.e., the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of these countries. The parties shall respect the neutrality of Cambodia and Laos.

The parties participating in the Paris conference on Vietnam undertake to refrain from using the territory of Cambodia and the territory of Laos to encroach on the sovereignty and security of one another and of other countries.

(b) Foreign countries shall put an end to all military activities in Cambodia and Laos, totally withdraw from and refrain from reintroducing into these two countries' troops, military advisers and military personnel, armaments, munitions and war material.

(c) The internal affairs of Cambodia and Laos shall be settled by the people of each of these countries without foreign interference.

(d) The problems existing between the Indochinese countries shall be settled by the Indochinese parties on the basis of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs.

Chapter VIII

The Relationship Between the United States and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam

ARTICLE 21

The United States anticipates that this agreement will usher in an era of reconciliation with the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. With all the peoples of Indochina, in pursuance of its traditional policy, the United States will contribute to healing the wounds of war and to postwar reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and throughout Indochina.

ARTICLE 22

The ending of the war, the restoration of peace in Vietnam and the strict im-
Implementation of this agreement will create conditions for establishing a new, equal and mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam on the basis of respect for each other's independence and sovereignty and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. At the same time this will insure stable peace in Vietnam and contribute to the preservation of lasting peace in Indochina and Southeast Asia.

Chapter IX
Other Provisions

ARTICLE 23
This agreement shall enter into force upon signature by plenipotentiary representatives of the parties participating in the Paris Conference on Vietnam. All the parties concerned shall strictly implement this agreement and its Protocols.

Done in Paris this 27th day of January, 1973, in Vietnamese and English. The Vietnamese and English texts are official and equally authentic.

For the Government of the United States of America
WILLIAM P. ROGERS
Secretary of State
For the Government of the Republic of Vietnam
TRAN VAN LAM
Minister for Foreign Affairs
For the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam
NGUYEN VAN THO
Minister for Foreign Affairs
For the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam
NGUYEN THI BINH
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Protocol on Clearing Sea Mines

Protocol to the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam Concerning the Removal, Permanent Deactivation or Destruction of Mines in the Territorial Waters, Ports, Harbors and Waterways of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam

The Government of the United States of America, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, in implementation of the second paragraph of Article 2 of the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam signed on this date, have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1
The United States shall clear all mines it has placed in the territorial waters, ports, harbors and waterways of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. This mine-clearing operation shall be accomplished by rendering the mines harmless through removal, permanent deactivation or destruction.

ARTICLE 2
With a view to insuring lasting safety for the movement of people and watercraft and the protection of important installations, mines shall, on the request of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, be removed or destroyed in the indicated area; and whenever their removal or destruction is impossible, mines shall be permanently deactivated and their emplacement clearly marked.

ARTICLE 3
The mine-clearing operation shall begin at twenty-four hundred (2400) hours G.M.T. on Jan. 27, 1973. The representatives of the two parties shall consult immediately on relevant factors and agree upon the earliest possible target date for the completion of the work.

ARTICLE 4
The mine-clearing operation shall be conducted in accordance with priorities and timing agreed upon by the two parties. For this purpose, representatives of the two parties shall meet at an early date to reach agreement on a program and a plan of implementation. To this end:
(a) The United States shall provide its plan for mine-clearing operations, including maps of the minefields and information concerning the types, numbers and properties of the mines.
(b) The Democratic Republic of Vietnam shall provide all available maps and hydrographic charts and indicate the mined places and all other potential hazards to the mine-clearing operations that the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is aware of.
(c) The two parties shall agree on the timing of implementation of each segment of the plan and provide timely notice to the public at least 48 hours in advance of the beginning of mine-clearing operations for that segment.

Article 5
The United States shall be responsible for the mine clearance on inland waterways of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam shall, to the full extent of its capabilities, actively participate in the mine clearance with the means of surveying, removal and destruction, and technical advice supplied by the United States.

Article 6
With a view to insuring the safe movement of people and watercraft on waterways and at sea, the United States shall in the mine-clearing process supply timely information about the progress of mine clearing in each area, and about the remaining mines to be destroyed. The United States shall issue a communiqué when the operations have been concluded.

Article 7
In conducting mine-clearing operations, the U.S. personnel engaged in these operations shall respect the sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and shall engage in no activities inconsistent with the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam and this protocol.
Protocol on the Cease-Fire

Protocol to the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam Concerning the Cease-Fire in South Vietnam and the Joint Military Commissions

The parties participating in the Paris Conference on Vietnam,

In implementation of the first paragraph of Article 2, Article 3, Article 5, Article 6, Article 16 and Article 17 of the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam signed on this date which provides for the cease-fire in South Vietnam and the establishment of a Four-Party Joint Military Commission and a Two-Party Joint Military Commission,

Have agreed as follows:

Cease-Fire in South Vietnam

ARTICLE 1

The high commands of the parties in South Vietnam shall issue prompt and timely orders to all regular and irregular armed forces and the armed police under their command to completely end hostilities throughout South Vietnam, at the exact time stipulated in Article 2 of the Agreement and insure that these armed forces and armed police comply with these orders and respect the cease-fire.

ARTICLE 2

(a) As soon as the cease-fire comes into force and until regulations are issued by the Joint Military Commissions, all ground, river, sea and air combat forces of the parties in South Vietnam shall remain in place; that is, in order to insure a stable cease-fire, there shall be no major redeployments or movements that would extend each party's area of control or would result in contact between opposing armed forces and clashes which might take place.

(b) All regular and irregular armed forces and the armed police of the parties in South Vietnam shall observe the prohibition of the following acts:

1. Armed patrols into areas controlled by opposing armed forces and flights by bomber and fighter aircraft of all types, except for unarmed flights for proficiency training and maintenance.

2. Armed attacks against any person, either military or civilian, by any means whatsoever, including the use of small arms, mortars, artillery, bombing and strafing by airplanes and any other type of weapon or explosive device.

