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GIAP INTERVIEWED BY HUNGARIAN ARMY NEWSMAN

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[Text] Hanoi VNA December 9--General Vo Nguyen Giap recently granted the following interview to Ferenc Hegedus, director general of NEPHADSEREG, organ of the Hungarian People's Army:

Question--Will you please, comrade minister, tell us about the characteristics of the general and particular experiences of the people's war for national salvation and for the liberation of Vietnam--the relations between man and modern techniques, the strategic activities of the regular army, the importance of the people's participation in the war, the political and moral factors?

Answer--In the course of their struggle, every people can draw useful experiences not only for themselves but also for the common revolutionary cause.

In the last decades, under the leadership of the Vietnam Workers Party and President Ho Chi Minh, our people have successively confronted three cruel imperialisms whom they have all defeated: Japanese fascism, French imperialism and now U.S. imperialism.

This great reality proves that in the present epoch, if a small country which has neither a large territory nor a large population but [as received] resolutely stands up to fight along a correct line to defend its freedom, independence and sacred rights, [it] is completely capable of defeating any aggressor be it U.S. imperialism, the ringleader of imperialism.

In our struggle for national liberation, a long and arduous struggle but full of glorious victories against aggressive imperialism, we consider the correct political and military line of vanguard party as the factor of prime importance for winning victory. Our party's line is the line of the democratic people's national revolution, proceeding toward socialism bypassing the capitalist stage. In the war, it is the line of the people's war, that is, all people, united like one man, fight the aggressor under the leadership of the working class and with the people's armed forces as the hard core.

For us Marxists, the concepts of people's war and people's armed forces are not new. Precisely Marx, Engels, then Lenin who had set forth theses on handing arms to the masses, on people's war, on national insurrection, on the people's army and on the people's army. In the history of our country, not until now do we see a people's army after thousands of years of national construction and defence, the Vietnamese people many times stood up in unity against the aggressors, and since the beginning of the Christian era, so many national insurrections and wonderful people's wars for liberation have broken out. The merit of our party and Comrade Ho Chi Minh--the first Vietnamese Communist--is to have illumined the path of the Vietnamese revolution in the light of Marxism-Leninism, correctly and creatively applied Marxism-Leninism to the concrete conditions of the Vietnamese revolution and at the same time, brought a new development to the old traditions of indomitable struggle of the Vietnamese nation, and therefore, taken the people's war in Vietnam to a higher degree, with a creative and rich content, with the thorough-going revolutionary spirit of the working class. Also thanks to this the people's war in our country has acquired an invincible force capable of defeating all aggressors.

Our party's line gives first consideration to the task of rousing the political consciousness of the entire people to mobilize the entire people and to build the people's armed forces so that all the 31 million Vietnamese people rise up against the aggressor, and all of them become valiant fighters for national salvation. We attach great importance to the force of unity and the combat force of the people placed under the leadership of the working class and on the basis of the alliance between the workers and the peasantry. We consider it a factor determining the victory of the revolutionary war.

You just spoke of the relations between man and weapons. We attach great importance to the material basis of the war, we are greatly concerned with equipping our soldiers well. But we hold that the decisive factor is man, that is why our party and President Ho Chi Minh have been greatly concerned with educating and forging man in Vietnam, so that every citizen, every fighter, every youth, every party member in our country be highly awakened politically, loves his fatherland, socialism and communism, be permeated with this spirit [possible word indistinct] nothing is more precious than independence and freedom, be decided to fight and at the same time grasp well and master technique, possess courageous and clever methods of fighting and know how to bring into full play the efficacy of every kind of arm at his disposal to defeat any enemy however modern the latter's equipment and techniques.

Drawing experiences from practice, our party has found out the line to guide it in the building of the people's armed forces in Vietnam. These forces are composed of three elements: The main force built on a national scale charged with operating with mobility on all operational theatres, the regional forces whose task is to operate in their own regions, the people's militia and self-defence units operating in the villages, urban quarters, industrial and agricultural enterprises, etc.... These three categories of armed forces closely co-operate with one another and help one another, each playing a very important strategic role under the close and unified leadership of the party, and, with the protection and co-ordination of the masses on the basis of the people's war, our people's armed forces struggle all of one mind for the cause of the people, the fatherland and socialism [sentence as received]. Therefore, the force of people's war is much more strengthened.

I want to say a few words about a very important point in our party's line. Proceeding from the consideration that the masses create history, our party has endeavoured to inculcate in the people the consciousness that they must count mainly on their own forces in the struggle for liberation. At the same time, aware that the Vietnamese revolution is part of the world revolution, our party gives very high consideration to the international solidarity on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and genuine proletarian internationalism, and also gives very high consideration to the approval, support and assistance of the brother countries and progressive peoples in the world. We note with enthusiasm that never has our people's cause of national liberation and socialist construction enjoyed such a broad approval and support as at present

The great victories of our people eloquently testify to the force of unity in combat of the heroic Vietnamese people and at the same time the growth and might of the socialist camp and the world revolutionary forces. The victories of the Vietnamese people are common victories of the world people struggling for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

We are deeply grateful to the people of the fraternal countries, among them Hungary, for their approval and support and their great and generous assistance.

Question--How do you view, comrade minister, the goals of the United States its present military activities against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the character of these activities?

