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QUAN DOI NHAN DAN DISCUSSES NIXON WAR POLICY

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[Article by Quyet Thang in July issue of QUAN DOI NHAN DAN magazine: "The New Development in the General Offensive and Concerted Uprisings in the Southern Revolutionary War"]

[Text] Since he entered the White House, Nixon has stubbornly continued to pursue the U.S. aggressive policy in South Vietnam. Johnson's war has become Nixon's war, directed toward implementing the U.S. imperialists' increasingly obvious scheme of remedying their defeated situation, acquiring a position of strength on the battlefield, gaining time to consolidate the puppet army and administration, gradually carrying out the so-called de-Americanization or Vietnamization of the war, and, thereby, insuring that the U.S. imperialists successfully maintain their neocolonialism in South Vietnam.

After developing their clear-and-hold strategy in late 1968, the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys hoped that they could drive that war away from the cities, effectively check the attacks and uprisings of the southern armed forces and people, keep U.S. forces from sustaining extensive losses, consolidate the puppet army so that it might gradually replace U.S. troops, and patch up the puppet administration.

But realities have emerged at complete variance with the U.S. imperialists' expectations. Developing their great, comprehensive victories in 1968, the southern armed forces and people have since early 1969 stepped up their general offensive and concerted uprisings, launching all-out, relentless, and widespread attacks against the enemy in the mountainous, rural delta, and urban areas, and winning increasingly great victories. The southern armed forces and people have launched violent attacks, winning great victories on all battlefields.

The armed forces and people of Tay Ninh, Saigon, Gia Dinh, Bien Hoa, Long Khanh, Binh Long, Phuoc Long, and Da Nang launched relentless attacks, winning successive victories. The armed forces and people of Gia Lai, Kontum, Tri-Thien, Ben Tre, My Tho, An Giang, Binh Thuan, and Tuyen Duc made outstanding efforts and, in coordination with the armed forces and people throughout the south, scored glorious armed exploits.

Most outstanding were the concerted, violent, and relentless attacks launched in early Ky Dau spring, in May, and in June this year against hundreds of important enemy military targets, including those in the cities, provincial capitals, and U.S., puppet, and satellite command posts, and against dozens of airfields and logistics complexes, in which the southern armed forces and people inflicted serious losses on the enemy in strength and in war equipment.

In harmonious coordination with the military attacks, the southern armed forces and people in many rural and suburban areas under temporary enemy control have arisen, annihilating the pacification tyrants, destroying enemy bondage, and regaining mastership.

At a time when the enemy has claimed that he has developed and perfected his defensive strategy throughout the southern war theater, the southern armed forces' and people's very great, comprehensive victories during the first 6 months of this year are highly significant--militarily and politically--and have vigorously advanced the general offensive and concerted uprisings.

These victories have bankrupted many subjective calculations of the U.S. aggressors, driving their strategy further and irreversibly toward bankruptcy.

1--The southern armed forces and people, who have acquired increasingly great capabilities, have annihilated a substantial part of U.S., puppet, and satellite military forces, directing a serious blow at the U.S. imperialists' strategic defensive forces.

Some of the outstanding features displayed by the FLAF in annihilating enemy troops in the recent past are that U.S. troops have sustained very serious casualties, which amounted to about half the total number of enemy troops annihilated over the past 6 months. The weekly U.S. casualty toll during the first 14 weeks of the Nixon administration almost doubled that recorded during the last 14 weeks of the Johnson administration, according to AP on 16 June 1969.

Almost all U.S. strategic, mobile divisions, especially the famous ones--namely, the 25th Infantry, the Americal, the 1st Air Cavalry, and the 101st Airborne divisions--have sustained serious losses.

Brigade after brigade of many U.S. divisions--the 25th, the 1st Air Cavalry, and 101st Airborne divisions--were knocked out. Many U.S. troop detachments at the defensive belts around Saigon, Da Nang, and Hue were destroyed, as were troop detachments at the key belts in the U.S. defensive network. Many U.S. command posts, from brigades to larger units, and many large bases were repeatedly attacked. A substantial part of the U.S. potential and war equipment was destroyed.

