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NLF'S OVERSEAS PAPER'S NEW YEAR'S EDITORIAL

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[Liberation Press Agency, clandestine, in English to East Europe and the Far East, 1520 GMT, December 31, 1970]

The English-and French-language magazine "South Viet-Nam in Struggle," organ of the South Viet-Nam National Front for Liberation, in its latest issue ran an editorial under the headline "New Year, New Successes." The article reads:

1970, is gone, 1971 has begun.

We have concluded a hard but fruitful year. In 1970, the Nixon administration continued stepping up its aggressive war and piling up fresh crimes against the South Vietnamese and Indochinese peoples. "Vietnamization" of the war in South Viet-Nam was pushed up, special warfare in Laos intensified, a naked aggression committed against Cambodia, the flames of war spread all over Indochina. Like a wild beast at bay, U.S. imperialism reacted wildly, but the more it flung itself about, the deeper it sank into the quagmire.

In 1970, tremendous efforts were exerted by the South Vietnamese to press their advantage and follow up their gains. Devastating blows were dealt by them at the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen.

In spite of the enemy's atrocities and their murderous arsenal, the South Vietnamese people and armed forces kept up their offensives and uprisings in all the three strategic areas. Possessed of an acute sense of urgency and displaying great mobility in action, the PLAF used versatile methods of combat, fitting each concrete situation and battlefield, checking the advance of enemy deterrent operations while razing many of their enclaves on the fringe of liberated areas and making deep and destructive thrusts into their dens. Coordinating their efforts with the main force units, the regional army, guerrillas and "political units" relentlessly pursued their military and political actions and contributed to the wiping out and

disintegration of an important part of enemy strength, to the further strengthening of the offensive posture of the patriots on all battlefronts and to the shattering of the enemy apparatus of coercion. Nixon's "Vietnamization" policy with the "pacification" program as its strategic measure, of implementation, was unable to progress and the puppet army and administration was driven into a dire predicament. The people of South Viet-Nam seized control of many more areas. The free zone was continually expanded and consolidate. The city folk's movement considerably gained in both scope and intensity.

Meanwhile, the Cambodian and Lao peoples and their armed forces fought most valiantly and successfully. Under the leadership the National United Front of Kampuchea and Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, the Cambodian people and army hit hard at the enemy, disabling a major part of their manpower, destroying a great quantity of their war materials and liberating immense areas. Under the leadership of the Lao Patriotic Front headed by Prince Souphanouvong, the courageous Lao people and army recovered the whole area of the Plain of Jars, thwarted all enemy encroachments upon the free zone, mounted successful assaults of the Saravane and Attapeu chief towns, consolidated the liberated areas from North to South and joined them to those of Cambodia and South Viet-Nam, thus generating a new battle array eminently favourable to the anti-U.S. efforts of all the three Indochinese peoples.

What was bone out by the trend of events in Indochina in 1970 is this: U.S. imperialism in spite of its outward ferocious war expansions, was plunged into a state of more serious passivity and an increasingly losing posture, while the peoples of South Viet-Nam, Cambodia and Laos, with the growing strength of each individual country and with the combined strength of the total 50-million population, had to face the most gruelling hardships but achieved substantial successes, and their final victory is a foregone conclusion. No doubt 1970 was a year of dismal setbacks for the U.S. aggressors and their agents and one of signal accomplishments for the peoples and armed forces of South Viet-Nam, Cambodia and Laos on the military, political and diplomatic fronts.

It is in the flash of these feats in 1970 that we are entering the year 1971. The New Year comes at a movement when U.S. imperialism has not yet given up its aggressive designs and is still prolonging its war in South Viet-Nam by means of "Vietnamization," intensifying its special war in Laos and its aggression against Cambodia and hatching new adventurist moves against North Viet-Nam.

But the U.S. aggressors and their valets are being confronted with unsurmountable difficulties. The dispersal and weakening of their forces are growing in proportion to their war prolongation and expansion.

In South Viet-Nam cities things have been going from bad to worse, their Saigon puppets have become more and more isolated and plagued with aggravating inner dissensions. U.S. and puppet troops morale has sunk to reaching new low. Their failure in South Viet-Nam and Indochina is inescapable.

The South Vietnamese people have been for decades fighting with self-abnegation to preserve their sacred national right and right to self-determination. So long as U.S. aggression lasts, they will resist it arms in hand. If the U.S. is reckless enough to indulge in venturesome acts of war against North Viet-Nam, it will meet with a riposte five or ten times stronger by the South Vietnamese people.

President Ho Chi Minh has taught us: "Our people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, may have to go through even more difficulties and sacrifices, but we are bound to win total victory... The U.S. imperialists shall have to quit. Our fatherland shall be reunified. Our compatriots in the North and in the South shall be re-united under the same roof."

Welcoming the new year -- 1971 we are firmly resolved to translate into deeds President Ho's supreme directions and the Appeal of the NFL Central Committee and the PRG of the RSVN: To uphold and develop to the full our national traditions of unity and unflinching combativeness to build up and expand our forces, in all all-sided manner, to keep up and push ahead our resistance to U.S. aggression, for national salvation, to foil the U.S. imperialists neo-colonialist "Vietnamization" and "pacification" plans to force them to pull out all U.S. and satellite troops and renounce the Thieu-Ky-Khiem fire-eating trio and to agree to the formation of a broad government of coalition and to achieve peace, independence, democracy, neutrality, prosperity and ultimate national reunification. Our northern kith-and-kin and we are determined to join forces with the brotherly peoples and armed forces of Cambodia and Laos to drive the U.S. imperialists out of Indochina.

The U.S. aggressors are still very obstinate and warlike, their schemes and deeds are extremely brutal. But they are political alienated and weakened, their posture is on the downgrade, while ours is improving with every passing day. Time is on our side. Friends all over the five continents side with us. In the New Year, we are sure of new greater more brilliant successes as a result of new exertions and new favourable conditions.

On the threshold of 1971, we convey to friends the world over the expression of our sincere gratitude and our best wishes for good health, happiness, prosperity and success.