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CHIEN BINH ON FAILURE OF VIETNAMIZATION PLAN

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Military commentary by Chien Binh published in recent issue of QUAN DOI NHAN DAN: "Vietnamization of the War: A confusing Problem for the U.S. Aggressors"

[Text] After about 10 months in power, Nixon on 3 November delivered a speech, clearly defining for the first time his basic Vietnam policy whose core is Vietnamization of the U.S. war of aggression. Nixon said he had adopted the Vietnamization line as a honorable way for the United States to get out of the Vietnam war. What is the truth? Is Vietnamization a way out for the aggressor or, conversely, will this plan make the stalemated Americans become even more seriously stalemated and make the defeated Americans suffer even more ignominious defeat?

1--The Americans Cannot Change the Nature of Their Way of Aggression by Changing Its Name.

Defeated and comprehensively stalemated as a result of the southern armed forces' and people's early spring 1968 great general offensive, the U.S. aggressors had to adopt the policy of de-Americanizing their war of aggression in South Vietnam. To add something new to his policy, Nixon called it Vietnamization of the war. But Nixon's Vietnamization plan, despite its more comprehensive and concrete content, is only a continuation of the de-Americanization plan.

Military, the Vietnamization plan is only a continuation of the clear-and-hold strategy and of the policy of acquiring a strong military position through implementation of the policy of using Vietnamese to fight Vietnamese and replacing American blood with puppet blood. The Vietnamization plan consists mainly of having the puppet troops wage the war of aggression with the support of significant U.S. troop strength.

In his 3 November speech, Nixon said: "The Vietnamization plan is aimed at withdrawing all U.S. combat troops and replacing them with South Vietnamese troops when the latter are strong enough to protect their freedom." Thus, Nixon's Vietnamization plan consists of continuing the war of aggression with new formulas for using both the U.S. and puppet strategic forces.

Advocating the use of the puppet troops as the main force in waging the war, Nixon has revealed his intention to de-Americanize only U.S. combat troops. This means that a U.S. support force will be maintained indefinitely on the battlefield to reinforce the puppet troops. According to American papers, this enormous U. S. support force would consist of 200,000 to 250,000 men, mostly volunteer mercenaries, that is, an American-type legionnaire corps, including air force, naval, artillery, mechanized, and logistics units. This support force may also include a number of special infantry units possessing high mobility, namely, the 1st Air Cavalry Division the 173d Airborne Brigade, and so forth.

The main objective in Nixon's Vietnamization plan is to make the puppet troops strong enough to cope with all communist forces, regardless of the outcome of the Paris negotiations, a view to materializing the above U.S. military designs. Nixon has clearly stated that the rate of U.S. troop redeployment depends on the Saigon situation. In other words, de-Americanization depends on Vietnamization.

To achieve this objective, the Nixon clique has adopted measures to speedily strengthen the puppet army by providing it with more weapons, war equipment, and financial aid, while urging the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique to resort to cruel, coercive tricks to step up conscription, intensively train the puppet troops, and gradually have them assume frontline combat tasks.

The main and most imperative objective in Nixon's Vietnamization plan is to shore up the defeated, weakened, and ramshackle puppet army, using it as a tool for continuing the war of aggression in South Vietnam.

Politically the substance of the Vietnamization plan consists of maintaining and consolidating the Saigon puppet lackey administration by covering it with a veneer of false nationalism and democracy and using it as a tool to carry out U.S. neocolonialism in South Vietnam and continue the partition of Vietnam. Nixon's objective in seeking to achieve this political design is to make the puppet administration strong enough to resist revolutionary forces, that is the patriotic forces in South Vietnam.

Basically, Nixon's scheme to consolidate the Saigon puppet administration is nothing new. Even his measures such as ordering Thieu to rally a handful of reactionary factions into a front, reshuffling the Saigon puppet administration to consolidate the already too rotten militarist lackeys' power, accelerating the pacification plan to solidify the puppet administration's foothold in heavily-populated and important strategic areas, and so forth are only old tricks, the tricks which have continuously failed for many years.

If there is something new, it is the fact that suffering heavier and heavier military failures and being highly isolated politically, the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys have resorted to extremely brutal maneuvers to arrest and herd people and excessively brazen fascist measures to repress anyone refusing to side with them, in an effort to maintain the Thieu-Ky-Khiem country-selling clique, a clique of low-class traitors who have been set upon by everybody.