Answer--Though having sustained heavy defeats in the North as well as in the South of Vietnam and though facing piling difficulties the U.S. imperialists have not yet renounced their dark design against our country. On the one hand, they persist in prolonging their war of aggression in South Vietnam, and on the other hand, continue sending aircraft to reconnoitre and attack North Vietnam, perpetrating war acts and violating the territory, sovereignty and security of the DRVN. These are reckless acts proving the extremely bellicose and aggressive nature of the U.S. imperialists. They only deepen the hatred of the Vietnamese people and the world people for U.S. imperialism and strengthen their determination to oppose the U.S. imperialists. We remain highly vigilant and are resolved to shatter all their dark designs.

Question--Will you, comrade minister, let us know your opinion about the Paris conference and the American strategy in Vietnam about the question of the part-by-part troops withdrawal, about the Vietnamization of the war, about the war escalation in Laos?

Answer- The U.S. imperialists were compelled to agree to the holding of the four-party conference in Paris, because they had sustained bitter defeats on the battlefield faced enormous difficulties in all fields at home and strong opposition from the world's people including the American people. But they remain very obdurate, still refusing to renounce their aggressive stand in Vietnam. That is why, the Paris conference has not been able to make any progress and this is because the Nixon administration does not want peace in Vietnam, instead only plans to continue the war of aggression. The U.S. subterfuge of drop-by-drop troops withdrawal only aims at camouflaging its intention to continue the war of aggression. The Vietnamization of the war trick now resorted to by the U.S. imperialists only sheds more light on their obstinate policy of aggression.

At a moment when the U.S. is making quite a din about the Vietnamization of the war, the Saigon puppet administration dares not use this term for fear of being unmasked as a group of henchmen of the U.S. imperialists. The American press said that Vietnamization is the dream of the U.S. imperialists but a nightmare for the puppet army. Vietnamization will become a tragedy not only for the puppet army but also for the American troops. The U.S. and puppet troops who have both taken severe beating, will get yet harder ones.

The U.S. imperialists have sent troops to invade Vietnam. The Vietnamese people demand that the United States put an immediate end to its crime of aggression and withdraw totally, immediately and unconditionally its troops from the territory of Vietnam. As long as there is a single aggressor in our country, we must fight on to sweep him away. That is the sacred teaching bequeathed us by President Ho Chi Minh. That is the iron-like will of the Vietnamese people throughout the country who are determined to fight till definitive victory.

In Laos, at this moment, the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen are feverishly intensifying the war, pursuing their scheme to turn Laos into an American military base, thus threatening the security of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

This plot which is firmly opposed by the Laotian people and condemned by the world people will certainly be defeated. 4

Question--On the occasion of the forthcoming 25th founding anniversary of the Vietnam People's Army (December 22); we convey to you our best wishes and ask you to tell us a few words about the importance of the founding and development of this army.

Answer--First of all, allow me to thank you for your wishes to the People's Armed Forces of Vietnam on the occasion of their 25th founding anniversary.

Right at its foundation (1930), our party already called for the building of the revolutionary armed forces, the building of a worker-peasant army, the building of a red army of the revolutionary power. The red self-defence units appeared in the soviet Nghe-Tinh movement (September, 1930).

At the time of World War Two, in the revolutionary bases of Vietnam, we unceasingly built and developed the people, successfully carried out the 1945 August revolution.

During the resistance against the French colonialists (1945-54), the Vietnam People's Armed Forces grew up rapidly and together with the people, defeated the French imperialist aggressors with the signal victory at Dien Bien Phu.

After the years of building which followed the Vietnam People's Armed Forces become still stronger and more powerful, provided with more and more modern equipment. In the resistance against the U.S. imperialist aggressors, for national salvation, the Vietnam People's Armed Forces have defeated the latter's air war of destruction, successfully defending the socialist north and inflicting due punishing blows on the U.S. imperialists.

Thanks to the solicitous care of President Ho Chi Minh and the people, our people's armed forces have proven themselves worthy of being the hard core of the liberation war and the defence of the fatherland, worthy of their glorious tradition: Loyal to the party and people, overcome all difficulties, fulfill all tasks assigned and defeat all enemies.

During the fight against the U.S. imperialist aggressors for national salvation, as well as in the building of socialism, our people and armed forces have always enjoyed a very precious aid from the people and the people's armed forces of fraternal Hungary. At the very moment we are talking here, a stirring movement of support for Vietnam is taking place in your country. On this occasion, I would like to ask your paper to convey my sincere thanks to the entire people and all officers and fighters of the Hungarian People's Army. I wish that under the leadership of the Socialist Workers Party of Hungary, you will record yet greater victories.

BRIEFS

LE DUAN, CONSTRUCTION WORKERS--On the morning of 4 December 1969, Comrade Le Duan, first secretary of the party Central Committee, visited the experimental house-assembling worksites on Van Chuong and Van Dinh streets and needle factory number one in Hanoi. Guided by Comrade Tran Thuy, vice secretary of the Municipal People's Council and vice chairman of the Hanoi Administrative Committee, he visited the workers' working places, cordially talking with a number of cadres, engineers, and workers and urging everybody to strive to increase labor output, to implement President Ho's will, and to accelerate home construction. Before Comrade Le Duan's solicitude, everybody enthusiastically pledged to further accelerate his task in order to rapidly complete the construction projects and to contribute toward gradually solving the people's housing problem. [Text] (Hanoi Domestic Vietnamese 0430 GMT 6 Dec 69 S)