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HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR ON MICROFILM

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9168

SPECIAL COMMUNIQUE #10

OF

HEADQUARTERS, PEOPLE'S ARMED FORCES FOR THE LIBERATION OF SOUTH VIETNAM

Since the return of Spring with a courage that shakes the Truong Son mountain-chain and causes the Mekong River, to overflow, the people and Army of South Vietnam have unremittingly launched the General Offensive and Uprising, scoring successive, brilliant feats-of-arms. During last August and September, we kept up the intensity and fierceness of our attacks throughout all battlefields, giving this historic autumn of our country greater significance.

After suffering a heavy blow at the beginning of spring, the U.S. and Puppet clique hurriedly pulled back its forces to strategic defensive positions throughout the entire country ((South Vietnam)). However, the revolutionary storm in May warned the enemy that they were not strong enough to beat off the waves of attack and uprising of our people and Army. In the face of the imminent danger of deadlier blows, the enemy strove to complete what he called, "the strategic defensive in depth". He hastily strengthened the defense system made up of defensive clusters, key-positions, and security belts, he continuously launched police operations and operations to relieve our pressure on him;

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he intensified air strikes, artillery fires, and ((GVN)) Special Force activities; and he wantonly used chemical agents and B52 strikes.

The enemy has had to use his best units and most modern war facilities, he has had to resort to the most perfidious psywar plans and brazenly conscript youths in order to deal with the operations of our people and Army in SVN. All of this is aimed at implementing ((General)) Abrams' "clear and Hold" strategy and maintaining the Puppet Government and the disintegrating Puppet Army in an attempt to carry out the U.S. Imperialists' plans.

With more than one million troops, with tens of thousands of aircraft, tanks and cannons, and with his obdurate will to continue aggression, the Americans and their henchmen materialized a relatively strong defensive system. But, they still could not stop the storm-like General Offensive and General Uprising of our people and Army.

In August and September, in response to the appeals of Chairman Ho and the NFLSVN Central Committee

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that every effort must be made to score outstanding achievements in commemoration of the three glorious historical days 19 August and 2 and 23 September, the South Vietnamese people and Army took advantage of victory to deal earth-shaking blows to the enemy. Our units spared no effort to gain achievements. Our victory resounded throughout the country and battlefields.

Our people and troops in the mountainous areas (Tây Ninh, Bình Long, the Eastern Nam Bộ, Đức Lập, Kô-ti-pô-rông ((sic)), Sapa, Western Highlands, Thượng-Đức, Quang Nam, Côn Tiên, Đốc Miếu, Tri Thiên etc...((sic)) ) and in the low-land areas (from the coastal area of Tri Thiên through the Central Trung Bộ, Bến Tre, Mỹ Tho, Vĩnh Long, Cần Thơ to the delta area of the Cửu Long River) scored many brilliant feats-of-arms. Gunfire still resounds throughout Saigon, Cholon, and Gia-Dinh as well as throughout Đa Lạt, Phan Rang and Phan Thiết. In addition, our thunderbolt attacks against the enemy's communication axes on the Long Tàu, Hàm Luông and Giồng Trôm Rivers and on Roads: #1, #4, #22, #15, #14, #19, etc ((sic)) resulted in glorious victory about which praises will be sung forever.

According to the initial August and September

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reports, the South Vietnamese people and Army killed, wounded and captured over 123,000 enemy soldiers including about 45,000 American and satellite troops. They overwhelmed one US reinforced brigade and caused heavy casualties to two Infantry regiments, 44 battalions, and 175 companies of the enemy.

In Addition, they shot down 790 enemy aircraft of various kinds, 300 cannons and mortars, and 3,000 military vehicles including 1,685 tanks and armored vehicles, wrecked 158 ships (gunships and cargo ship) and set to fire 75 fuel and ammunition dumps. They demolished nearly 100 bridges and razed more than 200 military posts and Sub-Sectors ((headquarters)).

The above achievements greatly outweighed those scored in August and September 1967 in all aspects: The number of enemy soldiers killed was up 220% aircraft destroyed up 160%, tanks and armored vehicles destroyed up 320%, heavy weapons destroyed up 340% etc... ((sic))

In short, since the early spring, during eight months of General Offensive and General Uprising, our people

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and Army killed, wounded, and captured over 500,000 enemy soldiers including 180,000 American and satellite troops.

They knocked out one U.S. reinforcement brigade, four armored squadrons, two infantry regiments, one airborne battle group, 167 battalions, 17 armored companies, and nearly 700 companies of the Americans and their satellites.

They shot down over 5,000 aircraft, destroyed over 10,000 military vehicles including 6,000 tanks and armoured vehicles, and wrecked over 700 ships including gunships and cargo ships etc ((sic))

The above mentioned figures show that the Revolution in South Vietnam developed by leaps and bounds in the Phase of General Offensive and General Uprising. These figures were also a warning to the Americans and their henchmen that the more they try to save their defeats ((in South Vietnam)) the heavier their defeats become.

The valiant struggle of our people and Army during the last two months not only strengthened our initiative on all battlefields but created conditions essential for the achievement of greater victories.