3. All combat operations on the ground, on rivers, on the sea and in the air;

4. All hostile acts, terrorism or reprisals; and

5. All acts endangering lives or public or private property.

ARTICLE 3

(a) The above-mentioned prohibitions shall not hamper or restrict:

1. Civilian supply, freedom of movement, freedom to work and freedom of the people to engage in trade, and civilian communication and transportation between and among all areas in South Vietnam.

2. The use by each party in areas under its control of military support elements, such as engineer and transportation units, in repair and construction of public facilities and the transportation and supplying of the population.

3. Normal military proficiency conducted by the parties in the areas under their respective control with due regard for public safety.

(b) The Joint Military Commissions shall immediately agree on corridors, routes and other regulations governing the movement of military transport aircraft, military transport vehicles and military transport vessels of all types of one party going through areas under the control of other parties.

ARTICLE 4

In order to avert conflict and insure normal conditions for all armed forces which are in direct contact, and pending regulation by the Joint Military Commissions, the commanders of the opposing armed forces at those places of direct contact shall meet as soon as the cease-fire comes into force with a view to reaching an agreement on temporary measures to avert conflict and to insure supply and medical care for these armed forces.

ARTICLE 5

(a) Within 15 days after the cease-fire comes into effect, each party shall do its utmost to complete the removal or deactivation of all demolition objects, minefields, traps, obstacles or other dangerous objects placed previously, so as not to hamper the population's movement and work, in the first place on waterways, roads and railroads in South Vietnam. Those mines which cannot be removed or deactivated within that time shall be clearly marked and must be removed or deactivated as soon as possible.

(b) Emplacement of mines is prohibited, except as a defensive measure around the edges of military installations in places where they do not hamper the population's movement and work, and movement on waterways, roads and railroads. Mines and other obstacles already in place at the edges of military installations may remain in place if they are in place where they do not hamper the population's movement and work, and movement on waterways, roads and railroads.

ARTICLE 6

Civilian police and civilian security personnel of the parties in South Vietnam, who are responsible for the maintenance of law and order, shall strictly
respect the prohibitions set forth in Article 2 of this protocol. As required by their responsibilities, normally they shall be authorized to carry pistols, but when required by unusual circumstances, they shall be allowed to carry other small individual arms.

ARTICLE 7

(a) The entry into South Vietnam of replacement armaments, munitions and war material permitted under Article 7 of the agreement shall take place under the supervision and control of the Two-Party Joint Military Commission and of the International Commission of Control and Supervision. Through such points of entry only as are designated by the two South Vietnamese parties. The two South Vietnamese parties shall agree on these points of entry within 15 days after the entry into force of the cease-fire. The two South Vietnamese parties may select as many as six points of entry which are not included in the list of places where teams of the International Commission of Control and Supervision are to be based contained in Article 4 (d) of the protocol concerning the international commission. At the same time, the two South Vietnamese parties may select up to one point of entry from the list of places set forth in Article 4 (d) of that protocol.

(b) Each of the designated points of entry shall be available only for that South Vietnamese party which is in control of that point. The two South Vietnamese parties shall have an equal number of points of entry.

ARTICLE 8

(a) In implementation of Article 5 of the agreement, the United States and the other foreign countries referred to in Article 5 of the agreement shall take with them all their armaments, munitions and war material. Transfers of such items which would leave them in South Vietnam shall not be made subsequent to the entry into force of the agreement except for transfers of communications, transport and other non-combat material to the Four-Party Joint Military Commission or the International Commission of Control and Supervision.

(b) Within five days after the entry into force of the cease-fire, the United States shall inform the Four-Party Joint Military Commission and the International Commission of Control and Supervision of the general plans for timing of complete troop withdrawals which shall take place in four phases of 15 days each. It is anticipated that the numbers of troops withdrawn in each phase are not likely to be widely different, although it is not feasible to issue equal numbers. The approximate numbers to be withdrawn in each phase shall be given to the Four-Party Joint Military Commission and the International Commission of Control and Supervision sufficiently in advance of actual withdrawals so that they can properly carry out their tasks in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 9

(a) In implementation of Article 6 of the agreement, the United States and the other foreign countries referred to in that article shall dismantle and remove from South Vietnam or destroy all military bases in South Vietnam of the United States and of the other foreign countries referred to in that article, including weapons, mines and other military equipment at these bases, for the purpose of making them unusable for military purposes.

(b) The United States shall supply the Four-Party Joint Military Commission and the International Commission of Control and Supervision with necessary information and plans for base dismantlement so that those commissions can properly carry out their tasks in relation thereto.

The Joint Military Commissions

ARTICLE 10

(a) The implementation of the agreement is the responsibility of the parties signatory to the agreement.

The Four-Party Joint Military Commission has the task of insuring joint action by the parties implementing the agreement by serving as a channel of communication among the parties, by drawing up plans and fixing the modalities to carry out, coordinate, follow and inspect the implementation of the provisions mentioned in Article 16 of the agreement, and by negotiating and settling all matters concerning the implementation of those provisions.

(b) The concrete tasks of the Four-Party Joint Military Commission are:

1. To coordinate, follow and inspect the implementation of the above-mentioned provisions of the agreement by the four parties.

2. To deter and detect violations, to deal with cases of violation, and to settle conflicts and matters of contention between the parties relating to the above-mentioned provisions.

3. To dispatch without delay one or more joint teams, as required by specific cases, to any part of South Vietnam, to investigate alleged violations of the agreement and to assist the parties in finding measures to prevent recurrence of similar cases.

4. To engage in observation at the places where this is necessary in the exercise of its functions.

5. To perform such additional tasks as it may, by unanimous decision, determine.

ARTICLE 11

(a) There shall be a Central Joint Military Commission located in Saigon. Each party shall designate an immediately a military delegation of 59 persons to represent it on the central commission. The senior officer designated by each party shall be a general officer, or equivalent.