The raid conducted by the armed forces and people in western Thua Thien on the night of 13 to 14 May destroyed a brigade command post and a battalion command post of the 101st Airborne Division and killed or wounded 400 enemy, including more than 100 U.S. officers. The U.S. 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment was vigorously attacked by the armed forces and people in Binh Long, losing 500 military vehicles, including 400 tanks and armored personnel carriers.

Various puppet divisions were dealt very painful blows. Regiment after regiment of these divisions were knocked out, and various puppet infantry battalions and armored vehicle companies were destroyed. The 18th and 25th divisions in the 3d Corps tactical zone, the 7th Division in the 4th Corps tactical zone, the 2d Division in the 1st Corps tactical zone, the Airborne Division of the puppet general reserve forces, and so forth suffered heavy losses.

Four infantry battalions of the puppet 18th Division were destroyed--two battalions of the 43d Regiment and two battalions of the 52d Regiment. Two armored vehicle companies suffered heavy losses, and three other infantry battalions, two regiment and division command posts, and a regiment were knocked out.

In northern Kontum, from 25 May to 1 June 1969, the armed forces and people in Dakto knocked out the puppet 2d Ranger Group and destroyed two battalions. The satellite troops, such as the mercenary Thai and Pak Chong-hui troops, were dealt painful blows. One Thai battalion after another was destroyed by the armed forces and people in Bien Hoa.

Concerning war equipment, thousands of planes, thousands of military vehicles, hundreds of big guns, hundreds of ships and combat boats, hundreds of thousands of tons of bombs and ammunition, and tens of millions of liters of gasoline and oil were destroyed or burned. This seriously reduced the U.S. strategic reserves in the south.

We all are aware of the battles in which a substantial part of the U.S. war equipment and supply bases was destroyed. In these battles, our armed forces and people burned 90 million liters of gasoline in Qui Nhon, attacked the Da Nang port, attacked and destroyed hundreds of helicopters at the Dong Tam airbase in My Tho, annihilated a substantial part of the enemy's potential and destroyed many planes and the supply base of the 3d Brigade and the U.S. 25th Infantry Division headquarters in Dong Du, and so forth.

Despite the enemy's belief that he had perfected his defensive strategy, and despite his seeking every means possible to reduce his losses--especially for the U.S. forces--and to cope with our attacks, these victories aided the new stage of development of the military offensive spearhead of the southern revolutionary war, in general, and showed significant progress in PLAF ability to fight annihilating battles. All the three troop categories of the PLAF have made new progress in fighting annihilating battles, in conducting coordinated attacks or engaging in guerrilla activities, and in fighting large, medium, or small battles on all battlefields, from the jungle and mountain areas to the rural areas, plains, and cities. Our attacks have been directed at the U.S., puppet, and satellite troops and their potential and war equipment, especially their important potential and war equipment. We have attacked the enemy in every circumstance--when he conducts military operations, bivouacs, sets out for combat, or remains at his bases.

The outstanding achievements in annihilating many U.S. and puppet military forces are the PLAF's success in annihilating many of the enemy's mobile forces, including the strategic mobile forces and the mobile forces in each area, especially the U.S. mobile forces. Significant is that the U.S. imperialists have encountered increasing difficulties in replacing the increasingly heavier U.S. losses in South Vietnam. The very great enemy casualties, especially those suffered by U.S. troops in the first 6 months of 1969, have confused and panicked the leaders at the White House and in the Pentagon, stirred U.S. public opinion, and increasingly shaken the U.S. imperialists' aggressive spirit.

The New York TIMES on 9 March admitted that the unexpected twofold increase in U.S. casualties in South Vietnam during the liberation troops' Ky Dau spring offensive was a new bitter manifestation of the high cost of the present war, reflecting more clearly than ever the need to end the war.

