

TWO FACES OF NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT PROPAGANDA

Depending on the audience to which it is addressed, National Liberation Front (NFLSV) propaganda on its foreign policy can vary from dulcet, sweetly reasonable tones to the vituperative language of world revolution.

In its reasonable side, it claims merely to represent the just aspirations of South Vietnamese patriots for independence and freedom; but when speaking to Communist and particularly Chinese hosts, it claims to be in the vanguard of the so-called worldwide Communist movement for national liberation.

A typical example of NFLSV propaganda directed at neutrals or Westerners it seeks to win over was given in a December 20 English-language broadcast to American servicemen when NFLSV foreign policy was described as follows:

It considers that South Vietnam should become independent and neutral. It is always ready to establish diplomatic relations with all countries without regard to their different political systems. On the military side, South Vietnam should not participate in any bloc nor sign any military alliance with any country. An independent and neutral South Vietnam is ready to receive economic aid ... from all countries. The foreign policy of the NFLSV reflects the interests and legitimate aspirations of our southern compatriots, who want to live in peace and freedom, to build the country, and to live in peace and friendship with all nations. It is in conformity with the 1954 Geneva agreements.

This siren song appealed for outside sympathy and support to a group of patriots in a single country seeking independence and freedom so as to live in "peace and friendship" with all nations. Like the "unbattled farmers" of the American Revolution, according to this propaganda, the patriots merely desire to terminate "foreign aggression" and live happily ever after.

Characteristically of Communist propaganda, the other face is quite different. Here, the South Vietnam battle is seen as only one battlefield in a worldwide struggle. The so-called liberation movement in South Vietnam admittedly affects Laos, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic and Congo Leopoldville. Results here are said to be a touchstone of Communist success everywhere and the adherents of world revolution make it clear that unless defeated in South Vietnam, the same fundamental leadership will strike out elsewhere.

In a talk broadcast by Radio Peking to a Chinese mass rally honoring the fifth anniversary of the NFLSV (December 19), Tran Van Thanh, head of the permanent delegation of the NFLSV to Communist China, explained Front foreign policy in the strategical terms of a convinced Communist speaking frankly to his supporters.

The victory won by the South Vietnam people in the past five years is a victory of a nation which has followed the correct revolutionary line, which is united and awake, and which is determined to fight to the end for independence and peace. The spearhead of this victory is pointed against U.S. imperialism, head of all imperialism. The liberation of our fatherland is a contribution to the national liberation movement of the whole world. The South Vietnam people realize that it is their historical mission to be vanguard in the national liberation movement. The South Vietnamese people take the task of defeating U.S. imperialism in South Vietnam as support for the struggle for liberation by the people of Laos, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic and Congo Leopoldville and as their obligated duty ... If the special warfare of U.S. imperialism can be defeated in South Vietnam, it will be possible to defeat it anywhere else in the world.

The second face of NFLSV propaganda, shown openly by Front representatives inside the Communist family, makes it clear that Viet Cong warfare in South Vietnam is directed not only against the Government of South Vietnam and the United States but, by application, against legitimate and representative non-Communist governments throughout the world.

On the occasion of July 20th (Anniversary of the 1954 cease fire) efforts will be made to counter the herding of people and construction of Strategic Hamlets.

I. Since the 1st of the year, the enemy has concentrated all his efforts, engaged all his forces and employed the most savage methods to herd the people into Strategic Hamlets. He has obtained some results in extending his control, consolidating part of the areas under his control and causing more difficulties to our activities. Supported by the concentration camps, Strategic Hamlets, the enemy carries out more effectively a number of plans, such as drafting, pillaging, oppressing, terrorizing the people, confusing their morale, conducting economic blockade, appealing to surrender, etc...

Our movement of struggle in the recent past has partly hampered the execution of above plans. It has limited his activities, loosen his control and caused an unquiet situation. In some areas the installations which were previously driven out have been re-installed. In others, the installations have been developed, consolidated and are capable of causing many difficulties and embarrassments to the enemy. But, generally speaking, we have not yet stopped or shoved back these enemy plots; on the contrary they are progressing rapidly. Such a situation has discouraged a number of cadres and Party members because the enemy has many capabilities of concentrating his efforts and terrorizing savagely in order to carry out these plots. But the main cause still rests in the deficiencies of our leadership, in our failure to fully realize the enemy plot, in our lack of efforts to concentrate forces, increase sabotage, intensify guerilla warfare, strengthen counter - mop up activities for his attrition, employ in maximum the rudimentary weapons, employ the armed forces in countering the enemy herding of people into Strat- Hamlets.

