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NHAN DAN PRAISES CAMBODIAN VICTORIES DURING PAST MONTH

Hanoi VNA in English 0729 GMT 8 May 73 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 8--The daily NHAN DAN today highlighted the very significant victories gained by the Cambodian patriotic forces since early last month.

The paper said: The battles that took place in the more than one month past were very well fought annihilation battles, in which the Cambodian National People's Liberation Armed Forces wiped out sizeable numbers of enemy troops on several fronts, captured or overran a series of basecamps and positions, and liberated many important [word indistinct] in Kampot, the Cambodian patriotic forces [words indistinct] nine days razed 17 positions, put out of action over 3,000 enemy including 200 taken prisoner, and seized 500 assorted guns and 50 tons of munitions. In a single action on May 3, the Cambodian patriots eliminated two Phnom Penh airborne battalions near Neak Luong, killing or wounding 60 (six hundred) [confirmation as received] men.

Meanwhile, the Cambodian patriots continually and violently intercepted supply convoys along highways 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, and the Mekong River, interdicting almost all accesses to Phnom Penh. In an ambush on Highway 4, they destroyed 46 military trucks and armoured cars. Another ambush on the Mekong left the Lon Nol army with 14 military vessels set ablaze or damaged.

Phnom Penh, the last hideout of the Lon Nol clique, has become an increasingly hot place for the latter with its defence lines being breached only a dozen [word indistinct] kilometres from its centre. In one place, the Cambodian patriots were reported to be barely a few kilometres from the heart of Phnom Penh. On April 25 and 26, the Cambodian liberation forces twice struck at Pochentong airport, burning 21 aircraft, badly damaging 15 others, and killing or injuring 200 enemy.

Besides, the Cambodian patriots have won new successes in the agitation propaganda among puppet troops and public employees. In Takeo, Kampot and other places, a growing number of public employees and troops and officers of the Phnom Penh puppet administration have deserted and crossed over to the Cambodian national liberation front.

The paper continued: The Cambodian patriotic forces have won big victories at a time when the U.S. imperialists are intensifying their armed aggression, mobilizing hundreds of aircraft into the most savage bombings ever known in Cambodia.

This has brought out the heroism and rapid progress in organisation and combat of the Cambodian National People's Liberation Armed Forces.

The crushing blows delivered by the Cambodian patriotic forces recently have further aggravated the political crisis in Phnom Penh, and show that like the "Vietnamisation" and "Laotianisation" policies, the "Khmerization of the war" policy will only end in disastrous failure, NHAN DAN concluded.

VPA JOURNAL COMMENT ANALYZES CAMBODIANS' OFFENSIVE, GAINS

Hanoi in Vietnamese to Vietnam 0000 GMT 6 May 73 S

[Commentary by Anh Nguyen in TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN, April 1973: "The Cambodian Armed Forces and People Attack Violently and Win Resounding Victories"]

[Text] Entering the spring of 1973, the Cambodian armed forces' and people's extremely valiant struggle is being waged violently and on a large scale on both the military and political fronts, with a continuous, tremendous offensive strength and resounding, all-round victories.

By their violent military offensive the patriotic Cambodian armed forces have repeatedly dealt excruciating blows to the Phnom Penh puppet forces, have scored many glorious armed exploits against the enemy's strategic communications lines, and have tightened the siege around the capital of Phnom Penh.

The fighting continues violently around Phnom Penh. The patriotic Cambodian armed forces have constantly attacked, encircled, and thwarted many sallying operations by the enemy, and have captured many important positions such as (Chatian Thnot), (Vichear Hhuk), and (Candann). The offensive siege around the capital of Phnom Penh tightens every day. According to incomplete statistics released by AKI, in the first 3 months of 1973 the Cambodian armed forces and people annihilated and captured 30,000 enemy troops; leveled 100 military posts; claimed complete control over five strategic communications routes--1, 2, 3, 4, and 5; cut off transportation on the Mekong River; and brought to a complete halt the supplying of grain, munitions, and fuel to the Phnom Penh puppets.

Some of the striking features of the Cambodian armed forces' and people's military offensive in the spring of 1973 are as follows:

All three troop categories of the CPNLF have flexibly applied various combat forms and maneuvers and have conducted repeated and violent attacks on the enemy on all battlefields. Simultaneously surrounding the enemy to annihilate him when he withdraws into defensive fortifications and intercepting rescue reinforcements, the CPNLF has caused many heavy losses in terms of manpower and war materiel to the enemy, driven it deeper into a strategically passive position, and made its organization and morale decline irresistibly; has repeatedly cut off the enemy's entire key network of communications routes, including roadways and waterways, thus rendering the enemy unable to send his forces to rescue one another and creating a position of surrounding, splitting, and eliminating the enemy on very favorable battlefields; and at the same time has destroyed his source of supplies, thus placing him in a very difficult defensive position and weakening his resistance every day.

The CPNLF has simultaneously opened attacks to liberate various cities and towns in the outer belt while tightening the siege around the Phnom Penh capital, bringing the revolutionary war close to the enemy's main lair and further expanding the liberated areas over many densely populated and rich areas of great importance in the political, economic, and national defense fields. On the other hand, the areas under the enemy's temporary control, including the capital of Phnom Penh, have been further reduced daily and are under critical siege. The enemy's rear has become more confused each day.