U.S. casualties have not only created a large gap in the U.S. replacement ability in Vietnam, but are also reaching heights which U.S. Government leaders cannot politically endure. This is why Nixon firmly directed Abrams to keep U.S. troop casualties at as low as possible. But, while Abrams has been embarrassed in the face of the difficult problem which Nixon and Laird told him to solve--it consists of exerting a maximum pressure on the enemy while keeping casualties at the lowest degree--the liberation troops' annihilating battles of all types have successively broken out everywhere, week after week, month after month. U.S. casualties have increasingly soared. Nixon has been increasingly stalemated in his stubborn and stupid plot to prolong the war while seeking to reduce U.S. casualties.

antime, the number of puppet troops annihilated and their impotence in fulfilling combat tasks (alongside) the U.S. troops further aggravate Nixon's headache as he advocates consolidation of the puppet troops and the de-Americanization of the war in order to be able to withdraw U.S. expeditionary troops while continuing the aggressive war.

Americans' defensive strategy and Nixon's plot to Vietnamize the war mainly rely on the U.S. expeditionary troops. The U.S. troops' defeats and heavy losses once more prove that the U.S. expeditionary troops have not only been impotent in strategic counteroffensive, but also in strategic defense and in carrying out Nixon's scheme of Vietnamizing the war. This once more clearly proves the liberation troops' practical ability to annihilate greater and greater numbers of U.S.-puppet military forces even after their retreat to strategic defensive and after completion of their strategic defensive battle position on all battlefields.

It is obvious that recently the liberation troops have repeatedly dealt heavy blows at Abrams' defensive strategy, Nixon's plot to Vietnamize and prolong the war, and the U.S. imperialists' aggressive spirit. This is the first outstanding feature in the new development of the general offensive and concerted uprisings of the southern armed forces and people.

The following portion was broadcast on Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese at 1115 GMT [31 July]

During the period invented and developed many highly efficient fighting methods, the southern troops and people have not only annihilated a large number of U.S. and puppet troops, but have also defeated many defensive fighting methods and tactics of the enemy and, through this feat, gradually crushed his defensive strategy. The repeated and resounding victories of the southern troops and people in the first half of 1969 demonstrate that PLAF initiative has been displayed by resolutely and continually launching attacks everywhere, that the power of their attacks has increased day by day, and that their offensive methods have improved constantly and have become more and more creative. Following are some salient features of this offensive posture:

-Attacking many targets at the same time

This demonstrates the ability of the southern troops and people in coordinating large battlefields. As a consequence, the enemy has been continually attacked by surprise and defeated heavily, although he has actively taken preventive measures.

-Striking unremittingly, one battle after another, day after day, week after week

As in February, the enemy thought the PLAF's attacks would last a couple of days, but the fighting kept going on. While the enemy was glad to believe that the May offensive was going to end, new battles broke out in June. The accelerated rhythm of attacks, the increasing development of repeated and lightning offensive capabilities, and the continuous attacks of the PLAF have prevented the enemy from recovering.

-Striking one objective several times, including the heavily defended positions of the enemy

Many great bases and cities have been attacked scores of times. The Dong Tam military base was struck 30 times. As of 23 June, the Ban Het position was attacked 48 consecutive days--AP reported 23 June.

4--Coordinating small, medium and large-scale battles and coordinating infantry attacks with artillery attacks and those of other forces, under multiple and flexible tactical forms.

In their attacks against enemy forces, or against enemy war means, or in the coordinated attacks against both enemy forces and war means, such as at Dong Du, Da Nang, and Hon Quan, the PLAF have inflicted serious losses on the enemy.

All PLAF units on all battlefields in all regions have created new fighting methods and achieved high combat efficiency. It is not by coincidence that UPI on 15 June 1969 overtly admitted that the initiative belongs to the communist troops--meaning the South Vietnam armed forces and people. They fight at any time, in any place and with the strength of their choice. The artillery shellings and attacks by infantry forces have caused great casualties to the allied forces--meaning the U.S.-puppet clique--while their own casualties have been reduced.