(b) There shall be seven Regional Joint Military Commissions located in the regions shown on the annexed map and based at the following places:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>Places</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Hue</td>
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<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Danang</td>
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<td>III</td>
<td>Pleiku</td>
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<td>IV</td>
<td>Phan Thiet</td>
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<td>Bien Hoa</td>
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<td>VI</td>
<td>My Tho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>Can Tho</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each party shall designate a military delegation of 16 persons to represent it on each regional commission. The senior officer designated by each party shall be an officer from the rank of lieutenant colonel to colonel, or equivalent.

(c) There shall be a joint military team operating in each of the areas shown on the annexed map and based at each of the following places in South Vietnam:

- Region I: Quang Tri, Phu Bai
- Region II: Hoi An, Tam Ky, Chu Lai
- Region III: Kontum, Hau Bon, Phu Cat, Tuy An, Ninh Hoa, Ban Me Thuot
- Region IV: Da Lat, Bao Loc, Phan Rang
- Region V: An Loc, Xuan Loc, Ben Cat, Cu Chi, Tan An
- Region VI: Moc Hoa, Giong Trom, Region VII: Tr Tr Ton, Vinh Long, Vinh Thanh, Khanh Hung, Quan Long

Each party shall provide four qualified persons for each joint military team. The senior person designated by each party shall be an officer from the rank of major to lieutenant colonel, or equivalent.

(d) The Regional Joint Military Commissions shall assist the Central Joint Military Commission in performing its tasks and shall supervise the operations of the military teams. The region of Saigon-Gia Dinh is placed under the responsibility of the central commission, which shall designate joint military teams to operate in this region.

(e) Each party shall be authorized to provide support and guard personnel for its delegations to the Central Joint Military Commission and Regional Joint Military Commissions, and for its members of the joint military teams. The total number of support and guard personnel for each party shall not exceed 330.

(f) The Central Joint Military Commission may establish such joint subcommissions, joint staffs and joint military teams as circumstances may require. The central commission shall determine the numbers of personnel required for any additional subcommissions, staffs or teams it establishes, provided that each party shall designate one-fourth of the number of personnel required and that the total number of personnel for the Four-Party Joint Military Commission, to include its staffs, teams and support personnel, shall not exceed 3300.
(g) The delegations of the two South Vietnamese parties may, by agreement, establish provisional subcommissions and joint military teams to carry out the tasks specifically assigned to them by Article 16 in this agreement. With respect to Article 7 of the agreement, the two South Vietnamese parties’ delegations to the Four-Party Joint Military Commission shall establish joint military teams at the request of the two South Vietnamese parties serving with the Four-Party Joint Military Commission to the Four-Party Joint Military Commission, 24 hours after the cease-fire comes into force, the designated South Vietnamese parties’ delegations to the Two-Party Joint Military Commission shall meet in Saigon so as to reach an agreement as soon as possible on organization and operation of the Two-Party Joint Commission, as well as the measures and organization for cooperation to the Joint Military Commissions at all levels, in the discharge of their tasks. (b) The Joint Military Commissions and their personnel, while carrying out their respective functions, shall enjoy privileges and immunities equivalent to those accorded diplomatic missions and diplomatic agents. (c) The personnel of the Joint Military Commissions may carry pistols and wear special insignia decided upon by each Central Joint Commission. The personnel of each party while guarding commission installations or equipment must be authorized to carry other individual small arms, as determined by each Central Joint Military Commission. ARTICLE 17 (a) The delegation of each party to the Four-Party Joint Military Commission and the Two-Party Joint Military Commission shall have its own offices, communication, logistics and transportation means, including aircraft when necessary. (b) Each party, in its areas of control, shall provide appropriate office and accommodation facilities to the Four-Party Joint Military Commission and the Two-Party Joint Military Commission at all levels. (c) The parties shall endeavor to provide to the Four-Party Joint Military Commission and the Two-Party Joint Military Commission, by means of loan, lease or gift, the common means of cooperation, including equipment for communication, supply and transport, including aircraft when necessary. The Joint Military Commissions may purchase from any source necessary facilities, equipment and services which are not supplied by the parties. The Joint Military Commissions shall possess and use these facilities and this equipment. (d) The facilities and the equipment for common use mentioned above shall be returned to the parties when the Joint Military Commissions have ended their activities. ARTICLE 18 The common expenses of the Four-Party Joint Military Commission shall be borne equally by the four parties, and the common expenses of the Two-Party Joint Military Commission in South Vietnam shall be borne equally by these two parties. ARTICLE 19 This protocol shall enter into force upon signature by plenipotentiary representatives of all the parties participating in the Paris conference on Vietnam. It shall be strictly implemented by all the parties concerned. Done in Paris this 27th day of January, 1973, in Vietnamese and English. The Vietnamese and English texts are official and equally authentic. For the Government of the United States of America WILLIAM F. ROGERS Secretary of State For the Government of the Republic of Vietnam TRAN VAN LAM Minister for Foreign Affairs For the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam NGUYEN VAN THI Minister for Foreign Affairs For the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam NGUYEN VAN THI NAM Minister for Foreign Affairs 2-Party Version Protocol to the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam Concerning the Cease-Fire in South Vietnam and the Joint Military Commissions The Government of the United States of America, with the concurrence of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam, The Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, with the concurrence of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, In implementation of the first paragraph of Article 2, Article 3, Article 5, Article 6, Article 16 and Article 17 of the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam signed on this date which provide for the cease-fire in South Vietnam and the establishment of a Four-Party Joint Military Commission and a Two-Party Joint Milit
Protocol on Control Commission

Protocol to the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam Concerning the International Commission of Control and Supervision

The parties participating in the Paris conference on Vietnam, in implementation of Article 18 of the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam signed on this date providing for the formation of the international Commission of Control and Supervision,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

The implementation of the agreement is the responsibility of the parties signatory to the agreement.

