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VIETNAMIZATION PLAN CALLED FAILURE

[Commentary by the Liberation News Agency: "New Failures for the United States in the Scheme to 'Vietnamize' the War in Tay Nguyen"; Hanoi, Nhan Dan, Vietnamese, 12 November 1969, p 3]

The failure of the U.S. scheme to "Vietnamize" the war at Pleikan in Kontum Province and in northern Bien Hoa Province and so forth have thrown the U.S. and puppet ringleaders into a very great state of confusion. They bombastically propagandize that the puppet army is "stronger than ever before and strong enough to assume the heavy burden of the war" and that "there is considerable progress and great expectations in Vietnam" and so forth. But they have been unable to cover up the bitter reality.

In order to carry out the "clear and hold" defense strategy, the Americans and puppets are seeking to consolidate their outlying defense system with commando bases near the border such as Pleikan, Bu Prang, and Duc Lap and so forth. These are directly organized and commanded by Americans. They have direct U.S. artillery support. There are civil guard forces stationed there and there are puppet main force regiments, rangers, reaction commandoes, aircraft, artillery, and powerful armored vehicles serving as a mobile force. There are also American troops ready in the rear to come to their aid when necessary. With such a deployment, they hope to be able to block the attacks of our troops and to maintain the situation for the puppet army, puppet regime, and U.S. troops and, in so doing, raise up the puppet army so it can serve as cannon fodder instead of the U.S. troops in order to carry out the so-called "Vietnamization" of the war. However, just during the period from 28 October to 5 November in the area of Bu Prang and Duc Lap in Quang Duc Province, U.S. artillery emplacements and thousands of commando and civil guard forces with strong fortifications and supported by aircraft, artillery, and armored vehicles, were repeatedly attacked by our troops. In just two days of attacks by our troops, U.S. artillery emplacements protected by puppet commandoes such as Highpoint 936, were heavily damaged and threatened on all sides. Having used many airplanes and cannon and conducted many probes to lift

the seige without success, they had to cut and run, abandoning large guns with thousands of shells. However, they were unable to escape and were chased and wiped out by our troops. Our troops took control of the battlefields, collected the weapons, and took prisoners. In view of that dangerous situation and with their extremely eroded morale, they fled, leaving both the artillery positions to the west and south of Highpoint 936 even though these two positions were extremely necessary tactically for the enemy elements in the Duc Lap and Bu Prang

One significant point is that for the first time, the Americans were forced to abandon large guns and cannon even though they had mobile facilities and the U.S. "advisors" fled. Aircraft and cannon, the main strength of the Americans, had lost their impact.

In order to save the enemy force at Bu Prang, the Americans and puppets deployed almost all of the main force mobile units and reaction commando forces in Tay Nguyen out to the bases around Duc Lap, the provincial capital of Quang Duc Province, and sent in hundreds of commandoes to other Special Forces camps as a defensive measure.

On 3 November, they landed the 11th Ranger Battalion (elements), the outstanding unit of II Corps Tactical Zone, at the Dat Song three way intersection. Immediately, our troops attacked. The enemy suffered great losses and had to flee and find a place to regroup. On 5 November, our troops again attacked this group. They were almost all wiped out and the approximately 30 survivors fled to Duc Lap. The commander of the Ranger Battalion and another captain died in battle. They left hundreds of corpses and many weapons, radios, and pieces of military equipment. The 11th Ranger Battalion (elements) was wiped out.

Confronted by this dangerous situation, they had to send the 1st Battalion of the 53rd Regiment and two other companies with an armored company of the 8th Regiment down Route 14 to rescue the ranger group. Immediately, this group was also attacked by our troops. Between 1 and 4 in the afternoon of 4 November, the two companies of the 1st Battalion of the 53rd Regiment were systematically destroyed. Two other companies, the command post of the battalion, and the armored company were heavily damaged. They panicked to the point where they abandoned their armored vehicles so that they could escape themselves. Bitter, the U.S. and puppet commanders sent two infantry battalions and one armored company down two roads to lift the seige. However, as soon as one of our teams opened fire and the lead enemy platoon was destroyed, they hurriedly fled back to Duc Lap and abandoned the 1st Battalion of the 53rd Regiment which was crying for help.