Through the realities of the victorious struggle in the past 6 months, we realize that the high combat efficiency of the PLAF in their fighting methods has been demonstrated by the following facts:

1--Vigorously develop the art of defeating great numbers of enemy troops with small numbers of ours, use our high quality to defeat the enemy quantity, cleverly adopt various combat methods and develop the combat strength of every cadre and combatant at all levels in accordance with the trend that when setting out for combat, every cadre and unit wins the greatest victories and attains the highest with each round of fire.

2--Deal the enemy painful, nasty blows, win great victories while suffering light casualties and consuming small amounts of ammunition, and fight in accordance with the requirements, in close coordination as to targets, time, and objectives, while taking the greatest initiative in searching and attacking the enemy, be they U.S. troops, puppet troops, or satellite troops. All U.S. units have been attacked, be they infantry, paratroop, air cavalry, armored cavalry, or marine. The PLAF have attacked enemy bivouacs, positions, and bases. The PLAF have also attacked the enemy while he was conducting operations, annihilating a substantial part of the enemy potential and destroying much of the enemy's war equipment, especially his important potential and war equipment. The resounding victorious battles in Dong Du, Long Khanh, and Binh Long, in eastern Nam Bo, the attacks on bases in Da Nang, Qui Nhon, Duc Lap, Tan Lap, and Gia Lai and on the Americal Division command post, the battles of Non Nuoc and Nui Lo, in Quang Nam Province and Hoa Binh, in Quang Ngai Province in central Trung Bo, and the attacks against Hill 94 to the west of Thua Thien, and so forth, were battles in which the enemy suffered heavy casualties while our losses were very small.

--Annihilate enemy troops and concurrently defeat the enemy's fighting methods and tactics in order to crush the goals of the clear-and-hold strategy and gradually defeat the defensive strategy of the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys. Faced with the PLAF's highly efficient and constantly improved fighting methods, defeated General Abrams' defensive measures--from B-52 bombardments, defensive belts around cities, and large-scale military operations to exert maximum pressure, to the tactics of stationing troops in groups or grouping bases in clusters in order to set up defensive lines or zones--have failed to achieve the expected results.

Strategy is based on the above-mentioned fighting methods and tactics. The powerlessness and gradual bankruptcy of these U.S. fighting methods and tactics on the battlefield have caused the clear-and-held strategy to gradually lose its props, to be defeated, and to face serious deadlock.

4--Fight many battles in a short time and through fighting become increasingly fit for fighting. According to the U.S. command's figures--which are far from the truth--each day, from 25 to 50 U.S. posts and bases are attacked or shelled. On the nights of 11 to 15 May 1969, about 400 enemy military targets were attacked. For the liberation troops, to win a battle is to become a step stronger; to know how to rationally use troops, weapons, and ammunition is to know how to satisfactorily protect, improve, and manage their forces in combat. That is why the more the PLAF fight, the more developed their offensive power is, while a great reserve force is preserved.

Through initiatives to develop many forms of combat with high efficiency under all circumstances, in any place and at any time, the PLAF destroyed the enemy defensive forces and frustrated their fighting methods and defensive tactics, and thereby destroyed the U.S.-puppet defensive purposes.

With the support of political offensives, the PLAF led the military offensive posture of the southern revolutionary war to develop more strongly and comprehensively. For this reason, even though the enemy's defensive stance has been taken up on the battlefield, it has been upset right in his positions around cities and great bases. His forces have been further scattered.

His strategic mobile forces seem to be completely dispersed. The mobile force of each area has been reduced to a very low state, revealing many weaknesses and gaps. All fortified defense belts have been penetrated and attacked from inside and outside, thus rendering the enemy very passive in his counterattacks.

Meanwhile, the PLAF have been further strengthened and their active position and offensive strength further developed. The more they fight, the stronger they become. They can stage successive, pretracted attacks and win under all circumstances.

Creating a highly effective fighting method constitutes a great success for the southern armed forces and people in the revolutionary armed struggle, and also an outstanding feature of the new development of the general offensive and concerted uprisings in the process of frustrating the enemy's defensive strategy and defeating the U.S. imperialists' aggressive war.