The functions of the international commission are to control and supervise the implementation of the provisions mentioned in Article 18 of the agreement. In carrying out these functions, the international commission shall:

(a) Follow the implementation of the above-mentioned provisions of the agreement through communication with the parties and on-the-spot observation at the places where this is required.

(b) Investigate violations of the provisions which fall under the control and supervision of the commission.

(c) When necessary, cooperate with the Joint Military Commissions in determining and detecting violations of the above-mentioned provisions.

ARTICLE 2

The international commission shall investigate violations of the provisions described in Article 18 of the agreement on the request of the Four-Party Joint Military Commission, or of the Two-Party Joint Military Commission or of any party, or, with respect to Article 9 (b) of the agreement on general elections, of the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord, or in any case where the international commission has other adequate grounds for considering that there has been a violation of those provisions. It is understood that, in carrying out this task, the international commission shall function with the concerned parties' assistance and cooperation as required.

ARTICLE 3

(a) When the international commission finds that there is a serious violation in the implementation of the agreement or a threat to peace against which the commission can find no appropriate measure, the commission shall report this to the four parties to the agreement so that they can hold consultations to find a solution.

(b) In accordance with Article 18 (f) of the agreement, the international commission's reports shall be made with the unanimous agreement of the representatives of all the four members. In case no unanimity is reached, the commission shall forward the different views to the four parties in accordance with Article 18 (b) of the agreement, or to the two South Vietnamese parties in accordance with Article 18 (c) of the agreement, but these shall not be considered as reports of the commission.

ARTICLE 4

(a) The headquarters of the international commission shall be at Saigon.

(b) There shall be seven regional teams located in the regions shown on the annexed map and based at the following places:

**REGIONS PLACES**

| I    | Hue        |
| II   | Danang     |
| III  | Pleiku     |
| IV   | Phan Thiet |
| V    | Bien Hoa  |
| VI   | My Tho    |
| VII  | Can Tho   |

The international commission shall designate three teams for the region of Saigon-Gia Dinh.

(c) There shall be 26 teams operating in the areas shown on the annexed map and based at the following places in South Vietnam:

**Region I**

Quang Tri
Phu Bai

**Region II**

Hoi An
Tam Ky
Chu Lai

**Region III**

Kontum
Hau Hoa
Phu Cat
Tuy An
Ninh Hoa
Ban M* Thuot

Region IV
Da Lat
Bao Loc
Phan Rang

Region V
An Loc
Xuan Loc
Ben Cat
Cu Chi
Tan An

Region VI
Moc Hoa
Giong Tron

Region VII
Tri Ton
Vinh Long
Vinh Thanh
Khanh Hung
Quan Long

(d) There shall be 12 teams located as shown on the annexed map and based at the following places:

Gio Linh (to cover the area south of the provisional military demarcation line)
Lao Bao
Ben Het
Duc Co
Chu Lai
Qui Nhon
Nha Trang
Yung Tau
Xa Mat
Bien Hoa Airfield
Hong Ngu
Can Tho

(e) There shall be seven teams, six of which shall be available for assignment to the points of entry which are not listed in paragraph (d) above and which the two South Vietnamese parties choose as points for legitimate entry to South Vietnam for replacement of armaments, munitions and war material permitted by Article 7 of the agreement. Any team or teams not needed for the above-mentioned assignment shall be available for other tasks, in keeping with the commission's responsibility for control and supervision.

(f) There shall be seven teams to control and supervise the return of captured and detained personnel of the parties.

ARTICLE 5

(a) To carry out its task concerning the return of the captured military per-
sonnel and foreign civilians of the parties as stipulated by Article 8 (a) of the agreement, the international commission shall, during the time of such return, send one control and supervision team to each place in Vietnam where the captured persons are being returned, and to the last detention places from which these persons shall be taken to the places of return.

(b) To carry out its tasks concerning the return of the Vietnamese civilian personnel captured and detained in South Vietnam mentioned in Article 8 (c) of the agreement, the international commission shall, during the time of such return, send one control and supervision team to each place in South Vietnam where those captured and detained persons are being returned, and to the last detention places from which these persons shall be taken to the places of return.

ARTICLE 6

To carry out its tasks regarding Article 9 (b) of the agreement on the free and democratic general elections in South Vietnam, the international commission shall organize additional teams, when necessary. The international commission shall discuss this question in advance with the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord. If the international commission is absent, the member concerned shall immediately designate a replacement in accordance with the provisions of this protocol.

ARTICLE 7

The international commission shall continuously keep under review its size, and shall reduce the number of its teams, its representatives or other personnel, or both, when those teams, representatives or personnel have accomplished the tasks assigned to them and are not required for other tasks. At the same time, the expenditures of the international commission shall be reduced correspondingly.

ARTICLE 8

Each member of the international commission shall make available at all times the following numbers of qualified personnel:

(a) One senior representative and 26 others for the headquarters staff.

(b) Five for each of the seven regional teams.

(c) Two for each of the other international teams, except for the teams at Gio Linh and Vung Tau, each of which shall have three.

(d) One hundred sixteen for the purpose of providing support to the commission headquarters and its teams.

ARTICLE 9

(a) The international commission, and each of its teams, shall act as a single body comprising representatives of all four members.

(b) Each member has the responsibility to insure the presence of its representatives at all levels of the international commission. In case a representative is absent, the member concerned shall immediately designate a replacement.

ARTICLE 10

(a) The parties shall afford full cooperation, assistance and protection to the international commission.

(b) The parties shall at all times maintain regular and continuous liaison with the international commission. During the existence of the Four-Party Joint Military Commission, the delegations of the parties to that commission shall also perform liaison functions with the international commission. After the Four-Party Joint Military Commission has ended its activities, liaison shall be maintained through the Two-Party Joint Military Commission, liaison missions or other adequate means.

