

In response to a question, the South Vietnamese [PRG] ambassador, who paid me a farewell visit on [July] 8th, declared, among others, the following:

1) In his view, the North Korean-South Korean joint declaration is [at least] as harmful to the existing but weak South Korean revolutionary forces as it is useful for the relaxation of tension on the Korean Peninsula, because it disarms [the revolutionaries].

2) In his view, for the time being the main beneficiary of the joint declaration is Park Chung Hee, because it reinforces his position.

Comment: it is possible that this is not just the personal opinion of the South Vietnamese ambassador but—taking into consideration the present difficult conditions in Vietnam—also the opinion of Vietnam.

The South Vietnamese ambassador also emphasized that the Vietnamese had supported the idea of [finding] a peaceful solution for the Korean question from the very beginning, and they would also like to solve their own Vietnamese question by peaceful means, but only in a principled way, without giving up their principles. The North Korean-South Korean joint declaration makes one think that the North gave up its principles, but this issue requires further analysis.