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IX. THONG NHAT COMMENTATOR
ANALYZES U.S. STRATEGIC POSITION

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[For Le Tien, correspondent of Voice of Viet-Nam]

Chinh Nghia, the commentator of the Hanoi weekly Thong Nhat, has said in an analysis that the U.S. strategic position is worsening.

Continuing Johnson's bankrupt piratical war, Nixon and his company have spent more than 20 months for their efforts to improve their already worse strategic situation in South Viet-Nam. They have pursued at all costs the illusion to win the position of strength on the battlefield to create conditions for realizing their Vietnamization of the war plan.

In reality, what have they done? What about their strategic position?

Chinh Nghia gives the following article: "The P. L. A. F. have breached the U.S. -Saigonese defensive lines at many points"

Carrying out their strategic defensive policy, General Abrams and his command have tried to consolidate their occupation system. Since 1969, they have built thousands of additional bunkers, weaving them across their defensive lines like cobwebs. They particularly intensified defensive belts around cities, important strategic bases, extending no man's belts as far as from 20 to 30 kms away from major cities with an aim to check at long distances major penetrating attacks by the P. L. A. F. General Abrams has intensified land and air fire power.

However, what has happened is contrary to his subjective calculations.

In 1969 the U.S. and Saigonese forces tasted blows from the northernmost provinces of Tri-Thien to the southernmost province of Ca Mau. Many of their defensive lines were broken inside and outside. Hundreds of cities, towns, district towns and military sub-sectors were struck again and again. Entering 1970, the P. L. A. F. have kept encircling, pressing and striking the enemy. During the past nine months, thousands of their military posts, watch towers and troop

barracks have been levelled. Many "steel hard" links and enclaves have been broken into pieces. The outer defensive belts of the U.S. - Saigonese forces have been shaken and breached at many points, with more than 10 military sub-sectors wiped out. Flow after blow from the P. L. A. F. have been directed at major cities, such as Hue, Saigon, Quy Nhon, and Cam Ranh.

These hard facts prove that the U.S. command has spent useless efforts on consolidating its defensive lines. Its defensive army is large in numbers but it is in an inactive position. General Abrams is unable to improve that situation, because the steadiness of defense is not decided by high ramparts, deep trenches, neither by fire power and techniques. The real steadiness of defense always relies on the fighting spirit of the defensive and on the steady strategic position. The U.S. and Saigonese puppets have ~~abandoned~~ **abrank** to their strategic defense position. That means that their aggressive war is a bankruptcy, that their strategic position is a weak and losing one, and that their troops have lost their fighting spirit. Thus, how can they be provided with staunch and powerful fighting capacity to hold their battleground? Hiding deep underground, resisting passively, they cannot help being encircled, divided, pressed and broken by big chunks. The U.S. - Saigonese (? defensive) battleground is not steady because the operational support and relief work of their mobile forces prove ineffective and the pacification program has gone bankrupt.