Along with staging military attacks, the southern armed forces and people have stepped up their political and diplomatic offensives, highly developing the combined strength of the southern revolutionary war in the new phase and driving the U.S.-puppets into a position of weakness and high political isolation in South Vietnam, the United States, and the world.

Apart from scoring brilliant military victories, in the first half of 1969 the southern armed forces and people have developed their political and diplomatic struggles, stepping up particularly the political war and uprisings to regain the mastership right for the people, highly coordinating military, political, and diplomatic attacks, and winning unprecedentedly glorious victories.

By developing military victories in close coordination with the annihilation of the enemy's military forces, the southern armed forces and people have increasingly staged vigorous, simultaneous uprisings to regain the right to be masters in many rural areas still under temporary enemy control and in areas surrounding cities and towns.

During the past 6 months, thousands of compatriots in hundreds of provincial cities, district towns, and military subsectors and in thousands of villages and hamlets have risen, wiping out cruel pacification agents, destroying the enemy's grip, and regaining mastership. On the basis of their victories in 1968 the southern armed forces and people have thoroughly realized that overthrowing puppet administrations at various levels and smashing the enemy's ability to regain the mastership or establishing mastership, constitutes direct strategic requirements and tasks, similar to the annihilation of enemy troops on the battlefield. Establishing the people's mastership under various forms and moving toward building people's revolutionary administrations are also the political goals of the revolutionary war, since administration is the basic problem for any revolution.

Recently, the Americans and puppets concentrated their troops on strengthening the defense lines in the cities and in many densely populated rural areas, extensively carrying out the accelerated pacification program in the hope of extending the Saigon puppet administration's control, intensifying police operations aimed at terrorizing urban people, and conducting "Phoenix" campaigns directed toward destroying the revolutionary bases. Our compatriots arose and struggled under extremely difficult, desperate, and complex circumstances and on all fronts in order to regain mastership and build the revolutionary administration. They have won extremely great victories in all parts of the south, including the major cities.

The formation of the Republic of South Vietnam Provisional Revolutionary Government in early June 1969 marked a new development in the improvement and perfection of the southern people's revolutionary administration. Up to 25 June 1969, revolutionary administrations had been established in 38 provinces and four major cities out of the 44 provinces and six major cities of the south, and in over 1,300 villages and 150 districts.

The revolutionary administration has developed its leadership over the southern people in carrying out combat and production tasks, building and developing the revolutionary forces, improving living conditions, protecting the peasants' right to ownership of the land they till, mobilizing human and material resources to serve the frontline, accelerating the high tide of general offensive and concerted uprisings, and advancing the anti-U.S. national salvation resistance toward achieving increasingly great victories.

The new victory in strengthening the people's mastership and in consolidating and developing the invincible political strength of the southern revolution represent a victory for the thorough understanding and application of the rule governing the coordination between annihilating the enemy and restoring mastership to the people. It is necessary to annihilate the enemy in order to regain and extend the people's mastership and, conversely, it is necessary to regain and strengthen the people's mastership in order to step up annihilation of the enemy. If we fail to extensively annihilate enemy strength on the battlefield, it will be difficult to firmly maintain and consolidate the mastership which had been regained by the southern armed forces and people up to late 1968 over many large areas.

Only by relying upon regaining and strengthening the people's mastership can we step up annihilation of the enemy and score outstanding achievements as we did in the recent past.

The victory in regaining the people's mastership over many large areas has created a direct rear base providing on-the-spot human and material resources for the armed struggle and has created springboards for attacking the enemy in all localities, including the enemy's last dens. As a result, the military offensive spearhead has developed comprehensively and firmly, guerrilla warfare has been closely coordinated with concentrated combat, and the three categories of troops have launched relentless attacks, advancing toward annihilating an increasingly substantial part of enemy military forces.

