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VIII. HANOI COMMENTS ON "VICTORIES" IN ALL OF INDOCHINA

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In their war of aggression in South Viet-Nam, the U.S. imperialists have suffered one setback after another. Particularly since the 1963 Tet Offensive, they have been in a new stalemate in spite of the presence of more than one million U.S., puppet and satellite troops.

Obdurate by nature, they, however, have not been reconciled to failure and have not given up their scheme to cling to South Viet-Nam, intensified the "special war" in Laos, and extended the war to Cambodia.

For their part, the peoples of the three countries of Indo-China are uniting to defeat their common enemy, the U.S. aggressors and vassal troops.

1. South Viet-Nam

In order to drag out the war, the U.S. imperialists are trying to beef up the puppet Army and the puppet administration of Saigon. At the same time, they step up the "pacification" program and launch counter attacks against the revolutionary forces. In spite of all this, the South Viet-Nam Liberation Armed Forces and people have stepped up their armed offensive and popular uprisings in the mountains, the countryside and the towns, recording big victories.

An important part of enemy live force wiped out. The South Viet-Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces have attacked enemy forces anywhere and without let-up, in their "forward defenses" in contested areas, and right in the enemy's urban bases, enemy reserves have also suffered heavy losses.

As a result, last summer more than 100,000 enemy troops were put out of action with the knocking out of over 40 battalions or battalion-sized units.

Alongside the annihilation of enemy regular and mobile forces at outer defenses, the armed forces and people of South Viet-Nam also lashed out at enemy H.Q.'s, bases and supply complexes in the plains, coastal areas, and even in cities.

The liberation forces also made daring inroads on such urban centres as Hoi An, Da Nang, Tra Bong, Go Tram, Ganh Rang, Xuan Phuoc, Hon Ngan, Da Lat, and Saigon.

These attacks increased the U.S. and puppets' passiveness and difficulty and forced the enemy to scatter their forces to cope with the situation. These also gave the liberation forces a greater opportunity to launch repeated attacks the time and places of which were of their own choice.

Armed attacks and popular uprisings very well combined--gradual foiling of enemy "pacification".

In the key areas, such as the coast of Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces, the plains of Central Trung Bo, and Nam Bo, the enemy conducted the "accelerated pacification" and then the "special pacification". Nevertheless, he failed in stopping the vigorous P. L. A. F. attacks and popular uprisings.

The regional forces and guerrillas in particular actively joined the people to defend their bases. Meanwhile, in combination with armed attacks political strikes and proselyting resulted in the dissolution of an important part of the enemy live force.

Enemy coercive forces, thugs, police, and secret agents were wiped out everywhere. Last summer alone, more than half of all the "strategic hamlets" were destroyed. Tens of thousands of thugs, police and secret agents were done away with. Meanwhile millions of people became once again master of their land.

Thus, the enemy's "pacification" program has met with another serious setback.

2. Laos

1970 saw the defeat of the Vang Pao bandits, and the recovery and consolidation of vast areas under the L. P. F. 's control.

Early in the spring, after wiping out an important part of the U.S. - fostered Vang Pao "special forces", the Lao Patriotic Forces recovered the whole of the Plain of Jars-Xieng Khoang region. This gave a hard blow to Nixon's doctrine of making the Lao people fight one another and his formula of U.S. weapons plus puppet infantry tested for the first time in Laos.

After the failure, the U.S. imperialists continued beefing up the Vang Pao "special forces." They urged Thailand mercenaries to enter the scene to help Vang Pao bandits reinforce the Sam Thong-Long Cheng defenses for nibbling attacks on this strategic region. The U.S. also used

its war planes, especially B-52 strategic bombers, to attack the liberated area. U.S. officers directly commanded operation "Thanong Kiet" southwest of the Plain of Jars, operation "Kannha Kiet" in Muong Phin and along Highway 9, etc.

The Lao patriots in the liberated areas fought off all enemy nibbling attacks while intercepting spies, commandos and bandits along the country's eastern border. Along with attacks on Vang Pao "special forces" and Thai mercenaries in Sam Thong-Long Cheng and Nha Hon areas, the Lao Patriotic Forces, in close co-ordination with the Khmer patriots, gave a series of battles in Lower Laos, overrunning Saravane and Attopen towns. The Lao liberated areas now make a long stretch, from North to South, and form with the Cambodian and South Viet-Nam liberated Zones a new battle order.

The Lao patriots' victories in the Plain of Jars-Xieng Khuang, Saravane, Attopen and in other places in the last monsoon resulted in the wireput of some 30,000 enemy, the heavy decimation of the Vang Pao "special forces", a mainstay of the U.S. war in Laos.

3-- Cambodia.

In the first two months of their armed struggle, the Khmer patriots, under the leadership of the National United Front of Kampuchea and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia headed by Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, wiped out 30,000 U.S. and Saigon troops among them nearly 12,000 G.I.s shot down 400 aircraft, destroyed 2,400 military vehicles and hundreds of artillery pieces and mortars.

In a short time, the Cambodian army and people liberated two-thirds of the territory inhabited by nearly three million people. Liberated areas stretch on either side of the Mekong, forming a noose around the enemy in areas of their temporary control.

The Lon Nol puppet administration mustered most of its forces for the defence of Phnom Penh, while launching desperate counter-attacks to break the encirclement. But, they suffered heavy losses, like in Kirirom, Shoun, Teang Kuak, Kompong Cham, Siem Reap, and other places. Dozens of their battalions were annihilated, and many brigades and multi-battalion units were trounced on Highways 4 and 6. The Saigon puppet army shared the same fate in Krek and Chup (Kompong Cham).

Cambodia has become very hot for the enemy. In the first 250 days since the breaking out of hostilities, the Khmer patriots wiped out or disbanded more (than--Ed) 130,000 GIs and Saigon and Phnom Penh troops, knocking out, decimating, or disbanding more than 130 battalions. A number of sector or sub-sector headquarters were disposed of.

Thus 1970 has been a year of very serious military and political setbacks, of both strategic and technical significance, for the enemy on all the three battlefronts of Indochina. Nixon has been in an impasse with his doctrine of making Indochinese fight Indochinese and his effort to Vietnamize the war in South Viet-Nam. It is predictable that he will be in an even more humiliating situation next year, unless he stops being obstinate and bellicose.