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SPRING PEACE OFFENSIVE OF AMERICAN PEOPLE WELCOMED

Solidarity Meeting

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[Text] Hanoi VNA April 14--A meeting was held here yesterday evening under the sponsorship of the Committee for Solidarity With the American People to welcome the 1970 spring offensive of the American people demanding an end to the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam.

Present at the presidium of the meeting were Prof. Dang Thai Mai, Reverend Ho Thanh Bien and Prof. Nguyen Canh Toan, vice-chairman of the sponsoring committee, Le Thi Xuyen, vice-president of the Vietnam Women's Union, Ho Truc, secretary general of the Viet Nam Youth Federation, Luu Thi Doan, member of the Executive Committee of the Viet Nam Federation of Trade-Unions and Lawyer Pham Thanh Vinh, standing member of the Viet Nam Lawyers' Association.

Truong Cong Dong, acting-head of the special representation of the Republic of South Viet Nam, was present. Also present at the presidium were Noam Chomsky, Douglas Dowd and Richard Fernandez of the American intellectual delegation now visiting Viet Nam.

The meeting was attended by representatives of central and Hanoi public offices and mass organizations, and representatives of the various strata of the Hanoi populations.

Speaking at the meeting, Prof. Nguyen Canh Toan warmly welcomed the spring offensive of the American people for an end to the Viet Nam war, and praised the peace-and justice-loving American people for their firm opposition to the Nixon administration's policy of prolonging the war. He said:

"The spring offensive of the American people is taking place at a time when the U.S. authorities are boasting about the so-called success of their program for "Vietnamizing" the war, seeking thereby to cheat public opinion, while stepping up the war in Viet Nam, increasing their intervention in Laos and staging a coup d'etat in Cambodia, thus causing further tension in Indochina. This has further exposed Nixon's war manoeuvres and deceitful tricks."

After thanking the world's people for their increasing support to the Vietnamese people's patriotic struggle and their vigorous response to the American people's spring offensive, Prof. Nguyen Canh Toan stressed:

"While fighting to win at all costs their fundamental national rights, namely independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, the Vietnamese people have been following with deep sympathy the just struggle of the American people. As Premier Pham Van Dong has said in his message to the American people on October 14, 1970: "Your drive eloquently reflects the legitimate and pressing demand of your people--to save the honour of the United States and to avoid for their boys a useless death in Viet Nam. This is also a very fitting and timely answer to the U.S. authorities who stubbornly persist in intensifying and prolonging the war of aggression in Viet Nam, in defiance of the protests of American and world public opinion."

Speaking on this occasion, Noam Chomsky, Douglas Dowd and Richard Fernandez vehemently condemned the U.S. imperialists' crimes against the Vietnamese people in both zones and demanded that the U.S. authorities bring immediately all U.S. troops home. They paid profound tribute to President Ho Chi Minh and expressed their admiration for the Vietnamese people engaged in a just struggle for independence and freedom, and their confidence in the latter's certain victory.

On behalf of the anti-war movement in the United States, the American guests presented the Vietnamese people with a number of books on the U.S. imperialists' crimes in Son My, South Viet Nam, and on the anti-war campaign of the American people.

The participants in the meeting unanimously adopted a resolution voicing full support to the pressing demands of the American people for a better life and democratic freedoms and for immediate cessation of the Viet Nam war and speedy withdrawal of all U.S. troops from South Viet Nam. The resolution highly valued the American people's struggle and reaffirmed the Vietnamese people's militant solidarity with the American people in the common struggle against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam. It called on all peace-loving and democratic forces in the world to join the Vietnamese and American peoples in denouncing and condemning the Nixon administration for prolonging its war of aggression in South Viet Nam through the so-called "Vietnamization" program, and demanding that it withdraw speedily all U.S. troops without posing any conditions whatsoever.

The resolution wished the American people many new successes in their spring offensive.