Economically, the substance of Nixon's Vietnamization plan consists of squeezing more money from the South Vietnamese people, thoroughly exploiting the local logistics potential to serve the scheme of prolonging the U.S. war of aggression, and at the same time, applying U.S. neocolonialist economic policies to mislead and buy the masses in the areas under temporary U.S.-puppet control. To carry out this design, the U.S.-puppets have intensively increased war taxes--called austerity taxes--and carried out many other forms of scraping and extorting money from the people. Diligently obeying his U.S. masters' orders, the traitor Nguyen Van Thieu, in his 6 October message, clamored for support for the U.S. Vietnamization plan, saying: "We must ease our allies' burden by first reducing the Americans' burden in blood and bone and gradually reducing their financial burden."

Looking at the overall substance of the Vietnamization-of-the-war plan and especially its military substance, everyone realizes that Nixon is still stubbornly pursuing his brutal war of aggression with the intention of using 250,000 U.S. and 800,000 puppet troops to carry out U.S. neocolonialism in South Vietnam. By partly replacing U.S. troops with puppet troops and using the term "Vietnamization," Nixon hopes to deceive public opinion into believing that he is turning the highly-Americanized war in South Vietnam into a war of the puppets, but his efforts are in vain.

As for their own already seriously beaten forces, the U.S. troops would have to withdraw their clumsy units and, basically, would take part in the war only by using the fire power of air task forces and artillery, while infantrymen would basically be puppet troops. In Nixon's view, this would decrease U.S. losses in men.

With such a plan, Nixon hopes that he will be able to settle all U.S. internal contradictions and difficulties and appease public opinion, which is vehemently condemning the brutal U.S. war of aggression. The U.S. aggressors still expect that the Vietnamization plan will help them not only cope with the Vietnamese people's heroic war, but also continue their role of international gendarme. By developing this plan, the U.S. imperialists hope to work out a relatively effective strategy for the realization of the "use natives to fight natives" policy and for Nixon's Asian doctrine of coping with people's liberation movements, while finding a way out for the bankrupt U.S. global strategy. Nixon revealed this U.S. design in his 3 November speech by saying that "the Vietnamization plan will bring peace"--that is, the realization of U.S. neocolonialism--"not only in Vietnam but also in the Pacific and throughout the world."

The Vietnamization of the war is a premeditated scheme of the U.S. aggressors. But Nixon's invention is nothing but the bringing forth of a mouse by a mountain. It is an entirely illusory plan. Nixon's Vietnamization-of-the-war plan is nothing but the combination of the two previously defeated U.S. strategies: The special war strategy and the regional war strategy at its apex. The special war strategy, essentially supported by puppet troops under the command of 30,000 U.S. advisers, was defeated. The regional war strategy, with the basic prop of over half-a-million U.S. and satellite troops and over 600,000 puppet soldiers, is now incurring serious bankruptcy. With the continuation of the aggressive war by puppet troops and a great part of the U.S. armed forces, the Vietnamization of the war is obviously a passive strategy and a plan originating from the fact that the United States, because of its successive setbacks, has been compelled to go downward at (each) turning point.

As a product of the U.S. aggressors' failure and stubbornness, the Vietnamization-of-the-war plan is a structure of contradictions, bearing in itself a series of irretrievable deadlocks. The United States is in a defeated, weak, and passive position. But, according to its plan, it wants to be active and to end the war from a position of strength. The United States is being compelled to rapidly extricate itself from the Vietnam war quagmire, but the real objective of its plan is to prolong the war.

The puppet army and administration, the impotent and rotten tools of the Americans, are dashing along the path of collapse. But the United States expects to depend on them to change the situation and to turn defeat into victory. Nixon's Vietnamization plan is a confused calculation of deadlocked aggressors.

On which factor does Nixon depend to achieve his aggressive objective? As everyone knows, victory in a war is decided by these permanent factors: the nature of the war, the army's morale, strength, and quality, strategy and tactics, and so forth. However, apart from changing names and replacing some U.S. troops with puppet soldiers, the United States has not solved its problems. Regarding the nature of the war, it continues its unjust war of aggression and continues to be opposed by the Americans, and condemned by all mankind.