The proclamation of the NFLSV 10-point overall solution and the emergence of the Republic of South Vietnam Provisional Revolutionary Government represent major political events which jolted public opinion at home and abroad, injecting additional strength into the general offensive impetus of the southern revolution and driving the Americans and puppets more deeply into a precarious situation full of unsurmountable contradictions. The Western press likened the formation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the South Vietnamese people to a bombshell exploding in Saigon and Washington.

Along with the vigorous political and diplomatic offensive of the southern revolution, the movement of urban people demanding the overthrow of Thieu, Ky, and Huong and the formation of a peace cabinet and of a national reconciliation government has mounted. Never have the ringleaders of the puppet army and administration been so confused and panicked as they are now.

The country-selling clique's internal contradictions, the contradictions between the Americans and puppets, the U.S. ruling circles' internal contradictions, and the contradictions between the American people and the U.S. ruling clique have become increasingly acute. Many U.S. congressmen have criticized Nixon. Some former members of the Johnson administration, namely Harriman and Clifford, have also openly criticized him. The struggle movement of Americans demanding that the Nixon administration end the war of aggression and bring all U.S. troops home has vigorously developed everywhere in the United States. American papers have forecast an even more vigorous development of the antiwar movement in the United States in the forthcoming long, hot summer. As a result of serious U.S. defeats, relations between the United States and its satellites have become strained. The country-grabbers' and country-sellers' political position has become greatly confused and weakened. The Americans and puppets have become seriously isolated politically, sustaining serious diplomatic setbacks.

The emergence of the Republic of South Vietnam Provisional Revolutionary Government represents a new step forward, a historically significant victory for the southern revolution. Through their protracted, hard struggle, the southern people have built a perfect revolutionary power system from central to local echelons which has fully performed its functions involved in the management of state affairs, the function of an all-people's anti-U.S. national salvation resistance government. This proves lucidly that the southern compatriots are determined to strengthen their solidarity, persistently fight to master their own fate, and resolutely, vigorously, and firmly advance the anti-U.S. national salvation struggle toward final victory.

Clearly, the new development of the political and diplomatic offensive, particularly the political offensive of the southern armed forces and people, has raised the coordinated struggle on three fronts--military, political, and diplomatic--of the southern revolutionary war to a high level, the comprehensive strength of the southern revolutionary war has increasingly developed in the new period. This is another outstanding feature of the new step in the development of the general offensive and concerted uprisings of the southern armed forces and people.

The great and overall victories of the southern armed forces and people in the first 6 months of 1969 represent the success of the development of the combined offensive of the southern revolutionary war through both military and political struggles--with military, political, and proselytizing offensives--and of the close coordination between efforts to annihilate the enemy and to gain mastership in all three strategic areas. These victories also represent the success of the high-level coordination of the three struggle fronts--military, political, and diplomatic--the southern revolution in the new period.

This new step in the development of the general offensive and concerted uprisings has vigorously developed the comprehensively offensive position of the southern revolution, creating an extremely great combined strength. That strength itself is directly foiling the U.S.-puppets' defensive strategy on the battlefield, smashing step by step the Nixon administration's stubborn scheme to seek a position of strength and to de-Americanize and Vietnamize the war, and bringing the southern revolution closer and closer to its great victory, with the aim of achieving this immediate basic objective: independence, democracy, peace, neutrality, and progress toward the peaceful reunification of the fatherland.

Although losing heavily and facing the danger of total failure, the U.S. imperialists, being extremely stubborn, still refuse to abandon their evil design of invading our country. Inherently stupid, the Nixon administration continues to prolong the presence of U.S. expeditionary troops in South Vietnam while trying to cling to the puppet army and administration and plotting to Vietnamize the war in order to continue their war of aggression, thus maintaining their neocolonialism in South Vietnam.

Clearly realizing their great opportunity developing their brilliant victories of the first 6 months of 1969, and with the "nothing more precious than independence and freedom" spirit, the southern armed forces and people are continuing to uphold their determination to fight by further stepping up the general offensive and concerted uprisings and deciding to fight until the Americans leave and the puppets are overthrown.