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First: We scored great achievements in annihilating enemy strength and destroying his war facilities. These increasing victories animated the Army and the people throughout our country and friendly countries all over the world. They were even more valuable since our Army and people gained them under fierce combat conditions. The majority of the number of enemy put out of action during the past two months belonged to the most crack units of the US aggressors and their henchmen, including the 1st and 25th US Marine, and Air Cavalry Divisions ((sic)), the 11th US Armored Squadron, and Main Force units and battalions of the Puppet General Reserve Force. The Thailand satellite troops also suffered a battalion destroyed. Further more we annihilated the enemy easily even though he was holding strong defensive bases, vigorously reinforced by tanks, heavy artillery, and aircraft.

In the middle of the rainy season many enemy units were greatly worn down or destroyed.

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One whole US brigade was knocked out, numerous enemy artillery positions, armored vehicles, strongholds, convoys and ships were completely destroyed in our lightning attacks; several enemy General and field grade officers were killed in action. These facts evidenced that we had scored brilliant achievements and had made it more difficult for the enemy to replace his troops and equipment. The enemy organization became disjointed, his combat quality and quantity declined; his mobility lessened; and his fighting spirit was low.

His basic weaknesses appeared more and more clearly and his temporary advantages were limited. All these were conditions favorable for our Army and people and opened a dazzling outlook for them in their forthcoming struggle.

Second: Our Army and people enjoyed the ever greater advantage of initiative in the attacks against the enemy. On the battlefields the more passive the enemy became, the more our Army and people improved. We conducted fierce and continuous attacks and drove the enemy into the defensive position.

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In this people's war, the enemy is encircled and split up by our political and armed forces which have grown stronger. More and more, cities and towns are placed under permanent pressure by us both from within and without.

Although the enemy has strengthened his defensive system by setting up many defensive lines, in cities or along communication lines, they were still attacked by friendly units in different ways. The people's guerrilla warfare has been intensified even in the enemy areas. In Saigon - Cholon and Gia Dinh, political and military activities were daily conducted by our people and Army. In some cases hundreds of tyrants were chastised even at the center of city. It could be said that most of the important cities and towns have also been attacked by friendly forces. Even though the enemy hides himself in his den, our Army has full capability to drag him out and kill him. Even though the enemy places his confidence in his secure den, our Army is able to launch continuous and strong attacks on this den and make it futile.

Our Army is taking combat initiative on the battlefield and has full ability to maintain surprise to defeat the enemy. It is obvious that friendly forces know how to take advantage of the enemy weaknesses. Therefore many achievements have been scored

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We have annihilated a large number of US soldiers. They equal a US infantry division in strength. We have destroyed a number of US battalions whose strength is greater than that of a US infantry division. We have also destroyed a number of armored vehicles equal to those in a US Armored Infantry division, and more artillery pieces than those in a US Infantry division. In addition, many RVN Main and Reserve battalions have been annihilated or worn down.

Within one month, on the battlefield in Central Trung Bộ we killed wounded and captured over 16,700 soldiers of the RVN, US and their satellite Forces. Six other enemy battalions and 26 companies were put out of action.

One regiment, one Ranger group and nine battalions sustained heavy casualties. We also shot down and destroyed 120 enemy aircraft, burned 400 military vehicles, damaged 51 artillery pieces, demolished 16 rear depots, and liberated 13 villages and 51 hamlets inhabited by 118,000 people.

The militia and guerrilla forces in many places such as the Western Nambô, the core city areas, and the areas around Saigon, Cholon

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and Gia Định succeeded in holding their ground and operated intensively in the depth of enemy controlled areas, thus exerting an unremitting pressure on the enemy and establishing an important force which plays a vital role in the people's war.

In tandem with the Armed Forces, our political forces have made new progress which helps push forward and stabilize the uprising of our people and Army.

Enlightened by glorious victories gained by our people and Army in the General Offensive and Uprising, our compatriots in rural areas and cities become more confident of the future of the Revolution and are more zealous to struggle for the objectives of the Revolution.

The people in cities meet with increasing difficulties in their daily activities because the cost of living rises higher and higher, while they are tightly controlled and harassed every day by the enemy tyrants and spies; bribed, robbed, and black mailed in every way possible by Puppet administrative personnel, from the ring leaders down. As a result, the people have discerned more and more clearly the evil and dirty face of the aggressors and the traitorous clique. The more the people nourish resentment against the enemy, the sooner they feel they must put this rotten Puppet Administration to an end and the more eager they become to participate in the Revolution.

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In rural areas, the US and Puppet terrorism, by means of aircraft and artillery of all types, including B52's, poisons, tanks etc ((sic)) has brought about nothing but the resolute rising up of our people. Our rural people for decades have foiled all enemy schemes and nullified all his weapons. The longer the rural people are trained in combat activities, the more they deepen their indignation against the enemy and the more they increase their combat experience. Our people's growing political awareness is an ever lasting source of strength for the General Offensive and Uprising in the South.

In addition to the great achievements gained in combat activities, during the past two months, our people in different localities have consolidated and developed self determination.