(c) The international commission and the Joint Military Commissions shall closely cooperate with and assist each other in carrying out their respective functions.

(d) Wherever a team is stationed or operating, the concerned party shall designate a liaison officer to the team to cooperate with and assist it in carrying out without hindrance its task of control and supervision. When a team is carrying out an investigation, a liaison officer from each concerned party shall have the opportunity to accompany it, provided the investigation is not thereby delayed.

(e) Each party shall give the international commission reasonable advance notice of all proposed actions concerning those provisions of the agreement that are to be controlled and supervised by the international commission.

(f) The international commission, including its teams, is allowed to move for observation as is reasonably required for the proper exercise of its functions as stipulated in the agreement. In carrying out these functions, the international commission, including its teams, shall enjoy all necessary assistance and cooperation from the parties concerned.

ARTICLE 11

In supervising the holding of the free and democratic general elections described in Articles 9 (b) and 12 (b) of the agreement in accordance with modalities to be agreed upon between the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord, the international commission shall receive full cooperation and assistance from the national council.

ARTICLE 12

The international commission and its personnel who have the nationality of a member state shall, while carrying out their tasks, enjoy privileges and immunities equivalent to those accorded diplomatic missions and diplomatic agents.

ARTICLE 13

The international commission may use the means of communication and transport necessary to perform its functions. Each South Vietnamese party shall make available for the use of the international commission appropriate office and accommodation facilities and shall assist it in obtaining such facilities. The international commission may receive from the parties, on mutually agreeable terms, the necessary means of communication and transport and may purchase from any source necessary equipment and services not obtained from the parties.

The international commission shall possess these means.

ARTICLE 14

The expenses for the activities of the international commission shall be borne by the parties and the members of the international commission in accordance with the provisions of this article:

(a) Each member country of the international commission shall pay the salaries and allowances of its personnel.

(b) All other expenses incurred by the international commission shall be met from a fund to which each of the four parties shall contribute twenty-three per cent (23%) and to which each member of the international commission shall contribute two per cent (2%).

(c) Within 30 days of the date of entry into force of this protocol, each of the four parties shall provide the international commission with an initial sum equivalent to four million five hundred thousand (4,500,000) French francs in convertible currency, which sum shall be credited against the amounts due from that party under the first budget.

(d) The international commission shall prepare its own budgets. After the international commission approves a budget, it shall transmit it to all parties signatory to the agreement for their approval. Only after the budgets have been approved by the four parties to the agreement shall they be obliged to make their contributions. However, in case the parties to the agreement do not agree on a new budget, the international commission shall temporarily base its expenditures on the previous budget, except for the extraordinary, one-time expenditures for installation or for the acquisition of equipment, and the parties shall continue to make their contributions on that basis until a new budget is approved.

ARTICLE 15

(a) The headquarters shall be operational and in place within 24 hours after the cease-fire.

(b) The regional teams shall be operational and in place, and three teams for supervision and control of the return of the captured and detained personnel shall be operational and ready for dispatch within 48 hours after the cease-fire.

(c) Other teams shall be operational and in place within 15 to 30 days after the cease-fire.

ARTICLE 16

Meetings shall be convened at the call of the chairman. The international commission shall adopt other working procedures appropriate for the effective discharge of its functions and consistent with respect for the sovereignty of South Vietnam.

ARTICLE 17

The members of the international commission may accept the obligations of this protocol by sending notes of acceptance to the four parties signatory to the agreement. Should a member of the international commission decide to withdraw from the international commission, it may do so by giving three months' notice by means of notes to the four parties signatory to the agreement, in which case those four parties shall consult among themselves for the purpose of agreeing upon a replacement member.
ARTICLE 18

This protocol shall enter into force upon signature by plenipotentiary representatives of all the parties participating in the Paris conference on Vietnam. It shall be strictly implemented by all the parties concerned.

Done in Paris this 27th day of January, 1973, in Vietnamese and English. The Vietnamese and English texts are official and equally authentic.

For the Government of the
United States of America
WILLIAM P. ROGERS
Secretary of State
For the Government of the
Republic of Vietnam
TRAN VAN LAM
Minister for Foreign Affairs
For the Government of the
Democratic Republic of Vietnam
NGUYEN DUY TRINH
Minister for Foreign Affairs
For the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam
NGUYEN THI BINH
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Protocol on the Prisoners

Protocol to the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam
Concerning the Return of Captured Military Personnel and Foreign Civilians and Captured and Detained Vietnamese Civilian Personnel

The parties participating in the Paris conference on Vietnam:

In implementation of Article 8 of the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam signed on this date providing for the return of captured military personnel and foreign civilians, and captured and detained Vietnamese civilian personnel:

Have agreed as follows:

The Return of Captured Military Personnel and Foreign Civilians

ARTICLE 1

The parties signatory to the agreement shall return the captured military personnel of the parties mentioned in Article 8 (a) of the agreement as follows:

1. All captured military personnel of the United States and those of the other foreign countries mentioned in Article 3 of the agreement shall be returned to United States authorities.

2. All captured Vietnamese military personnel, whether belonging to regular or irregular armed forces, shall be returned to the two South Vietnamese parties; they shall be returned to that South Vietnamese party under whose command they served.

ARTICLE 2

All captured civilians who are nationals of the United States or of any other foreign countries mentioned in Article 3 of the agreement shall be returned to United States authorities. All other captured foreign civilians shall be returned to the authorities of their country of nationality by any one of the parties willing and able to do so.

ARTICLE 3

The parties shall today exchange complete lists of captured persons mentioned in Articles 1 and 2 of this protocol.

ARTICLE 4

(a) The return of all captured persons mentioned in Articles 1 and 2 of this protocol shall be completed within 60 days of the signing of the agreement at a rate no slower than the rate of withdrawal from South Vietnam of United States forces and those of the other foreign countries mentioned in Article 5 of the agreement.

