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The document is Special Communique No. 17, issued on 31 Dec 69, by the Headquarters of SVN Liberation Armed Forces concerning the great victories gained in 1969. The following main points are mentioned:

A. Review of the situation during 1969:

This communique stated that the Communists had gained five significant and important victories which were the following:

1. General victories:

Military victories: During 1969, they ((Communists)) "maintained and developed their offensive position by launching continuous and strong attacks." The communique considered this matter as "new progress" for their General Offensive and Uprising in 1969.

Political and diplomatic victories: The communique emphasized the greatest achievement which was the formation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of SVN and the diplomatic progress made by this government in the world. The communique also mentioned the death of HO Chi Minh and stated that it was an ((extremely sorrowful)) event.

2. Specific victories: The Communists "thwarted the rural pacification program of the RVN Government and the de-Americanization plan of the US." At the same time, they ((Communists)) succeeded in promoting the anti-war movement in the USA, isolating President Nixon from the US people and from the world.

B. Anticipation of the 1970 situation by Headquarters, SVNLA:

The communique anticipated that their struggle would "meet more difficulties; but as advantageous opportunities were in their favor, they were determined to fight until the end."

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C. Other notable details of the communique

1. Mentioning our casualties, the communique gave the following figures:

There were 645,000 KIA, WIA, and captured in action, including 235,000 Allied soldiers.

They completely destroyed or caused heavy casualties to five ((Allied)) brigades, one regiment, three task forces, 122 battalions, 130 pacification groups, and 900 other combat companies.

They also shot down 6,400 aircraft and destroyed 19,000 military vehicles, 2,500 artillery pieces, and 1,700 watercraft.

2. The communique stated that the following units suffered "more casualties than they did in 1968:"

Allied units: Americal Division, First Air Cavalry Division, 25th US Infantry Division; 11th Armored Regiment.

RVNAF units: 23rd, 21st, 18th, 7th, and 1st Divisions; Airborne, Marine, Ranger Forces and Special Forces.

3. While evaluating the friendly intelligence capability, the communique said "Throughout the year ((1969)) RVNAF/FWMAF anticipated each week, each month that a Communist offensive phase would be initiated."

4. Referring to the death of Ho Chi Minh, the communique seized the opportunity to exhort the cadre and soldiers to "transform their plan of sorrow into revolutionary actions and be determined, to carry out the will of Ho Chi Minh."

5. The most remarkable detail of the communique of Headquarters, SVNLA, was that the Communists appealed to the soldiers, government officials, and national police of the RVN Government to participate in the anti-war movement, oppose the government, desert from their ranks, counter our operation orders, lay down their weapons, and return to their side.

1. Communique No. 17 reviewed the situation of last year ((1969)) and confirmed the Communist determination to fight in 1970 until the end.

2. The main points of the will of Ho Chi Minh were: "No matter how great the difficulties and hardships are, our people are determined to gain the final victory....; the fatherland will be reunified; and the people in South and North Vietnam will live together."

The Communists now consider the will of Ho Chi Minh as a guide for their combat activities.

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3. Special Communique No. 16, issued by Headquarters, SVNLA, on 20 Sep 69, reviewed the situation during the 1969 Fall Campaign. Special Communique No. 13, issued by Headquarters, SVNLA, on 6 Apr 69 was a first special communique of 1969 (it recapitulated the situation of the 1969 Spring Campaign). Thus, during 1969, Headquarters, SVNLA, issued five special communiqués (after each of the five larger scale military campaigns which were the Spring, Summer, Summer and Fall, Fall, and the entire 1969 Campaigns)