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U.S., SAIGON WAR VIETNAMIZATION PLAN FAILS

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[Third installment of Ngoui Binh Luan series: "War Vietnamization, a Nightmare of the Saigon Puppet Administration"]

[Text] Evaluating the successful situation of our armed forces and people in the early Mau Than spring general offensive and uprisings, Kissinger, Nixon's special adviser, admitted that the Viet Cong had won a victory whose importance exceeded military means and that this offensive had delayed--perhaps for a limitless time--the consolidation of the power of the government, that is, the Saigon puppet administration. Drawing experiences from Johnson's failure, he stressed the need for a reasonable time to politically strengthen the Saigon puppet administration.

Nixon's military, political, economic, and diplomatic schemes in his Vietnamization plan are aimed at creating a strong position as a basis for the United States to take the initiative in deescalating and gradually de-Americanizing or puppetizing the war. But the key problem is to maintain and consolidate the puppet administrative machinery so that the scheme of invading South Vietnam can be continued along with the U.S. troop withdrawal.

In his talk at the National Press Club on 25 September 1969, U.S. Defense Secretary Laird made clear that Vietnamization consisted not only of increasing the Saigon puppet army's combat proficiency, but also of making the Saigon government politically and economically independent.

The United States has striven to consolidate the lackey apparatus and to gather reactionary forces in political parties and religious communities in order to set up a political prop for the puppet administration, stepping up pacification to restore the already smashed rural puppet administrative structures and to extend the power of the Thieu-Ky-Khieu clique now living under the protection of U.S. guns and bayonets, increasing fascist, terrorist activities, and frenziedly attacking the mass movements to weaken the southern revolutionary forces.

But realities have revealed that the more efforts the U.S. aggressors exert, the more disastrous will be their henchmen's collapse. The United States has staged the farce of founding the so-called social democratic national alliance, with a view to creating a reactionary front or political prop for Thieu. But this is an illusion. The history of the development of Vietnamese revolution firmly proves that U.S. imperialism can never find nor create country-selling lackeys or cliques capable of realizing U.S. neocolonialism.

Before our people's constant, furious, and mounting revolutionary waves, all counter-revolutionary classes have gradually lost their ruling positions. Inherently weakened by the August Revolution and the 9-year anti-French resistance, the landlords' class has become weaker, disintegrated, and highly divided. The comprador bourgeoisie, becoming rich at the expense of other people and trampling upon all sacred sentiments and patriotism of our nation which is endowed with the unyielding 4,000-year anti-invasion tradition, has bared its running-dog and lackey face. As for the national bourgeoisie and other intermediary classes, they have become gradually conscious of national interests and the majority has sided with the revolution and become its allied force.

In such a situation and before the division of southern social classes and our people's brilliant victories in the anti-U.S. national salvation undertaking, the U.S.-created factions and reactionary parties, which absolutely lack a social basis, are but country-selling organizations comprising political opportunists and blood-thirsty butchers who are living on manslaughter and turning our compatriots' blood and bones into blood-smelling dollars.

It is not the first time that the U.S. imperialists have plotted to create a political prop for their henchmen. They have striven to set up several organizations like the social democratic national alliance. What is notable is that the so-called U.S.-puppet-created social democratic national front has been writhing at a moment when the Thieu-Ky clique has been highly isolated and our people's revolutionary movement has been developing by leaps and bounds.

Sparing no effort, the U.S.-puppets have spent millions of dollars in rallying forces around the ruling alliance and even advocated encouraging the setting up of an opposing alliance. But how can they deceive anyone considering the faces of the cruel, diehard landowners, political speculators, well-known country-selling and people-trading individuals, and of Nguyen Van Thieu and Nguyen Cao Ky? The Saigon paper THOI DAI MOI likened this ruling alliance to a tumbling carriage arriving at its station with a few passengers, and it predicted that Thieu's alliance would last no longer than a hibiscus flower. The INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE on 28 May also observed that Thieu's alliance was too frail to be regarded as the first step of something in South Vietnam beyond further disturbing the situation.

Due to its country-betraying and people-harming nature, the Saigon puppet administration can be no means rally a political force having a social basis to support and enable it to cope with our present offensive. It will certainly become increasingly and pitifully isolated.