(b) Persons who are seriously ill, wounded or injured, old persons and women shall be returned first. The remainder shall be returned either by returning all from one detention place after another or in order of their dates of capture, beginning with those who have been held the longest.

ARTICLE 5

The return and reception of the persons mentioned in Articles 1 and 2 of this protocol shall be carried out at places convenient to the concerned parties. Places of return shall be agreed upon by the Four-Party Joint Military Commission. The parties shall insure the safety of personnel engaged in the return and reception of those persons.

ARTICLE 6

Each party shall return all captured persons mentioned in Articles 1 and 2 of this protocol without delay and shall facilitate their return and reception. The detaining parties shall not delay or delay their return for any reason, including the fact that captured persons may, on any grounds, have been prosecuted or sentenced.

The Return of Captured and Detained Vietnamese Civilian Personnel

ARTICLE 7

(a) The question of the return of Vietnamese civilian personnel captured and detained in South Vietnam will be resolved by the two South Vietnamese parties on the basis of the principles of Article 21 (b) of the agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities in Vietnam of July 20, 1954, which reads as follows:

"The term 'civilians internees' is understood to mean all persons who, having in any way contributed to the political and armed struggle between the two parties, have been arrested for that reason and have been kept in detention by either party during the..."
period of hostilities."

(b) The two South Vietnamese parties will do so in a spirit of national reconciliation and concord with a view to ending hatred and enmity, in order to ease suffering and help to unite families.

The two South Vietnamese parties will do their utmost to resolve this question of the two South Vietnamese parties shall, within 15 days after the cease-fire comes into effect, exchange lists of the Vietnamese civilian personnel captured and detained by each party and of the places at which they are held.

**Treatment of Captured Persons During Detention**

**ARTICLE 8**

(a) All captured military personnel of the parties and captured foreign civilians of the parties shall be treated humanely at all times, and in accordance with international practice.

They shall be protected against all violence to life and person, in particular against murder in any form, mutilation, torture and cruel treatment, and outrages upon personal dignity. These persons shall not be forced to join the armed forces of the detaining party.

They shall be given adequate food, clothing, shelter and the medical attention required for their state of health. They shall be allowed to exchange postcards and letters with their families and receive parcels.

(b) All Vietnamese civilian personnel captured and detained in South Vietnam shall be treated humanely at all times, and in accordance with international practice.

They shall be protected against all violence to life and person, in particular against murder in any form, mutilation, torture and cruel treatment, and outrages upon personal dignity. These persons shall not be forced to join the armed forces of the detaining party.

They shall be given adequate food, clothing, shelter and the medical attention required for their state of health. They shall be allowed to exchange postcards and letters with their families and receive parcels.

**ARTICLE 9**

(a) To contribute to improving the living conditions of the captured military personnel of the parties and foreign civilians of the parties, the parties shall, within 15 days after the cease-fire comes into effect, agree upon the designation of two or more national Red Cross societies to visit all places where captured military personnel and foreign civilians are held.

(b) To contribute to improving the living conditions of the captured and detained Vietnamese civilian personnel, the two South Vietnamese parties shall, within 15 days after the cease-fire comes into effect, agree upon the designation of two or more national Red Cross societies to visit all places where the captured and detained Vietnamese civilian personnel are held.

**With Regard to Dead and Missing Persons**

**ARTICLE 10**

(a) The Four-Party Joint Military Commission shall ensure joint action by the parties in implementing Article 8 of the agreement. When the Four-Party Joint Military Commission has ended its activities, a Four-Party Joint Military Team shall be maintained to carry on this task.

(b) With regard to Vietnamese civilian personnel dead or missing in South Vietnam, the two South Vietnamese parties shall help each other to obtain information about missing persons, determine the location and take care of the graves of the dead, in a spirit of national reconciliation and concord, in keeping with the people's aspirations.

**Other Provisions**

**ARTICLE 11**

(a) The Four-Party and Two-Party Joint Military Commissions will have the responsibility of determining immediately the modalities of implementing the provisions of this protocol consistent with their respective responsibilities under Articles 16 (a) and 17 (a) of the agreement. In case the Joint Military Commission, when carrying out its tasks, cannot reach agreement on a matter pertaining to the return of captured personnel, they shall refer to the international commission for its assistance.

(b) The Four-Party Joint Military Commission shall form, in addition to the teams established by the protocol concerning the cease-fire in South Vietnam and the Joint Military Commission, a subcommission on captured persons and, as required, joint military teams on captured persons to assist the commission in its tasks.

(c) From the time the cease-fire comes into force to the time when the Two-Party Joint Military Commission becomes operational, the two South Vietnamese parties shall, in addition to the teams established by the protocol concerning the cease-fire in South Vietnam and the Joint Military Commission, a subcommission on captured persons and, as required, joint military teams on captured persons to assist the commission in its tasks.

**ARTICLE 12**

This protocol shall come into effect on the day providing for the return of captured military personnel, foreign citizens and captured and detained Vietnamese civilian personnel at each place in Vietnam where these persons are being returned, and at the last detention places from which these persons will be taken to the places of return.

Within five days after signature of this protocol, each party shall publish the text of the protocol and communicate it to all the captured persons covered by the protocol and being detained by that party.

**ARTICLE 13**

Within five days after signature of this protocol, each party shall publish the text of the protocol and communicate it to all the captured persons covered by the protocol and being detained by that party.

**2-Party Version**

Protocol to the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam Concerning the Return of Captured Military Personnel and Foreign Civilians and Captured and Detained Vietnamese Civilian Personnel

The Government of the United States of America, with the concurrence of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam, having in mind the provisions of the above-mentioned articles, have agreed as follows:
Transcript of Le Duc Tho's News Conference in Paris on Vietnam Accord

PARIS, Jan. 24 [Reuters]—Following, in unofficial translation from the French, is a transcript of Le Duc Tho's news conference today:

Dear friends, the struggle of the Vietnamese people for independence and liberty has lasted nearly 30 years. In particular, the resistance in the last 13 years with its many trials was the most difficult in the history of our people's struggle against foreign invasion over several centuries. It is also the most murderous war in the history of the movement of national liberation of the oppressed peoples throughout the world.