We took control of the battlefield, took an enemy platoon and its U.S. "advisors" prisoner, and confiscated hundreds of rifles of various types and many radios and pieces of military equipment. A number of wounded enemy soldiers were bandaged and released at the battlefield by our troops.

The surviving troops of the 11th Ragner Battalion and the 1st Battalion of the 53rd Regiment had not had a chance to catch their breath after having just fled back to Duc Lap when, on the night of 5 November, our troops attacked the headquarters of the puppet 45th Regiment. The commander of this regiment paid his debt and many other officers were killed or wounded. We destroyed more than 100 of the enemy, destroyed many soldiers' houses and warehouses, and heavily damaged the headquarters of the 45th Regiment.

On the aforementioned days, our troops also attacked two enemy convoys on Route 14, destroying 14 vehicles of the 23rd Transportation Battalion of the 23rd Division and three troop-laden GMC trucks near the Xe-re-poc Bridge, severing the supply and transportation lines of the enemy. On 3 November, our troops leveled the Bu Xo Strongpoint (46 kilometers south-southwest of Duc Lap) destroying two commando and civil guard companies and also attacked and completely paralyzed the Ban Me Thuot Radio Station and destroyed a warehouse of machinery and materials.

The American force stationed at Ban Me Thuot City have not dared to come out on a reaction and rescue mission. They are urging the puppet commander to dredge up troops and send them out on a counterattack.

The aforementioned situation indicates that there has been a very significant decline in the situation of the U.S. officers and soldiers since June 1969 in northern Kontum Province. They have had to abandon large guns and cannon in order to save themselves. They had to abandon artillery emplacements, the most important morale boosters the Americans and puppets have. The airplanes, which presented the only hope for the encircled enemy group and for the enemy group which was coming to rescue them, were shot down on the spot one after another. Our troops captured the American pilots. Even a group headed by a U.S. general was attacked when it came up to Duc Lap in order to exhort the puppet group to go out on a preventive mission.

The situation of the puppet troops is indescribably bad. Although reinforced with airplanes, cannon and other facilities of the Americans, they still abandoned even the U.S. "advisors" and fled for their lives. They are so weak that they cry for help and want to flee as soon as we start to attack. They fled on their own initiative before the higher authorities had a chance to issue orders. Armored cars, complete with guns, were left in the positions. Two or three enemy battalions, supported by armored cars, airplanes, and artillery, fled in complete disorder after encountering one team of our troops.

Because of their flagging morale and the powerful attacks we have made, the tactical plannings of higher echelons could not be achieved. They had many troops and many airplanes and cannons but they could not fight. They knew that if they ventured out, they would be attacked but still they needed to venture out. They knew that their troops require

planes and artillery before they dare to go out but they had to leave the artillery emplacements. The puppets trusted the U.S. planes and cannon and the U.S. troops to the rear but the Americans fled first. The Americans encouraged the puppets to go out to ward off the attacks but the Americans were hit anyway. They were hit hard on the front lines and wiped out when they returned to their bases. Even the commander of the puppet 45th Regiment was killed.

The Americans tried to equip, train, directly command, and reinforce with planes and cannon but the puppets still could not do anything and became increasingly worse.

We had developed the initiative on the battlefield, pinned down the enemy and attacked him, called out the enemy and attacked him. Our troops developed many skillful methods of attack, attacking the enemy outside his military fortifications, attacking the enemy while on the move, attacking the enemy when he is regrouping, and even attacking the enemy when he is in his base headquarters. We leveled enemy strongpoints, took control of the battlefields, captured many of the enemy, confiscated weapons, and forced the enemy to evacuate other positions.

Nixon is trying hard to "Vietnamize" the war, is trying hard to stand the puppet army up and push it out to the front line, and is trying hard to provide airplane and cannon reinforcements and so forth in the hope of averting U.S. casualties and finding a way out of the war. The Thieu, Ky, and Khiem gang is trying to increase taxes, draft men, and use U.S. planes, cannon, and troops to fight our people. However, the event that Duc Lap and Bu Prang gave Nixon and the Thieu, Ky, and Khiem lackeys another lesson about their scheme to "Vietnamize" the war.

Determined to carry out President Ho's will, the PLAF of Tay Nguyen are resolutely surging ahead under the impetus of victory, inflicting many heavier blows on the Americans and puppets, and bringing additional defeats to their scheme to "Vietnamize" the war.

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