In parallel with our developing movement of armed struggle, the movement against the herding of people into Strategic Hamlets was also intensified and obtained a number of considerable successes. In several areas, sabotage was conducted in series against 5 or 7 Strategic Hamlets and political, military and troop proselyting means were employed to initiate the people to sabotage 20 or 30 other Hamlets. Elsewhere, our guerillas built their secret caches and attacked the enemy right in Strategic Hamlets. Or we set up cells and proselyted the SDC, Combat Youth, Republican Youth to turn their weapons against the enemy, kill his troops and loosen his control. In particular, in some areas, the masses violently opposed their herding (into Strategic Hamlets) with all legal and semi-legal means and employed troop proselyting methods to embarrass the enemy and cause more confidence for the people. In spite of his

efforts, the enemy is encountering many obstacles and important weaknesses. More than ever, he is politically in, and. The morale of his troops and civil servants is sagging because of the heavy losses they have suffered. Most of the troops sympathize with and support the struggle by the people against the construction of Strategic Hamlets. The more Strategic Hamlets he constructs, the less capable the enemy will be to defend them because he is short of troops. If he disperses them, it will be easier for us to attack them with troop proselyting and to destroy them....

So, the weaknesses and difficulties of the enemy are our strengths and advantages. With our experience and countering methods, we will be capable of co-ordinating the political, military and troop proselyting actions to sabotage the concentration zones, Strategic hamlets and to intensify the Movement if we have good determination and leadership.

II. To intensify strongly and rapidly the movement against Strategic Hamlets, we should re-study our plans and their execution. Following are some points to be reminded:

1/ It is to be realized that the enemy plan to concentrate the people into Strategic Hamlets is due to his inability to control the people and the people's "revolutionary tide". For this reason, he must employ the military forces to imprison the people for his control, to isolate the people from the Revolution. This plan is part of the long range plot of MY DIEM's aggressive war; it is a matter of life or death for their regime. So, as long as they survive, they will be determined to carry out this Plan. In addition to their main efforts in the military field, they employ all their political, economic and cultural capabilities as well as all the measures of violence, bribery, cheating, appeal to surrender...They have many capabilities and facilities, such as weapons, money, forces. In carrying out their plot, they encounter many unsolvable contradictions and the more efforts they make the more contradictions they will show.

2/ Since the enemy plot is a long range military plan, it must be countered by a violent and long lasting people's guerilla war. In the sabotage of Strategic Hamlets, the role of the people's armed forces is decisive while the masses of political forces are the backbone of the armed forces. The important role of Troop Proselyting should also be developed.

For the Plan against the construction of Strategic Hamlets, following requirement should be met:

- In our base area, we should be determined not to let the enemy herd the people.

...the strong areas, sabotage will be on a small scale to large scale until complete destruction and formation of Strategic Hamlets into Combat Villages, and Hamlets.

- In enemy controlled areas, we should loosen his control raise the masses political movement, develop and build up the installations inside (the Strategic Hamlets) to ensure and preserve the outside activities. The secret self defense forces inside will be only employed to follow up the enemy situation, to eliminate secretly the cruel enemy elements and to coordinate their activities with the armed forces outside.

3/ Because of above requirements, different methods will be applied for different areas:

- In our base areas, we should develop guerilla warfare and anti-mop up actions against enemy herding of people into Strategic Hamlets. For the existing Hamlets, determined efforts will be made sabotage them.
- We should plan to sabotage in series the strategic hamlets in one area at a time. We should avoid the meaningless harassment which only make the enemy more alert. A plan should be available to prepare the sabotage actions. When the concentrated forces are needed, careful planning should be made like for an attack on post in order to ensure the success. When sabotaging the hamlets one by one or in series, the first objectives in the hamlets should be rapidly secured for use as stepping stones for other actions. At the same time, preparation will be made against a possible enemy operation.
- In the areas where our forces are still weak, efforts should be made to eliminate the enemy village and Hamlet Council members, spies, and to destroy the Strategic Hamlets fence. For this latter mission, coordination should be made between the forces outside and inside the hamlets in order to ensure its success. Preparation should be adequately made for the forces inside the SH's until they are strong enough for the task!

In the areas where the enemy does not have troops, we should build up Combat Villages. In the areas which the enemy can re-occupy we should have a number of secret installations ready to operate within the enemy ranks while the outside forces should be prepared for action. In the areas where the enemy organizes and equips Combat Youth, Self-Defense Corps and Armed forces, we should make efforts to proselyte these forces to turn against the enemy and to Destroy the SH's.

For the elimination of Montagnard Village Council, actions should be carefully planned according to the masses aspirations and approved by the

Province Committee Efforts will be concentrated to attacks the armed forces and seize their weapons for the Front, for the countering of SH construction. Our present mission also consists of helping the people's life, production and the defense of their interests.

Province, District and Village Committees will base on their past experiences to carry out successfully this Plan. They should concentrate all their efforts to destroy in series the Strategic Hamlets. This mission must be given first priority. The more he is defeated, the more the enemy will bang on this plot of his. Under any circumstances, we should never under-estimate him: the more success we obtain, the more efforts we will make to overcome the difficulties, to destroy enemy plot, and to force him into a position without a way until his final collapse in South VIET NAM.

This is how the Viet Cong saw it!

Translation of document captured in Tay Ninh
Province, 15 August, 1963.