Finally, this war has deeply stirred the conscience of mankind.

The negotiations between our Government and the Government of the United States of America for a peaceful settlement of the Vietnamese problem have lasted nearly five years and have gone through many particularly difficult and tense moments. But we have overcome all obstacles and we have at last reached the agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Vietnam.

This agreement will be officially signed in Paris in a few days.

The just cause triumphs over the evil cause. The will to live in freedom triumphs over cruelty.

The conclusion of such an agreement represents a very big victory for the Vietnamese people. It is the crowning of a valiant struggle waged in unity by the army and the people of Vietnam on all fronts, at the price of countless sacrifices and privations.

A Very Big Victory

It is a very big victory for the fighting solidarity of the peoples of the three countries of Indochina who have always fought side by side against the common enemy for independence and liberty.

It is a very great victory for the Socialist countries, the oppressed peoples and all the peace-loving and justice-loving peoples throughout the world, including the American people, who have demonstrated their solidarity and given devoted assistance to the just struggle of our people.

The return of peace in Vietnam will be greeted with immense joy by our people. At the same time, it will answer the hope which has so long been harbored by the American people and the peace-loving peoples in the world.

With the return of peace, the struggle of the Vietnamese people enters a new period. Our people, lifting high the banner of peace and of national concord, is decided to strictly apply the clauses of the agreement maintaining peace, independence and democracy and heading toward the peaceful reunification of its country.

It will also have to rebuild its war-devastated country and consolidate and develop its friendly relations with all the peoples of the world, including the American people.

Big Tasks Lie Ahead

Heavy tasks still await us in this new period. But the Vietnamese in the North as in the South, at home as abroad, rich in their traditions of unity and perseverance in struggle, following a just policy, strengthened by the close solidarity of the peoples of Laos and Cambodia and benefiting from strong aid from the Socialist countries and all the peace-loving countries of the world, will be able to smooth out all difficulties and victoriously accomplish their tasks.

At a time when peace is dawning on our country, in the name of the Government and people of Vietnam we wish to address our warm thanks to the Socialist countries, to the governments of many countries and to the peoples of the entire world for the sympathy they have shown toward the just struggle of the Vietnamese people and for the active help given in all fields.

In the past years, how many fighters for peace in many countries have known repression and prison, and certainly even sacrificed their lives in the fight they carried out to support the resistance of the Vietnamese people. These noble internationalists felt the reality of a big victory for the Vietnamese people and these sublime sacrifices occupy forever a place in our hearts.

The signature of the "Agreement for the Cessation of War and the Re-establishment of Peace in Vietnam" is only a first victory, because the task of strictly applying the agreement is important.

Application of Agreement

Anxious to maintain peace, independence and democracy and heading toward reunification of the country, the Vietnamese people will act in a unified manner to insure the correct and serious application of the clauses of the agreement which will be signed in a few days, and at the same time it will show vigilance towards reactionaries who try to sabotage the agreement.

But we must say that the situation in our country and in the world is developing in an extremely favorable way for the cause of the Vietnamese people.

We have the conviction that the dark designs of the reactionary forces in the country and abroad to obstruct the application of the agreement, or to sabotage it, can only fail.

The Vietnamese people has, therefore, every reason to believe in the victorious accomplishment of its tasks in the new period. No reactionary force will be able to slow down the march forward of the Vietnamese people.

I have finished my statement and I now reserve 20 minutes for questions and replies.

Questions and Answers

Q. Where will the scheduled international conference take place? Have the Americans dropped their objections to your proposals to hold it in Paris?

A. The victory of the Vietnamese people is due, above all, to the Vietnamese people's own efforts in its resistance for independence and true freedom. But this victory cannot be separated from the powerful and vigorous help brought by the Socialist countries, by the working class of the whole world and by the oppressed peoples in the whole world.

I will now reply to your second question. I am a Communist, and according to Marxist-Leninist theories so long as imperialism persists in the world there will still be war.
A. As regards the international conference and the location of the conference, the American side and our side are in the process of discussing this question and we have not yet reached a final decision.

Q. Is the January agreement different from the October agreement?

A. Basically, as regards the agreement we reached in the month of October, 1972, and the agreement we reached in the month of January, 1973, the contents are the same.

You can make the comparison, comparing the texts of the agreement of the month of October, 1972, and the agreement of the month of January, 1973.

‘No More Problems’

Q. Aside from the conference site, after the signature of the agreements, are there other subjects for discussion between you and the United States?

My second question is, I note a difference between the resume of the agreements of October and those you have shown us and the fact that you talk of negotiations between the concerned South Vietnamese parties. Is there a date fixed for this?

A. After the end of the negotiations, the completion of the agreement and the annex protocols between the American side and our side there are more formalities to be solved. Everything has been completed. That is to say the only thing we will have to discuss will be the site of the conference of international guarantees.

But according to the agreement, the guarantees of international character will be called one month after the signature of the agreement. We still have time to solve this question.

Q. After the start of the ceasefire, the South Vietnamese sides will immediately meet to settle the internal questions of South Vietnam. Naturally the two South Vietnamese sides will meet and fix the final dates for the start of their work.

Q. Aside from the four protocols you have just handed to us, are there other protocols which have not been published and are these other tacit annex agreements which have not been published?

A. There is one agreement and four protocols—all the documents which have just been distributed are the result of a negotiation which was negotiated between the two sides.

What Will Happen?