The Americans also ordered Thieu to reshuffle his cabinet to give it a broader political base. After 35 days of protracted cabinet crises, Thieu was obliged to appoint Tran Thien Khiem, a cruel, diehard general under the Ngo Dinh Diem regime, as premier, thus further strengthening the power of Thieu and the military campaign but failing to secure the participation of any political faction or religion. In reality, following the cabinet reshuffle, the Saigon puppet administration has not become stronger but weaker than previously, and its political base, instead of being broadened, has been narrowed.

Enjoying his U.S. masters' favor, Thieu is hoping to monopolize the trade of our people's blood and bones, thus earning gold from their blood. Since the U.S. lackeys in Saigon are all ambitious, it was inevitable that they would kick one another just like a flock of horses being penned in a one-horse stable.

For many years, the Saigon puppet administration has been plagued and increasingly weakened by contradictions among the U.S. lackeys, contradictions which have sometimes broken out violently beyond U.S. designs.

In addition, the U.S. policies of throwing out a demon after squeezing its juice, using one lackey to control another, using a reserve card to keep the card in use under control, and so forth have not only deepened the unremitting contradictions among the U.S. lackeys but also embittered those between U.S. masters and puppet lackeys.

The U.S. (GUARDIAN) on 15 August said that through the cabinet reshuffle, its political base--meaning the Saigon puppet administration--became frailer, adding that the present Saigon puppet administration was worse than a bucket of worms. Due to the unjust aggressive nature of the war, every measure and effort taken by the Americans to make a corrupt and reactionary lackey regime, plagued by internal in fighting for personal interests, become stable and strong enough to cope with every Viet Cong force means looking for a needle in a haystack.

The U.S. aggressors tried again to pacify the countryside in order to restore the puppet administration, at the base and widen and consolidate the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique's authority, particularly over the populous and strategic areas. In reality, this is not a new problem. While criticizing the Nixon administration's errors, Nixon's special adviser Kissinger loudly stated that the United States failed because it had overlooked the main problem of control over the masses and that "it is necessary to encourage Saigon to enlarge its base so as to become stronger in the political struggle with the communists, a struggle which sooner or later Saigon must participate in." But the problem of control over the masses is not an outstanding discovery by Kissinger.

In the 15 years of aggression against Vietnam, from Eisenhower to Kennedy and Johnson, the White House paid constant attention to the problem of control over the Vietnamese masses; in fact it constantly regarded the repression and imprisonment of the Vietnamese as the most important problem. During the special war, there was the Staley-Taylor plan concerning the building of strategic hamlets.

During the local war, the search-and-destroy problem and pacification problem were closely connected. The U.S. aggressors even ordered their troops to directly participate in pacification operations, to play the role of a shield, thus enabling the puppet troops to play a woman's role as house guardian. Yet U.S.-puppets were completely powerless: the countrygrabbers and countrysellers could achieve nothing. This time, Nixon exerted great efforts, resorting to the most cunning and cruel measures to occupy land, win over the people, and carry out the plot of decimating and annihilating our military, political, and economic forces and building the military, political, and economic bases for the Saigon puppet administration. Faced with the enemy's very savage and cruel repressive and murderous measures and very wicked psychological warfare tricks, our compatriots had to live through many great challenges. But it is obvious that the U.S.-puppets have sustained heavy defeats in their frantic efforts to consolidate their footholds and widen the areas under their control. The INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE on 19 September 1969 pointed out that the Saigon regime does not have any base in the masses.

AFP on 26 November 1969 reported that a U.S. official, who wished to remain unidentified, revealed that "although the pacification plan has been stepped up, it is still regarded as insecure. Since the day the United States and South Vietnam implemented their accelerated pacification plan, 21.2 percent of the Viet Cong infrastructure in South Vietnam has been paralyzed. But the remaining 78.8 percent have remained intact. The Viet Cong are like fish in water."

Despite all their efforts, the U.S.-puppets cannot avoid defeat in implementing their tricks to win over the hearts and minds of the masses. Like Johnson in the past, Nixon is resorting to all means to cover up the U.S. imperialists' colonialist and aggressive face, such as distributing relief, building camps for anticommunist refugees, organizing roving medical teams, building camps for war orphans, and so forth.