Concerning military effectives, the Americans hope that they will be able to replace the withdrawn U.S. troops by newly-recruited puppet troops. But despite all their efforts, they will be unable to increase their aggressive forces to more than 1.2 million men, the number they recently had. This was the largest U.S. aggressive army in the biggest U.S. local aggressive war ever. Although numerous, this army was defeated.

Concerning the U.S. troops' morale, this is becoming--as the U.S. press had admitted--an important problem for the U.S. aggressive forces. While U.S. troops are anxiously waiting for repatriation, the puppet army is being hit with heavy blows and is disintegrating. Therefore, all the U.S. puppet psychological warfare activities have failed in heightening their troops' seriously low morale.

Concerning strategy and tactics, Nixon has advanced only what has been used and is being used. He continues to use what has proven inefficient, what has been vanquished and is being vanquished by the strategy and tactics of the Vietnamese revolutionary war.

Concerning weapons, the Americans have introduced on the Vietnamese battlefield all the weapons available. Yet they are still defeated. Therefore, they will be unable to reverse the situation despite all their efforts to reinforce and improve their weapons and military equipment.

Thus, Nixon's plan to Vietnamize the war aims at achieving the same aggressive objective with the same old forces and the same old tricks which have been defeated. Consequently, despite all the American's efforts, this plan will be unable to extricate them from increasingly heavy and serious defeats and stalemates. The INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE on 8 November pointed out that Nixon's plan, in fact, is a familiar program which contains nothing new, which is based on old premises, old policies, and old hypotheses, which have gone bankrupt several times, and which have reflected the weakened U.S. posture in the war.

Is Nixon's new formula of using two strategic forces able to heighten the fighting efficiency of his aggressive forces? Certainly not. The puppet troops were defeated by the revolutionary armed forces during the special war. Thus, how can Nixon hope that this defeated army will win over an adversary who is now many times stronger? The puppet troops were defeated, even with the support of half a million U.S. troops, during the local war. Thus, how can Nixon hope that this army will win after the withdrawal of a part of the U.S. army?

Realities occurring on the battlefield in the past few months--especially in the past few days in the high plateau region and the Mekong Delta--are such severe, although initial, judgements on Nixon's Vietnamization plan that the U.S. commanders screamed: "This is an illusion. The plan to Vietnamize the war is now considered as terminated," according to UPI on 14 November.

The puppet army not only is not reinforced, but it is sustaining heavy defeats and heavy losses, especially in the areas where the Vietnamization plan is being tried. Its casualties have soared. It also is suffering from a serious desertion rate. Now, every month, about 40,000 puppet troops are wiped out of action. The Baltimore Sun on 29 October bitterly admitted: "The U.S. command's latest official conclusion, contradicting the fighting efficiency of the Saigon army, is that the fighting efficiency of the Saigon army during the second quarter of 1969--that is, during the period when the Americans actively implemented their Vietnamization plan--is lower than during the second quarter of 1968."

While the decreasing fighting spirit is a very serious lack in the U.S. and puppet armies on their path of defeat, the combat coordination between these two strategic armies is giving rise to many serious problems. In many cases, the U.S. forces refuse to come to the aid of the puppet troops under attack, and the latter ignore the task entrusted to them by their U.S. masters, which is to protect the supporting U.S. forces--so much the worse for them. The result is that the weapons and equipment which the Americans believe they can use to assist the puppet troops in the fighting have not only failed to develop their effectiveness and make the puppets stronger, but have caused the supporting U.S. forces to receive the PLAF's blows in fierce battles.

This was reflected in the recent battles in the highland and Mekong River delta areas, where the U.S. forces were unable to support the puppet troops, who, in turn, failed to protect the U.S. troops--causing both the U.S. and puppet troops to be utterly beaten by the PLAF--and where many helicopters were downed, many combat launches were destroyed, and many gun emplacements were occupied.

Obviously, the U.S.-puppet troops' fighting efficiency, according to Nixon's new formula on the use of forces, has not increased. It has, instead, markedly decreased. Both the U.S. and puppet troops have become increasingly weak and have suffered irremediable setbacks. Will Nixon's Vietnamization plan help him reduce the U.S. casualty toll? This is another tragic illusion of the aggressors.