Q. You said earlier that the agreement would be initiated by the P.R.G. as a government. President Thieu as well as Mr. Tran Van Lam said yesterday that they would refuse to sign a document on which they found the signature of the P.R.G. as a government. What will happen exactly?

A. The situation in South Vietnam can be characterized in this way.

The agreement which will be signed between the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the United States and in the document which will be signed by the four sides at the Paris conference by the four foreign affairs ministers, on January 27.

Q. Last night President Nixon said the United States continued to admit the Sai-

A. [Translated by interpreter into English.] The provisions in Vietnam are quite different from those in Korea.

Q. [Russian]. On the possibility of disagreement of the United States side dropped completely this proposal of Dr. Kissinger, Minister Thuy and myself we repeatedly discussed this question.

We have completely rejected this question because, literally speaking, this allegation has no point— is pointless.

And finally, the United States side dropped completely this proposal of the United States side and we can find no word, not a single word implying the presence of the so-called North Vietnamese troops.

Q. The negotiations have been held in France. What do you think of the role of France?

A. The negotiations have lasted for nearly five years and during this period of time I can say that the French Government has made an appreciable contribution.

Reunification Situation

Q. (In English, on whether the reunification situation in Vietnam could be compared with that in Germany or Korea.)

A. [Translated by interpreter into English.] The conditions in Vietnam are quite different from those in Korea and Germany.

Moreover, the 1954 Geneva agreement recognized the independence, the sovereignty, the unity and territorial integrity of Vietnam and stipulated that the 17th Parallel is only a provisional military demarcation line. It can in no way be interpreted as a political or territorial boundary.

Moreover, the Geneva agreement of 1954 provided that general elections should be held, organized with a view to reuniting the country.

But these provisions have not been implemented over the past years.

As to the historical causes of this nonimplementation of the general agreement which we repeatedly expounded to you, I think it is unnecessary to repeat here.

Now in the current agreement, there is an explicit provision for the United States, as are other countries, should contribute to the reunification of Vietnam.

And naturally these bombings in no way helped the negotiations. On the contrary, they contributed to delay the negotiations. Besides, I already had the opportunity of discussing this with you the last time.

But in the end, our side and the American side reached agreement. It is a
very great victory for our people.

Vietnamese-American Ties

Q. (On future relations between the United States and North Vietnam, and on the October draft agreement.)
A. On this subject, Article 22 states that the cessation of the war will establish the peace of Vietnam as well as the strict application of the present accord will create conditions for the establishment between the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the United States of new relations of equality and mutual advantage on the basis of mutual respect, independence, sovereignty and reciprocal noninterference in the internal affairs of each country.

As far as the draft project of October is concerned, we already have given extracts of its main points.

Q. What will be the fate of Saigon's political prisoners?
A. The fate of Saigon's political prisoners is clearly discussed in Article 8(c) of the agreement. It is certain that the sides should free all political prisoners.

Q. Could you indicate the zones controlled by the Saigon Government and the P.R.G., and the number of residents in them?
A. When the cease-fire becomes effective, there will be very clearly indications on this question of the zones controlled by the two parties.

Q. What is the number of inhabitants of the zones?
A. Inhabitants of the zones?
Q. Where will the South Vietnamese parties meet, in Paris or in South Vietnam itself?
A. The two South Vietnamese parties will meet in Paris or in South Vietnam itself?
Q. And, secondly, what provisions have been made for bringing about a cease-fire in Laos and Cambodia?
A. The cease-fire will take place in Laos and Cambodia.

Q. After the cease-fire is determined for the complete withdrawal from South Vietnam of United States forces and those countries allied with the United States. This is also the trial period for the dismantling of U.S. military bases in South Vietnam, and this is also the trial period for the total release of captured military personnel of the parties. All these things can be done within 60 days.
Q. (On the third force.)
A. The two South Vietnamese parties will start consultation to fix the composition of the National Council of Concord.

Q. Have the four countries of the International Control Commission agreed to participate?
A. (Translated into English by interpreter.) They have accepted to be members of the I.C.C. and the commission begins operating immediately after the cease-fire comes into effect.
Q. Have Canada, Poland, Hungary and Indonesia agreed to participate in the commission? A. They have.
Q. (On possible difficulties of talks in October being due to controversy over number of members of the International Control Commission.)
A. As far as the October difficulties are concerned, there were several reasons, not only the reason concerned with the International Commission. Concerning the number of personnel of the International Commission, we have arrived at an agreement—1,160.

Vietcong in the South

Q. (On contacts between Vietcong and Saigon.)
A. At present, Madame Binh is in Paris. Naturally we await the signature by the four foreign ministers. Naturally after the re-establishment of peace the parties will enter into consultation and there will be no difficulties about movement.

Q. Has the Provisional Revolutionary Government established a capital in South Vietnam?
A. (translated into English by interpreter.) After the restoration of peace, of course the P.R.G. will have its government machinery and mechanisms of its location in South Vietnam. You will know about this. The reason why I cannot tell you the location of the P.R.G. before is because if it is known then the U.S. will bomb it.

Q. How many U.S. military personnel will be based in North Vietnam to supervise the mining operations in the rivers and estuaries?
A. (translated into English by interpreter.) We have come to an agreement on the removal of mines. The U.S. will play the principal role in this removal of mines and we are now discussing such questions with the United States.

Q. How many will be based in North Vietnam?
A. (translated into English by interpreter.) We have not decided on that question. This question, technical questions, are being discussed now. But in any case, there will be a number of Americans admitted to cooperate with the removal of the mines.

Mr. Tho: Thank you to you all. During our long resistance and during the long years of negotiations our journalist friends have closely followed the situation, and I can say you have contributed in part to the re-establishment of peace in Vietnam.

In the name of the Government and the people of Vietnam, I wish to thank you. I have accomplished my task and I will be returning very soon to my country. I wish to take the opportunity to say goodbye and thank you, and since the Vietnamese Tet is close, I wish you a good Vietnamese New Year.