These military offensive blows, together with the political struggle movement, have developed a great offensive strength that is driving the Lon Nol puppet administration into a deep political crisis right in the capital of Phnom Penh. People of all strata, including monks, professors, newspaper editors, politicians, workers, officials, and troops of the puppet administration in areas still under the enemy's temporary control, have participated in struggles in many vivid and rich forms to resist the Lon Nol clique's fascist and despotic regime. Tens of thousands of workers in many factories in Phnom Penh have gone on strike, held demonstrations, and started their struggle not only for improvements in the people's living conditions and democracy but also to display their opposition and demand the overthrow of the reactionary lackey Lon Nol administration.

In particular, the teachers and students in Phnom Penh during their class strike on 17 March held aloft slogans reading "The Lon Nol government kills the Khmer people" and "Those who became millionaires after 18 March must be hanged." The struggle movement to vehemently condemn the Lon Nol clique's fascist and family-ruled regime not only has the sympathy and support of various strata of monks, intellectuals, workers, and people in the cities and towns but has also drawn the attention of a majority of the puppet administration's and army's personnel.

UPI on 6 April 1973 admitted: An antiwar and mass desertion movement is rapidly spreading along the defensive lines of the government forces--that is, the Lon Nol puppet forces--especially along routes 1 and 2, where the fighting is violent.

AP reported on 26 February 1973 that an entire besieged battalion stationed some 11 kms from Tram Khnar had joined the guerrillas' ranks. Also, according to this report, one week earlier a battalion that had been considered a shock battalion and was frequently sent to fight the fiercest battles drove, along with its commander, to the capital aboard transport vehicles and staged a demonstration in front of the palace of the president--meaning Lon Nol--to protest not being paid and not being supplied adequately with food.

On 17 March a patriotic officer piloted a Phnom Penh puppet air force plane and bombed Lon Nol's palace, annihilating a Phnom Penh puppet unit defending the presidential palace. As a result of this bombing a number of high-ranking officials in the U.S. lackey puppet administration, including ministers, were killed or wounded.

In recent months, frightened by the masses' military offensive blows and their fierce political struggle movement, the Lon Nol clique has carried out scores of fascist measures. These included forming anti-riot police forces and placing the nation under a status of danger so as to intensively repress and terrorize the patriots who opposed the Lon Nol clique's rotten regime, and even those who cooperated closely with this clique in the so-called Government of the Khmer Republic

Sirik Matak, former vice president in the Lon Nol puppet government who is now under Lon Nol's surveillance, stated that this regime--meaning Lon Nol's regime--would not survive for long because the people did not support it.

Together with the resounding victories of the Cambodian armed forces and people on all battlefields, the recent visit of historic significance to the liberated zone by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk was a resounding political victory in Cambodia and in the world. This eloquently proves the strength of unity and singlemindedness of all the Cambodian people's resistance forces within the NUFC and around the RGNUC, as well as the Cambodian people's unshakable love and admiration for and unity with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, the sole head of state and the representative of the legality, genuineness, and continuity of the Cambodian state. This increasingly motivates and exalts the fighting spirit of the Cambodian armed forces and people, who are determined to overcome all sacrifices and fierce challenges and advance enthusiastically and defeat the U.S. imperialists' cruel war of aggression.

The Cambodian people's resounding victories in recent months were very great, comprehensive victories of great strategic significance. These victories dealt the Cambodianization strategy a deadly blow, created a very favorable new situation for the Cambodian revolution, and are leading the Cambodian national liberation struggle to total victory.

To save the Cambodianization strategy from disastrous failure and the Lon Nol regime from collapse, the U.S. imperialists are intensively escalating an unprecedentedly barbarous air war in Cambodia. For more than 40 days the U.S. imperialists have deployed the entire U.S. strategic air force in Southeast Asia to frenziedly conduct destructive bombings and towering crimes in the Cambodian liberated areas, while brazenly sending the Saigon puppet army and Thai mercenary troops to invade Cambodian territory. But it is obvious that the U.S. imperialists cannot reverse the situation.

Many Western newsmen and U.S. political circles pointed out that inasmuch as the U.S. air war and more than 15 millions of tons of U.S. bombs and shells--together with a U.S. expeditionary corps composed of more than half a million men, considered the most powerful army of the free world--could not save the Vietnamization strategy, how can the U.S. strategic air force's present massive intervention in Cambodia save an ally--meaning puppet Lon Nol--from its death throes?

Sharing the same fate as the Vietnamization and Laoization strategies, the Cambodianization policy obviously faces the danger of an uncheckable, complete collapse in the face of the offensive whirlwind of the Cambodian revolution.

By refusing to draw a lesson from their failure in Vietnam and Laos, by stubbornly continuing to carry out their dark aggressive scheme with Cambodianization plan, by continuing to cling to the rotten Lon Nol regime, and by prolonging and escalating the war, the U.S. imperialists will certainly become bogged down and be defeated even more seriously by the heroic Cambodian armed forces' and people's staunch and inevitably victorious fight.