The puppet troops have never been and will never be strong and capable of replacing the U.S. troops according to Nixon's calculations. Even Nguyen Van Thieu on 27 September had to admit that it would take him many, many years to settle the problem of the replacement of U.S. forces with the puppet troops. Therefore, the result still is that the longer the Americans pursue the war of aggression in Vietnam, the more deeply they will be bogged down. In that aggressive war, the puppet troops will continue to be annihilated in great numbers, and the U.S. forces will also suffer a no less high casualty toll.

In 9 months under the Nixon administration, that is, during the period when the Americans have initially and experimentally carried out the Vietnamization plan, some 10,000 U.S. soldiers were killed, as mentioned in the 14 October CONGRESSIONAL REPORT. Thus the U.S. casualty toll has not decreased, but has increased by 30 percent over the Johnson period, according to UPI.

Nixon's hope that he will be able to save the Thieu-Ky-Khieu clique from an economic and financial crisis has proven all the more foolish. South Vietnam's entirely dependent economy cannot but continue relying on the Americans to pour in more money to keep it alive. Yet the Americans still believe that the drowned Saigon clique can drag the near-drowned Americans toward the shore.

This illusion of Nixon was dealt a blow by former U.S. Secretary of Defense Clifford himself, when he predicted that had Nixon's present policy been pursued, the Americans would have lost about 10,000 men and spent some 30 billion dollars in 1970, according to the EVENING STAR on 15 October.

Of course, these figures have already been minimized. Yet they still exceed the actual rate of U.S. losses made public by the United States during the past few years when the war was highly escalated. Obviously, Nixon's Vietnamization plan will only result in the death of tens of thousands more U.S. youths and will consume large amounts of U.S. money.

Millions of Americans have taken to the streets. Following Nixon's speech, on 15 November, some 300,000 people from all over the United States demonstrated in Washington, voicing indignation over Nixon's Vietnamization plan.

With his insatiable ambition, Nixon does not want to relinquish the U.S. aggressive designs against Vietnam, but rather to maintain the U.S. role of international gendarme. He aims at several objectives in his Vietnamization trick, using it to serve the U.S. global strategy. But his ambition is like a daydream.

As a heroic nation endowed with an unsubmissive tradition and defeating the strongest invaders in history and Japanese and French imperialism successively, the Vietnamese will surely destroy Nixon's dream. The choice of Vietnam as a pilot battlefield and the formula of using two strategic forces--U.S. and puppet troops--to put down the people's liberation movements and to implement the U.S. aggressive policy will only create new Vietnams and new bitter setbacks for the United States.

What will Nixon's doctrine, if tested, bring to the United States? Nothing but our Vietnamese people's example of heroic struggle and experience in defeating U.S. aggression, which will further encourage oppressed peoples to bravely rise up to fight and defeat U.S. imperialism.

Nixon's Vietnamization plan is but the illusion of ambitious gun dealers. It will surely make the United States more deadlocked and sustain more shameful setbacks. Using natives to fight natives is not a new move but a traditional policy of every aggressor. In the previous war of aggression against Indochina, French colonialism applied the "use Vietnamese to fight Vietnamese" policy and suffered defeat with an army three-fourths of which were native soldiers. Using natives to fight natives has become a rule of the aggressive war of imperialists while in an impasse. This is also a rule of defeat for aggressors.

Our people's determination to fight the anti-U.S. national salvation war until complete victory is an iron-like, unshakable one. Our invincible people's war has developed to its apex. Our revolutionary armed forces are ever victorious. Our strategy and tactics are very creative. Our people's just struggle is enjoying the strong support of the world people, including Americans. We will surely defeat Nixon's Vietnamization plan completely, as we smashed the imperialists' previous aggressive schemes.

~~A.S.E.A.N., TOOL OF U.S., WILL COLLAPSE~~

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[Text] Hanoi VNA December 1--Under the title A.S.E.A.N., A Tool of U.S. Imperialism for Counterrevolutionary Activities, the Voice of Vietnam Radio today pointed out that like all other blocs set up by the U.S., A.S.E.A.N. is doomed to collapse.

The commentary said: With its heavy setbacks on the political, military and diplomatic fronts, S.E.A.T.O. has in fact disintegrated and failed to do the task of an aggressive bloc. The U.S. imperialists are scheming to use A.S.E.A.N. for counter revolution purposes in this area, in the first place, to serve their criminal war of aggression in South Vietnam.